

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 13, 2014



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

A view from the top of the landfill in Lorton. If the new application is approved, the landfill will operate until 2040 and will be home to a green energy triangle.

Green Energy Or Closed Landfill

Community members, stakeholders debate future of Lorton Landfill.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

On Thursday, the Fairfax County Planning Commission is set to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on whether EnviroSolutions should be permitted to continue the operation of the Lorton Landfill until 2040.

Along with this operation comes a green energy park that proponents say will push Fairfax County forward in terms of renewable energy.

But many opposed to the application, including some members of the South County Federation, believe that promises were broken in the past. These feelings stem from a previous application in which EnviroSolutions was to build a park on the landfill after it closed in 2019.

EnviroSolutions says that due to liability issues, they are unable to take ownership of the park.

"We were required to build the park. The park authority would own the land, and we would not be part of that," said Conrad Mehan, EnviroSolutions' director of government relations. "At the end of the day, had the park au-

thority not reversed its commitment, we wouldn't be sitting here today. It's that simple."

According to Bill Lecos, who is working on behalf of the EnviroSolutions' green energy proposal, liability was the main issue at stake.

"ESI is not equipped to manage the liabilities associated with people mountain biking down the property," Lecos said.

In 2010, when it was clear to him that the park was out of the question, Mehan said he went to the South County Federation to discuss possible alternative uses for the landfill.

"I also talked about the fact that we had just gone through a horrific recession. For the construction industry, it was a depression, not a recession. I told them we would not be able to fill up the site by the time it was set to close," Mehan said.

Around this time, EnviroSolutions was approached by a Washington Gas representative about putting wind farms on the landfill.

"As these conversations were going on, there was also a county effort to identify where there were public-private partnerships available and how that could positively impact the county's sustainability goals," Lecos said. The green energy components include three wind turbines, three acres of solar panels, geothermal infrastructure, and methane conversion.

"Not all renewable energies are suitable for every site. We support renewable energy, but this needs to be done in the right way and in the right places."

— Catherine Ledec, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park

SOUTH COUNTY FEDERATION members,

SEE GREEN ENERGY, PAGE 19

A Debt to Society

Local governments use debt as a tool to build for the future.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Back in the 1920s, Harry Byrd became governor of Virginia on what he called a "pay-as-you-go" platform. Byrd had an almost pathological hatred of debt, fueled in part by mounting debt problems of his family's business. Now, almost a century later, leaders across Northern Virginia have a very different view about the role debt should play in balancing the books. Local governments across Virginia have taken on more than \$8 billion in debt.

"Some jurisdictions are having to be more careful with their debt load as they are small and have a weak real estate base," said Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University. "Others see that having high quality infrastructure is the best way to support a grow-

ing economy that will enable them to pay off the debt."

Fairfax County has the largest debt by far, almost \$4 billion. But Fairfax also has more people than any of the other jurisdictions. So the county's per capita debt burden is actually lower than Arlington or Alexandria. Financial reports show that local governments across Northern Virginia have been taking on increasing debt in recent years, and some believe that trend might accelerate in the near future. Because Congress is considering eliminating some exemptions for income tax on municipal bonds, local governments might consider taking on larger amounts of debt in the near future to take advantage of lower interest rates.

"There are some clouds gathering on the horizon that will impose significantly greater increases in

SEE LOCAL, PAGE 20

Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond

In the fight for social justice with patience and persistence.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Every year, dozens of high-priced lobbyists descend on Virginia's state capitol.

Some tantalize with promises of business investment and jobs; others represent important campaign contributors, while some say they can deliver votes from key constituencies.

They are often joined by Vienna resident John Horejsi, 71, who offers legislators, a simple, singular opportunity: to do the right thing

for the socially disadvantaged.

Part Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, part Don Quixote tilting at windmills, Horejsi is regarded by many lawmakers as a man of conviction and persistence.

Those traits often give him the credibility other lobbyists lack, when his idealistic — and sometimes naïve — pleas for social justice collide with more powerful and persuasive agendas.

And like Jefferson Smith — the character played by Jimmy Stewart in Frank Capra's timeless

SEE FIGHTING, PAGE 18

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Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Fairfax County detective, trafficking victim testify at Congressional hearing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Since its creation in October 2013, the human trafficking unit of the Fairfax County Police Department has received over 70 tips and leads about human trafficking in Northern Virginia.

"Fifty-two percent of those leads involve juvenile sex trafficking cases," said Detective William Woolf, lead investigator of the Fairfax County Police Department's human trafficking unit, at a House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee on Feb. 26.

In his testimony, Woolf addressed the need for stricter penalties on those responsible for human trafficking and the ways Fairfax County is addressing trafficking.

"We've taken on a very victim-centered approach. Our number one priority is recovering these young people from these terrible situations. The problem with that is it is extremely resource intensive," Woolf said.

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT is taking a three-pronged approach of education and awareness, prevention and intervention to reduce trafficking in Northern Virginia.

"This particular crime is something that affects all communities. It's a crime that does not discriminate on race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic class—it's something that has the potential of touching each and every community and each in every state here in the United States," he said.

Woolf said that a nation-wide anti-trafficking awareness campaign is necessary to prevent this crime. Fairfax County recently launched the "Just Ask" Prevention Project, which includes a website and is intended to increase awareness of sex trafficking in the area.

Fairfax County Public Schools recently adopted a sex trafficking awareness curriculum, the first of its kind, for students in grades six through twelfth. Woolf said programs like this are needed throughout the United States to prevent trafficking.

Sex traffickers also use Facebook and Twitter to lure victims in, Woolf said.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), chairman of the subcommittee, said that internet pages such as Backpage.com are used to advertise commercial sex, including in Winchester, Va., which is part of Wolf's district.

"How do the people who own Backpage.com live with themselves? How do they honestly live with themselves?" Wolf said at the hearing.

Wolf, who has been working for several years to combat sex trafficking and raise awareness of this crime, said that as long as Backpage.com continues to operate, trafficking will continue to be an issue.

"I have personally written the Attorney General several times over the last two years urging the department to prosecute Backpage.com and similar sites," Wolf said.



Detective Bill Woolf and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) speak about human trafficking at the McLean Community Center in May. Woolf testified at a sex trafficking hearing on Capitol Hill on Feb. 26.

Since 2011, 42 defendants have been prosecuted for trafficking related crimes in Northern Virginia, Detective Woolf said, the Underground Gangster Crips case being one of the more notable cases.

In this case, female adults and juveniles were being trafficked for more than six years in Northern Virginia by Crips gang members. The gang used Facebook and local malls, bus stops and metro stations to recruit young girls. The gang members advertised the girls on the streets, as well as through Backpage.com.

In 2013, an Atlanta man pleaded guilty to trafficking underage girls in Virginia and several other states. According to court documents, the girls were sold for sex at several hotels in the Northern Virginia area, including Homestead Studio Suites in Sterling, Aloft Hotel in Ashburn, and the Holiday Inn Express, Washington Dulles Marriott Suites, and the Hyatt House Hotel, all located in Herndon.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVOR and advocate Stephanie Vu testified at the hearing, providing a glimpse into the life of someone who has been sold for sex.

"At the age of 12, I was chosen. I was invited to a party and there I met a handsome older boy who took a lot of interest in me. Although flattered, I never thought I would see him again," Vu said.

However, she did see him again—nearly everywhere she went.

"In my 12-year-old mind, I was convinced this was fate and soon began intentionally meeting him every chance I had," Vu said.

Vu's father was deployed, and her mother



U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at a forum on human trafficking at the McLean Community Center in May. Wolf is chair of the House Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations subcommittee, which hosted a hearing on human trafficking on Feb. 26.

worked day and night, leaving Vu responsible for her younger siblings but with little supervision.

"I was free to go on dates with this charming, older boy. I was searching for something in life and he looked like the answer, filling my loneliness and my young heart's desire for love and romance. But I soon learned though that he was a 'wolf in sheep's clothing,' who intended on turning me into a product to be devoured," she said.

For some time, Vu said it seemed her dreams had come true.

"He said he loved me and wanted to marry me; he bought nice things for me and took me out to clubs and places I could never go to without him," Vu said. "However, in just a few months he demanded a return—I was sent to perform in a strip club. I resisted, but he said he was in a financial jam and he needed my help, and so it began. I began skipping school and dancing in the strip clubs."

Vu was soon forced to begin selling herself for sex. Her trafficker threw her out into the streets on a cold night, telling her she could either make money or freeze.

After hours of being in the cold, Vu gave in.

"In desperation, I finally accepted one and climbed into the car. The moment changed my life forever. There were three men that night; at the end of it I couldn't stop vomiting," she said.

Vu continued to be trafficked, and soon faced depression and took drugs and alcohol to deal with the pain. She was arrested one night and sent home after being recognized as a missing child. Although she was sent home, she returned to her trafficker.

After being arrested again and sent to juvenile detention, Vu's probation officer suspected Vu was a victim of trafficking. After returning home, she was brutally

raped by her trafficker in front of her home.

"At this point I had finally had enough. At just 15 years old, I was ready to give up on life," Vu said.

Vu was hospitalized after the rape, and was soon sent to Northern Virginia based Youth For Tomorrow, 3,000 miles from her home.

She is now advocate and advisor to Youth for Tomorrow and Shared Hope International, also located in Northern Virginia.

Woolf said that more resident treatment centers are needed across the country, as survivors such as Vu have to travel nearly 3,000 miles to receive the treatment they need.

According to Woolf, judges are often going below the federal sentencing guidelines in trafficking cases.

"They are oftentimes just imposing the mandatory minimums as provided by the statute, when the guidelines suggest much higher penalties for this type of criminal conduct," he said.

There is also a need for federal legislation addressing the demand side, Woolf said. "There are individuals out there that are purchasing sex from our children, and these individuals need to be punished or we at least need the tools to be able to address that as well, particularly when their actions are affecting interstate commerce," Woolf said. The Virginia General Assembly has addressed legislation dealing with sex trafficking this session, including HB 235, which has passed both the house and senate. The bill, introduced by Delegate Rob Bell (R-Albemarle), would place convicted sex solicitors on Virginia's online registry of sex offenders.

Those looking for more information and prevention tools for sex trafficking can visit Justaskva.org.

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The Mount Vernon Athletic Club recently held a check presentation ceremony with Inova representatives. The annual Swing for Pink event at MTVAC earned more than \$13,000. From left are Aaron Volbrecht, general manager of Mount Vernon Athletic Club; Mary M. Myers, executive director, Inova Alexandria and Mt. Vernon Foundations; Ellen McMichael, 2013 Swing for Pink co-chair; Lori Powell, regional manager Inova Mt. Vernon Foundation; Sharon Timmons, member of Mount Vernon Athletic Club, and Maggie Britvec, Mount Vernon Athletic Club outreach director and 2013 Swing for Pink co-chair.

Health Club Raises \$13,000 for Research

Mount Vernon Athletic Club hosted its 8th Annual Swing for Pink Charity fundraiser and raised \$13,774 for breast cancer research, education, screening, and treatment at the Breast Cancer Care Institute at Inova Mount Vernon and Alexandria Cancer Center.

More than 125 local tennis players raised their racquets for the cause. The evening consisted of round robin tennis, a silent auction, dinner and a Pro exhibition. The annual Swing for Pink event was founded by owner Joan Van Metre, and has raised over \$98,000 since 2006.

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PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mary Ellis Fannon, Dave Hawkins, Donnan Wintermute, Ellis Duncan and Daniel Fannon gather at the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra gala on Saturday, March 8, at The Westin.



Katherine Molnar with Jennifer, Fran and Keith Vaughan.



Gala master of ceremonies Gant Redmon and auctioneer Shawn McLaughlin discuss details of the live auction items.



27th annual symphony ball honorary chairs Marcia and David Speck pose for a photo with Megan Beyer.



Maestro Kim Allen Kluge joins ASO board of trustees president Ronal Butler and his wife Martha Lloyd.



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran and Don Beyer talk before dinner at the gala on Saturday evening.

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Celebrates 70 Years

Themes: Community, accessibility and connection.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE GAZETTE

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year by expanding its outreach efforts. Begun as an amateur orchestra, the ASO has become one of the premiere arts organizations in the area.

Under the baton of Maestro Kim Allen Kluge for 26 years, the organization has become greatly community-focused. The ASO will be performing a series of educational concerts throughout the season. They have several educational partnerships with schools and more mentoring programs are in the works.

"I consider myself a mentor first, then a musician," said Kluge. There are three themes that will usher in a new era: Community, accessibility and connection. "I have a deep-seeded need to connect with people," he added.

The ASO has several partnership initiatives throughout the metropolitan area, including a mentorship program through Alexandria's public schools and a hands-on Children's Art Festival. In addition to the



Jane Ring is congratulated by Cassie McLaughlin after her husband Connie wins the bidding on item #4 in the live auction.



Margaret Gullen with Joan and John Renner.

affordable student pricing they offer for their concerts, Kluge has announced that their season will also include a new Family Concert Series at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial; the concerts will be in a location that is metro- and shuttle-accessible as well as within walking distance to Old Town Alexandria and the neighborhood of Delray.



Auctioneer Shawn McLaughlin encourages Connie Ring to up his bid for item #4, a catered dinner by Beth Hamed of "Thyme and Place" in the home of Ted and Claire Schwab featuring a performance by Kim Allen Kluge. With Ring are Lee and Ted Ellett.

There are also efforts to expand the school and mentorship outreach programs. "The school programs next season are a vision for the future," said Kluge. "They are a way of giving back to the community."

The ASO will hold an El Sistema workshop with the John Adams Elementary School beginning March 24, a program designed to enrich the lives of disadvantaged children through systemic instruction. The workshop will culminate in a student concert on March 28. Other upcoming concerts

in the season will take place on March 29 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall, March 30 at Vienna Presbyterian Church, and a season finale concert on May 17 at the Schlesinger venue in partnership with the National Gallery of Art. There's also a chance to see them in the annual Alexandria City Birthday Celebration, at Oronoco Bay Park, a free community event.

For more information on the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, call 703-548-0885 or visit www.Alexsym.org.

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Award Winners

Cub Scout winners of the Pinewood Derby include, from left, Ty Veatch, Grant Seiffert, Joshua Sentner and Jeb Veatch. Mark Sentner is the leader.

Fine Feathered Friend Is Guest of Honor

Skittles, the candy-colored Conure in residence at Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living and Memory Care, was the guest of honor last month, as the senior community celebrated the first birthday of its in-house “bird therapist” in festive fashion, with cake, balloons and lots of photos. Their fine feathered friend, which loves to be handled by strangers, kissed on its downy tummy and is great at playing ball, lives among the residents full time.

“Skittles is a Pineapple-Green-Cheeked Conure, and I selected that breed because it’s small and isn’t very loud,” said Carolyn Ko, director of Resident Care at Spring Hills and the key supervisor of Skittles’ care. Ko, who is the personal “parent” of five tropical birds in her home, knew this breed of bird could be successfully trained to have a therapeutic role with seniors.

Skittles spends most of her waking time outside the cage and greets everyone from a playground in the hallway. Skittles also loves to travel on the shoulders of staff members as they make their rounds.

Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living Community provides assisted living and memory care. It is located at 3709 Shannons



COURTESY OF SPRING HILLS MOUNT VERNON

Spring Hills Mount Vernon resident Lucy Reed greets the guest of honor at the first birthday of Skittles, the candy-colored Conure who serves as the resident “bird therapist” at her community.

Green Way. For more information, visit www.springhillsmountvernon.com or call 703-650-0779.

MILITARY NOTES

Email military achievement announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

SN **Christopher Graves**, 23, of Alexandria, is an ice rescue expert assigned to Coast Guard Station Burlington, Vt. He has been stationed there the two-and-three-quarters years he has been in the Coast Guard. His best Coast Guard experience, he says: “Dewatering a boat moments before it would have down-flooded and sank with a family of six on board.”

Army Spec. **Raimond Kwarteng** has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Waynesville, Mo. Kwarteng is the son of Sam Kwarteng and Felicia Owusu, both of Alexan-

dria. He is a 2008 graduate of Mount Vernon High School. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 2012 from Chowan University, Murfreesboro, N.C.

Air Force Airman **Nathaniel T. Runyon** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Runyon is the son of Shelly and Daniel Runyon. He is a 2011 graduate of Lansing High School, Lansing, Kansas.

Air Force Airman **Brandon A. Daniel** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Daniel is the son of Emmeth and Barbara Daniel of Alexandria. He is a 2008 graduate of Mount Vernon High School.



Traumatic brain injury. Not the opponent Connor was expecting.

Two years ago a simple game of catch ended with a trip to the emergency room. A baseball had struck Connor above the eyebrow and blood was pooling dangerously between his brain and skull. Watch how our experts responded at JustRightForChildren.com/Connor.

“You gotta be prepared for any kind of shot hit your way.”

Connor McCormick
Future tennis phenom



OPINION

Voting Against Virginia?

Local proponents of expanding health coverage for poor people have a point about those in the General Assembly voting against it.

When Delegates Scott Surovell, Charniele Herring and Rob Krupicka, along with Sen. Adam Ebbin got together to make the case for expanding Medicaid in Virginia, they brought slide presentations, charts, spreadsheets, poll results and more.

It is a compelling argument that expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act is not only good for the health of working poor Virginians, it's good for the health of Virginia's economy. What's more, polls show that Virginians support expanding Medicaid, even Virgin-

ians who didn't vote for Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

Expanding health care for poor individuals and families who so far have been cut out of health care reform by the General Assembly's refusal would create more than 30,000 new jobs, hundreds of jobs in every district in the state. It would bring in \$5 million in Federal dollars every day, \$1.8 billion a year. It would save the General Fund \$285 million over the biannual budget, money that could be spent on education, mental health and other critical priorities.

EDITORIAL

"Real people are suffering because of this,"

said Ebbin. "Real people would be helped." That includes working families and more than 12,000 veterans. Ebbin related the story of a taxi driver from his district who had a stroke in his 40s. With no insurance, Mount Vernon Inova Hospital covered his acute treatment and recovery. But without insurance, his access to rehabilitation was limited and as a result, his lifetime expectations are likely limited.

Saying no to \$5 million a day is, in fact, voting against Virginia.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

State Budget Still Unfinished

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

The General Assembly's 60-day legislative session adjourned on Saturday without a completed budget for the new fiscal year starting July 1. The Governor is expected to call for a special session beginning March 24 to work towards a new two-year budget. It is not unusual for a special session to be called to complete work on the state's budget; there have been five instances since 1998 where the General Assembly was at least a month late in finalizing a budget.

RICHMOND
REPORT

That being said, we want to complete this work as soon as possible.

The ongoing dispute centers around Marketplace Virginia, the Senate's bipartisan plan to accept federal health expansion funds to pro-



vide care for up to 400,000 low-income Virginians. Republicans in the House of Delegates will not budge, despite the Senate's repeated efforts to compromise. Democrats strongly preferred traditional Medicaid expansion but compromised with Senate Republicans to support Marketplace Virginia, which will cover the same population as traditional expansion but through private health insurance plans. We have made changes to address opponents' concerns, including cost sharing, work search and audit requirements. We have even included a provision to automatically terminate Marketplace Virginia if the federal government pays anything less than what it has promised, which is 100 percent for the first three years and 90 percent thereafter.

Senate Democrats are not alone — the Governor, House Democrats (and at least one House Republican), the state Chamber of Commerce, hospitals, and clinics have all signaled their strong support to provide health coverage to these hardworking Virginians. The House of Delegates has provided no alternative plan.

Expansion will create an estimated 30,000 healthcare jobs for the state, averaging 389 new jobs and \$23.6 million in new Medicaid spending in each of the top 20 House Republican districts.

If we don't pass Marketplace Virginia, those jobs will not be created and that money will be sent to other states. From both a moral and fiscal perspective, this is too important an opportunity for us to pass up.

Republican Sen. Dick Black of Loudoun went so far as to claim the 400,000 Virginians eligible for coverage would be "added to the welfare rolls" and suggested that the uninsured could simply visit emergency rooms for care. To dismiss Marketplace Virginia as welfare is not only untrue but does a great disservice to the hardworking Virginians who finally find themselves on the cusp of being eligible for health insurance coverage.

These uninsured individuals are not just an abstract number — these are real people, a majority of them living in working families, and they include more than 25,000 veterans and their spouses.

Marketplace Virginia, using the private healthcare system, would primarily benefit the working poor. A family of four with a total income up to \$32,913 would qualify.

The regular session may have adjourned but our work is not done until we have a budget that accepts federal funding to help our fellow

SEE IN RICHMOND, PAGE 30

Correction

In last week's Gazette, the letter "Divided MVCCA," contained a typographical error. Special Exemption Amendment should have read Special Exception Amendment.



PHOTO BY RENÉE RUOGLES/THE GAZETTE

Snapshot

Canada goose looks for food along George Washington Memorial Parkway.

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LETTER



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Spiegel's Landing osprey nest

Ospreys Have Returned

To the Editor:

The Ospreycam at the Spiegel's Landing osprey nest is upgraded and running. Our ospreys have returned from winter migration and are re-building the nest. The nest now sports a new camera with infra red capability for night viewing, a new legible sign and peripheral perches allowing the ospreys to perch off the nest. A microphone has also been installed but isn't yet operational. The live video may be accessed at www.littlehuntingcreek.org/ospreycam.html.

[littlehuntingcreek.org/ospreycam.html](http://www.littlehuntingcreek.org/ospreycam.html).

The websites for local organizations "Friends of Little Hunting Creek," "Friends of Huntley Meadows Park" and "Friends of Dyke Marsh" all have pages dedicated to bird watching. I wonder if they'll link those pages to the ospreycam page so their supporters can have easy access to the best and most easily accessible bird watching available in our community? We'll see.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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By Steven Halperson for Alexandria Living Legends.

Donnan C. Wintermute

Living Legends of Alexandria are selected as those individuals whose vision and dedication have made a positive and tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. Donnie's philanthropic achievements have had a major impact on the quality of life in Alexandria for children, the elderly and the sick; and for the arts, education and community services. Donnie has dedicated herself to many community charities and organizations, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Alexandria Hospital Foundation, The Board of Trustees of the

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, the Board of Directors of the Campagna Center, the Board of Governors of Saint Stephen's and Saint Agnes School, the Board of Directors of Senior Services of Alexandria, Goodwin House Foundation Board of Trustees and Christ Church Foundation Board of Trustees. Donnie generously donated in 2012 the Rehabilitation Gymnasium at the Alexandria Hospital. The "Meet the Alexandria 2014 Living Legends" Reception will be held March 20th at 6:00 pm at the Patent and Trademark Office.

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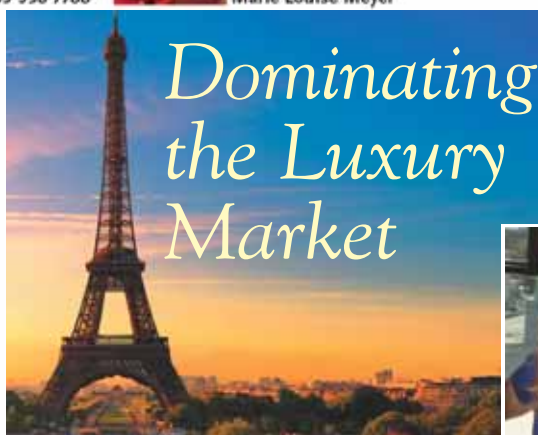
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OPINION

A Sketch of a New Community Growing on Route 1

To the Editor:

Today [March 8], just before my daughter Madeline had to leave to cheer at a basketball tournament in Baltimore, we stopped in at the grand opening of the new Verizon store in our neighborhood, historic Gum Springs. I had been in there a week ago to get some information (and was helped both then and today by an exceptional staff member who had transferred from their Springfield store), and when we drove by we decided to stop in during their celebration.

The George Mason mascot was there, so it was amusing and charming that a neighborhood “girl” — a Thomas Jefferson grad who is now a senior at William & Mary and the captain of the cheerleaders — walked in, attired in her William & Mary cheerleading track suit. The GM mascot was smitten by her, got down on his knees before her, etc. It was cute and unexpected.

We decided that we would wait in line for her portrait to be done by the caricature artist who was there. As he drew the couple ahead of us, I (an art historian and artist) recognized that his work was extraordinary. When it was my daughter’s turn, we quickly found out that he had graduated from William & Mary (where I learned later from his website that he was the cartoonist for The Flat Hat paper for which I had written years earlier) as had other family members (his sister, his father, etc.). I revealed that I went there as an out of state student many years ago — with the actress Glenn Close as a classmate (and just under 40 years later my daughter was recently selected by theater professors to attend a master acting class that Glenn held at William & Mary).



Maddy (Madeline) Byrd is sketched by Mike Jenkins

The caricature artist, my daughter and I shared interesting William & Mary stories — about the art department, athletics, Williamsburg, etc. At the end, when he signed the drawing and I asked for his card, I was stunned — he is the exceptional political cartoonist Mike Jenkins. I told him that not only did I know his work but that over the years I have seen his work in friends’ and clients’ collections and have sold some of his work.

Before we even learned who he was, I had explained to him what was so unusual and exceptional about the work that I was watching him do there in our new neighborhood Verizon store.

I also let him know that I was not just speaking as an art historian/scholar, but that in my youth my own art work was sold

in galleries and juried art shows. I told him that in my youth I also did a lot of caricatures for family, friends and babysitting customers.

I must say that it is certainly serendipitous that we decided to stop in — and had a delightful chat and drawing session with the esteemed Mike Jenkins.

I do not know how many caricatures he did, but I bet that most of his subjects had no idea who he was or that they were being drawn by one of the absolute masters in the world of political caricature.

Years ago, in my service beyond my immediate townhouse neighborhood and the borders of Gum Springs, I spent thousands of hours over many years contributing to groups like the Mount Vernon Council (and its Planning & Zoning Committee), the



Mike Jenkins’ drawing of Madeline Byrd.

PHOTO BY
BELINDA BYRD

SFDC Northern Area Development Committee, the Comprehensive Plan committees, etc. Although progress has been slow, it is a delight to see some of the changes that are gradually taking place along Route 1. In fact, when I first visited the Verizon store a week ago and congratulated the senior staff member on the “progress”, I told him some amusing “war stories” from life in the trenches trying to change Route 1 (including the crazy reasons that some citizens successfully presented years ago to keep Taco Bell from coming to Mount Vernon when it first tried).

As you know, stores / retailers on the scale of Verizon often seem faceless and unconnected to specific places / people / communities. What I observed at the new Gum Springs Verizon store today — with representatives (and refreshments) there from other area businesses (including a radio station broadcasting from the front parking lot) and George Mason University — really made it seem connected to the community.

When we often see photos in local newspapers of ribbon-cutting ceremonies at new stores and businesses, that is nice. But what happened today at the new Verizon store was a delightful confluence of several significant (for various reasons) people being all in one place at one time — and providing a new example of the exclamation “What a coincidence!” Who would have expected that a brilliant and esteemed political cartoonist (whose business is now Capital Artworks) would be in the new Verizon store in Gum Springs as traffic on Route 1 crawled by (as usual) on a busy Saturday.

Belinda Byrd

Top 20 Reasons 2014 Session Mattered for 44th District

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)

The 2014 General Assembly session has adjourned and now moves into a special session to finish the budget.

Notwithstanding many disputes, it has been a surprisingly productive session. The legislature passed 12 of my bills in some form and four of my budget amendments. The budget amendments are now part of ongoing

COMMENTARY

Below are the top 20 reasons why this session was important for people of the 44th District. Even though some good bills were defeated, debating them has value and it moves us closer to solutions long-term.

(1) Ethics Reforms. We passed a \$250 cap on tangible gifts, all gift disclosures will be online, gifts to family members must be reported and tangible gifts during litigation with the state are banned. The legislature also passed my bill banning gifts and political contributions during Governor’s Op-

portunity Fund grant negotiations. We should have gone much farther and I will continue to work to strengthen ethics laws.

(2) Standards of Learning (SOL) Reform. The number of SOL tests in grades 3-8 will be reduced and we created a new committee to recommend additional reforms.

(3) School Grades Reform. The legislature delayed for two years the pending issuance of “A-F” letter grades for schools.

(4) Digital Divide Ignored. The General Assembly rejected my legislation to require elementary-secondary schools systems using electronic textbooks to provide free computers.

(5) Mental Health. Emergency custody orders for the acutely mentally ill were extended from 4 to 8 hours, involuntary detention was extended from 48 to 72 hours, plus the state is required to set up a comprehensive acute psychiatric bed registry to allow caseworkers to do real-time searches for beds.

(6) Hybrid Vehicle Tax. The legislature passed my and Sen. Adam Ebbin’s bill re-

pealing the \$64 hybrid tax and requiring a refund, honoring the wishes of nearly 8,000 Virginians who signed our online petition.

(7) Preventing Identity Theft of Minors. The General Assembly approved a bill I carried with Del. Eileen Filler-Corn allowing parents to freeze the credit of their minor children to prevent identity theft.

(8) Power Line Undergrounding. The legislature passed a bill to authorize our electricity company, Dominion Resources, to charge ratepayers for undergrounding residential power lines. This will mean fewer power line failures in older neighborhoods during major weather events.

(9) Stalemate on Marriage Equality and Women’s Rights. I did not succeed in removing Virginia’s 1977 ban on same sex marriage from the state law or in repealing the 2006 Constitutional ban, and other attacks on marriage equality were defeated. Legislation to repeal last year’s forced ultrasounds before abortions and my bill to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment were rejected.

(10) Safer Cycling. We enacted legisla-

tion requiring a three-foot passing distance around bicycles. We defeated a bill banning tailgating cyclists.

(11) Electric Chair Defeat. We defeated efforts to mandate executions by electric chair if there are shortages of lethal injection drugs. The legislature killed my bill to abolish the electric chair.

(12) State Corporation Commission (SCC) Sunshine. We adopted legislation requiring access to records relating to the SCC’s operations. This was spurred by my legislation to apply the Freedom of Information Act to the SCC, which was defeated.

(13) Homeowners Associations Defeated. The legislature defeated legislation to allow homeowners associations to grant themselves the powers to fine homeowners without changing their government documents and instead adopted legislation expanding court access to both homeowners and associations.

(14) Justice Improved. We passed legislation authorizing a \$5 fee for traffic tickets to purchase equipment and software to

SEE TOP 20 REASONS, PAGE 30

HOME SALES

In January 2014, 61 homes sold between \$1,785,000-\$95,000 in the Mount Vernon area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	.....	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	PostalCode
6236 RADCLIFF RD	4	5	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$1,785,000	Detached	0.30		22307
9406 OLD MOUNT VERNON RD	7	4	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$855,000	Detached	0.52		22309
6921 FORT HUNT RD	4	2	3	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$850,000	Detached	1.40		22307
7117 BURTONWOOD DR	3	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Detached	0.33		22307
7308 STAFFORD RD	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$745,000	Detached	0.48		22307
1305 OAKBROOKE AVE	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$710,000	Detached	0.22		22308
7919 BOLLING DR	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Detached	0.51		22308
9322 MOUNT VERNON CIR	5	3	2	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Detached	0.46		22309
2106 STIRRUP LN	4	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$645,000	Detached	0.34		22308
8024 FORDSON RD	5	3	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Detached	0.25		22306
2617 CHILDS LN	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Detached	0.32		22308
1711 BELLE HAVEN RD	3	3	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$607,250	Townhouse	0.07		22307
8912 OLD MOUNT VERNON RD	5	3	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$602,500	Detached	0.47		22309
9305 ALLWOOD CT	4	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Detached	0.64		22309
8709 LEA LN	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Detached	0.50		22309
3300 BATTERSEA LN	4	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$499,900	Detached	0.31		22309
8027 CANDLEWOOD DR	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$488,000	Detached	0.42		22306
6720 WILLIAMS DR	3	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$465,000	Detached	0.17		22307
8639 BRADDOCK AVE	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$464,000	Detached	0.10		22309
4422 NEPTUNE DR	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$461,250	Detached	0.50		22309
5902 MOUNT EAGLE DR #508	3	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22303
8221 CEDAR LANDING CT	4	3	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$418,000	Townhouse	0.04		22306
2309 FORT DR	3	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$408,000	Detached	0.13		22303
8793 MILL TOWNS CT	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$405,000	Townhouse	0.05		22309
2817 JAMES DR	3	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$404,500	Detached	0.27		22303
7082 HUNTLEY RUN PL #93A	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$395,000	Townhouse			22306
8425 HALLIE ROSE ST	3	3	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$389,900	Townhouse	0.03		22309
8608 WOODLAWN CT	4	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$387,000	Detached	0.42		22309
2451 MIDTOWN AVE #514	2	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$385,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22303
2716 FARMINGTON DR	2	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$378,000	Townhouse	0.08		22303
7127 MASON GROVE CT #11	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$375,000	Townhouse			22306
4605 GAGE RD	5	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$360,000	Detached	0.33		22309
3720 SHANNONS GREEN WAY	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Townhouse	0.03		22309
2811 GROVETON ST	3	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$349,990	Detached	0.15		22306
7133 HUNTLEY CREEK PL #54	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$349,900	Townhouse			22306
7213 PARSONS CT	3	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.03		22306
2234 MARY BALDWIN DR	3	3	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$339,900	Duplex	0.08		22307
5506 SACRAMENTO MEWS PL	3	2	2	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.03		22309
2429 TEMPLE CT	3	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$324,999	Semi-Detached	0.09		22307
2705 FORT DR	2	1	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$323,000	Duplex	0.08		22303
5844 FIFER DR	2	1	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$319,900	Duplex	0.10		22303
7928 FRYE RD	3	1	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$315,889	Detached	0.33		22309
5904 MOUNT EAGLE DR #701	2	2	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22303
8324 HUNTER MURPHY CIR	2	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.02		22309
2451 MIDTOWN AVE #402	1	1	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$302,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22303
2502 WINDBREAK DR	4	3	0	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$287,000	Townhouse	0.04		22306
4225 MAIN ST	4	2	1	.....		ALEXANDRIA	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.06		22309
7106 STRAWN CT	2	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$259,500	Townhouse	0.03		22306
5903 MOUNT EAGLE DR #1511	1	1	1		ALEXANDRIA	\$244,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			22303

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The Meehan Team

Steve and Christy Meehan
Joe Bavaria and Colleen Pavlick

For more information, call us!

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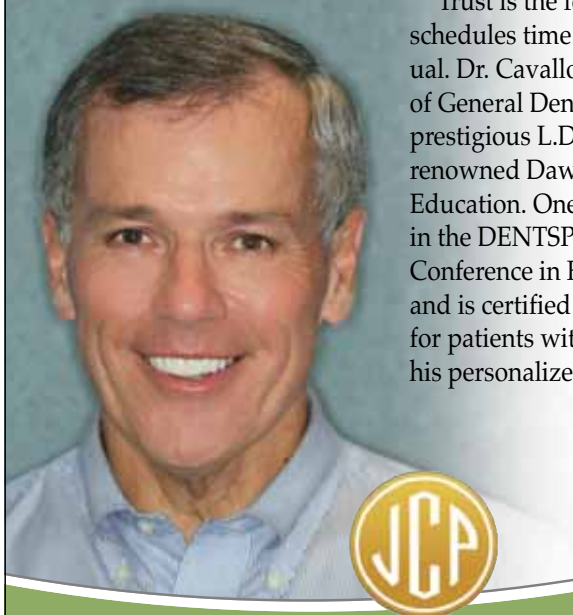
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4324 Adrienne Dr
\$724,900
Updated Five Bedroom Colonial!

A truly spectacular property! Columned Colonial in pristine condition with fabulous updates throughout. Uniquely gorgeous setting on 1.4 acre grounds backing to wooded parkland. Features incl: 5BR, 3 finished levels, W/O lower level, open flr pln, updated custom kit, and oversize 2 car garage. Virtually all major components updated. Spacious 480 sq ft deck overlooks natural wonderland. Stunning value! OPEN SUN 3/16, 1-4! GW Prky S, past Estate; R-Southwood; R-Adrienne.



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. OPEN SUN 3/16, 1-4! GW Prky S, past Estate; L-Old Mount Vernon Road.



4200 Ferry Landing Rd
\$698,500
Spacious Colonial- Shows Like Model!

Unique opportunity! This gorgeous 4BR Colonial is in impeccable condition, located on large lot and is loaded with upgrades. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Fab features: main level study and family room, large kitchen, breakfast area, finished LL, sumptuous master suite, stunning Brazilian Cherry floors, "Andersen" thermal windows, and 2 car garage. Property provides unique combination of size, condition and prime location. OPEN SUN 3/16, 1-4. GW Prky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing.



4713 Dolphin Lane
\$1,150,000
Waterfront- Private Dock!

Rare find-reasonably priced Alexandria area waterfront property! Spacious light filled contemporary in gorgeous condition. Custom features include 2 finished levels, (approx. 4,000 sq ft) 2 fireplaces, 4-5 bedrooms, 4 baths, gorgeous hardwood floors and oversize 2 car garage. Expansive glass walls, high ceilings and exterior deck capitalize on nautical views.



8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd
\$839,000
Large Home- Totally Updated!

One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 7BA, custom kitchen open to family room, large living and dining rooms, main level study, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Most house & lot for \$\$ in Mt. Vernon!



4821 Stillwell Ave
\$529,500
Curb Appeal Galore!

Character abounds in this fabulous Cap Cod, lovingly maintained and significantly updated. Many fabulous features include: 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, hardwood floors, elegant trim detail, custom built-ins, updated kitchen and finished lower level. Gorgeous setting on magnificent half acre lot just steps to acres and acres of Fairfax County parkland.



8888 McNair Dr
\$749,500
Five Bedroom Colonial- Prime Location!

Stately three level Colonial in gorgeous setting on spacious landscaped lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in heart of Mt. Vernon. Property is exceptionally well maintained with many updates. Special features include main level library, open kitchen and family room, hardwood floors, 5BRs, luxury master suite with sitting room, Thermal windows and 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous fenced grounds. Super value!



4300 Sheridans Point Ct
\$829,900
Elegant Georgian Colonial!

Abundant custom enhancements make this property a true showplace. 3 fin. levels, open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, sunroom, magnificent custom trim detail, luxury master bath, recently finished lower level. Huge deck and 2 car garage. Hard to find home with this size and luxurious appointments under \$1,000,000.

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***Classes begin on Saturday, April 19th and end on Saturday, May 17th. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00pm - 10:00pm and on Saturdays, 9:00am - 5:00pm during the day.

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Norma Gants 703.408.2560



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\$995,000
Alexandria / Potomac Greens
1744 POTOMAC GREENS DR

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Alex. / Mt Vernon
"NEW ON MARKET!"

Stately Colonial lovingly cared for and updated! Dynamite kitchen renovation! 4 bedrooms and 2.5 updated baths. All windows replaced!



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"TERRIFIC VALUE"

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\$ 665,000
Alexandria South
"GREAT VALUE"

3,000 sq ft beautiful house wanting to be a home! Additions on 2 levels offer a master bedroom suite and sunroom/breakfast area off the kitchen and family room.



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875

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OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 649,900
Alexandria
7807 DAYBREAK CT

Renovated, move-in ready home in Hollin Brook Park just off Sherwood Hall Lane. Only 2 levels, 5BR/3BA, 2-car garage, large fenced-in lot in quiet cul-de-sac location. Over 2,300 sq ft of living space, main level bedrooms, kitchen with table space, and large, open dining and living rooms.



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OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 724,900
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7700 ELBA RD

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granite counters - newly refinished hardwood floors on mail level - all thermopane windows - sunny, bright rooms - lower level walkout to woodland backyard - skylights - 2 fireplaces - large storage room - plus wonderful screened porch! Make it yours!

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\$ 237,000
Alexandria South
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Alexandria
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to woods. Entertain or work from home in separate office space. Rec room has wet-bar/mini-fridge and built-in bookcase/entertainment center. Large kitchen, separate DR plus carport round out this great home.

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Alexandria
"HISTORY & CHARM"

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\$ 289,000
Alexandria
"WALK TO METRO"

Updated kitchen with newer appliances, granite counter tops, hardwood floors. Recently completed family room on lower level. Full-fenced large, level



backyard opens to parkland. New deck and roof. Easy access to 495 and Old Town.

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RENTALS

15268 Cloverdale Rd \$1,500
Dale City Townhouse - 3BR / 2.5BA 2 assigned Prkg
NaToya Joshua 703.518.7990
2601 Wagon Dr #362 \$1,650
Huntington Club Garden 2BR / 1.5BA 1 assigned Prkg
Walid Ashoor 703.585.6224
2451 Midtown Ave #1322 \$1,790
Midtown Alexandria Station Hi-Rise 1BR / 1BA 1 assigned Prkg
Marcy Covarrubias 703.772.6569
6637 Deer Gap Ct \$1,900
Franconia Commons Townhouse 3BR / 2.5BA 1 Frpl
2 assigned Prkg
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Fighting for Social Justice with Patience and Persistence

FROM PAGE 1

parable of Good vs. Evil — Horejsi believes that lawmakers have a moral imperative to care about the powerless and voiceless, the “least among us.”

“There are times when he’s a little bit like Robin Hood,” said state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), a potent ally who has helped Horejsi advance legislation that helps the poor, the homeless, prisoners and children. “The difference is that John doesn’t have a bow and arrow to convince the rich to help the poor.”

“I guess that’s true. I don’t have a bow and arrow, and there are times I feel like Mr. Smith in Richmond,” Horejsi said, smiling. Like Jefferson Smith, Horejsi said he wouldn’t give “two cents for all the fancy rules if, behind them, they didn’t have a little bit of plain, ordinary, everyday kindness, and a little looking out for the other fella too.”

After speaking to a group about homelessness and hunger during a Catholic Charities conference in 1981, Horejsi found others willing to fight for “the other fella” in Richmond. He and a “ragtag band” of eight formed Social Action Linking Together, commonly known as “SALT.”

What began with a few social justice pioneers is now one of the most active and influential nonpartisan advocacy groups from Northern Virginia with 1,200-plus active members.

SALT’s mission is simple: keep social justice issues front and center with Virginia lawmakers. But the group’s legislative initiatives touch a staggeringly wide range of public welfare issues. Since the early 1980s, SALT has introduced bills benefitting the homeless, children, families, employees who face discrimination and other low-income Virginians who lack a secure safety net.

According to Robert Stewart, a founding member of SALT, members bring “the social, economic and justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation.”

Whether lawmakers support SALT’s message or not, many respect the messenger, who has a knack for being pushy without being rude and insolent.

“He is a very nice man with a big heart. He states the way we all wish the world would be,” said Del. David Albo (R-42), the most senior Republican from Northern Virginia in Richmond. “But the world is not always like the way we want it to be.”

“(His) work with the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) and SALT alone has done more good for more people than most citizens are capable of imagining,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who has served in the Virginia legislature since 1982.

As an elected official, Plum said he hears regularly from constituents who sometimes lack the basic necessities in life.

“I know what John’s activism over the years has meant to Northern Virginians,” Plum said.

A TRANSFORMING MOMENT

Like most movements that have a pro-



The SALT “gang” on one of many trips to Richmond. Bob Stewart of Chantilly, John Horejsi, David Baldacchi of Arlington, a national work sharing expert, and Maddie Lupo gather with Sen. George Barker (D-39) (center), who worked with Sen. Bill Stanley and various coalitions and agencies to push work sharing legislation through this year.

found and lasting impact, SALT was years in the making.

For Horejsi, the seeds of compassion were planted early.

He was born and raised in the tiny farming town of Bechyn, Minn. — which listed its population as 30 in the 1920 U.S. Census. Shortly after World War II, Horejsi’s mother died and his father was unable to care for him.

He was taken in by impoverished relatives, who treated him, he said, with kindness.

“When my mother died everything changed. Since my father was unable to care for me, I was placed into the state social services Kinship Care system,” Horejsi said.

“Who knows what would have happened to me or where I would be today without their help and the support of social services. Being aware of my personal situation sensitized me and always made me feel like I should do something,” he said.

Horejsi said another powerful event in his life was meeting a 16-year-old homeless teen in Alexandria in 1985. When the girl’s mother was laid off from her job, they became homeless, living out of their car for a short time before moving to a homeless shelter for six months.

“After meeting her, I felt strongly that we should help the homeless. That’s when we started our successful advocacy for the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) to prevent homelessness,” Horejsi said.

Thanks to programs and services available to the homeless, the young woman went on to study with the Virginia Ballet School and Company and earned a law degree from Catholic University in 1993.



John Horejsi, a Vienna resident and founder of SALT, with his wife Mariann.

Horejsi said he will never forget her. “In fact, many people might know her name today, because they voted her into office,” Horejsi said.

The homeless teen Horejsi met was Charneille Herring, who has served as a Democrat in the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 46th district, since 2009. In December 2012, she became the first African-American elected chair of the Democratic Party of Richmond.

“These kinds of life events cause you to think, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

A MAJOR VICTORY; A STUNNING DEFEAT

The political culture in Richmond is frequently compared to a Greek tragedy — most of the plot twists and turns happen off stage. Those who don’t know how the system works, or who don’t know how to work the system, soon get frustrated and give up.

“Richmond is not constituent-friendly,”

Horejsi said. “It is very frustrating and disappointing that many of our bills pass the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and then die in some sub-committee.”

The political winds are constantly shifting, and Horejsi said he and other SALT advocates must constantly monitor bills during session, so they have an opportunity to educate legislators and influence their votes.

“This year started off as an amazing surprise,” Horejsi said. “During our first visit we met with 11 legislators — not just their aides. This was a record.”

“There seemed to be a new era of good feeling and cooperation. Almost all our bills began to pass quickly through assigned sub-committees and then full committees unanimously with lightning speed,” Horejsi said.

But during “crossover” — when bills pass from the Senate to the House — several SALT-backed bills stalled, getting caught in the larger political crossfire that goes hand-in-hand with crossover.

Take Medicaid expansion, for example, which was SALT’s number one priority this session.

On Saturday, March 8, the General Assembly adjourned its 60-day session, yet lawmakers left Richmond without passing Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s number one priority — a \$96 billion budget that included expanding Medicaid eligibility for roughly 400,000 Virginia residents.

Republicans in the GOP-controlled House opposed the expansion, saying the rapidly-growing program still needs reform, and the debate should be separated from the budget.

A key part of the new federal health care law, the issue deadlocked the GOP-controlled House and the Democratically-controlled Senate. In response, McAuliffe immediately called for a special session to begin in two weeks.

SALT members argue that turning down roughly \$5 million a day in federal funds associated with expanded Medicaid eligibility could have severe consequences, such as shutting down many hospitals in rural communities.

SALT also lost its battle to “Ban the Box.” If passed, Virginia would have joined the growing number of states that give job applicants with a prior criminal conviction a “fair chance” at getting a job.

The legislation, filed by Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45), would have removed the box on applications for state jobs that asks people if they have been convicted of a felony.

“This is not about hiding an individual’s past,” Krupicka said in a letter to constituents, noting that employers can still ask about criminal history during the interview process.

“All this bill aims to do is help ex-offenders reach more job interviews that hopefully will lead to more jobs ... In Alexandria alone, 13 people are released from jail every day. In trying to re-integrate into society, finding employment can be one of the most useful factors in reducing recidivism

SEE FIGHTING, PAGE 19

Green Energy Triangle Versus Closed Landfill

FROM PAGE 1

however, cite the buyout provisions in the application and don't believe the green energy will come to fruition.

"There are no guarantees that they will even build any of the green energy. In fact, they can buy their way out of building them at all," said Nick Firth, president of the South County Federation. "ESI is not a green energy company. They are a trash company. It will be a lot easier for them to buy themselves out of this than to hire an external company or third party to initialize and go through the intricate approval process explained in the SEA-2."

Mehan said that there aren't any loopholes, and that EnviroSolutions wants the green energy components to work out.

"If we fail, we can be shutdown," Mehan said. "Because they brought this up, there's a penalty cause in the application, that if for whatever reason, we do not install and operate one of the four green energy technologies, we have to pay money. It's the equivalent of what it would cost for us to do it."

Supporters and opponents of the application are also debating the impact the closure of the landfill will have on truck traffic.

Currently, trucks that enter the landfill must do so from the south to avoid driving through roads that pass by communities. If the current application is not approved and the landfill closes by 2019, a recycling center will be built across the street, as determined in the 2006 application.

According to Mehan, about 400 trucks a day come to the landfill.

"When we move across the street, if this is not approved, we will relocate as much of our operation as we can across the street. We will not be able to re-locate all 400 trucks," he said.



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

EnviroSolutions has planted trees along the landfill to appease neighbors.

Mehan said the trucks will likely use the route from the north to come to the recycling center, and EnviroSolutions cannot afford to apply the same condition that prohibits truck traffic from the north on the new application.

"That condition drives up the cost of the trucking operations," Mehan said. "The cost of the recycling facility is much higher than the landfill."

The trucks wouldn't be going down residential streets, but would be able to use roads such as Hooes and Lorton.

"I'm very disappointed to hear the applicant state that they aren't willing to put in that same restriction if they open the recycling center. I consider that offensive as a member of my community," Firth said.

Some community members have concerns

with environmental aspects of the green energy park, specifically regarding the wind turbines.

Catherine Ledec, who spoke on behalf of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, which opposes the application, said the group is concerned about the wind power aspect of the green energy park.

"Not all renewable energies are suitable for every site. We support renewable energy, but this needs to be done in the right way and in the right places. For this project, the question is, are the renewable resources to generate the energy that you want to generate present at that site and in enough quantity to justify the cost, both the monetary cost and other costs, including environmental impact," Ledec said.

A Virginia Annual Average Wind Speed

Map at 80 meters does not offer a zoomed-in view of the Lorton area's wind resources and isn't specific to the height of the project, Ledec said, but it demonstrates that wind resources are between 4 and 4.5 meters per second at an annual average. Areas with 6.5 meters per second or greater annual average wind speeds are appropriate for wind development, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Ledec also cited the presence of birds, including bald eagles, at the landfill.

"Wind power has the potential to negatively impact resident and migratory birds and bats in the project area, especially a large concentration of bald eagles," Ledec said.

According to Ivy Main, the chair of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, which has endorsed the green energy park plan, bird deaths from wind turbines are minimal.

"In general, however, the research seems pretty clear, that wind turbines fall very low on the list of ways that we humans kill birds," Main said.

However, Main said at the public hearing that if an eagle study in accordance with federal guidelines shows that wind turbines can't be built without hurting eagles, the wind turbines shouldn't be built.

"I suggest that a better contingency would be to have any money not spent on wind turbines to be earmarked for solar on county land or facilities, preferably on schools," Main said.

Mehan said that EnviroSolutions is dedicated to protecting wildlife at the landfill, and is open to bird-friendly technologies.

The Fairfax County zoning staff has recommended approval of the application. On March 13, the planning commission will make their recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Fighting for Social Justice with Patience and Persistence

FROM PAGE 18

rates," Krupicka said.

Horejsi called Ban the Box an "essential" component of any meaningful program designed to help former prisoners reenter society, and said he was extremely disheartened when it failed — at the 11th hour — in the House Courts of Justice Committee, chaired by Del. Dave Albo.

"I wish the world was like John [envisioned it], but taxpayers are maxed out, and there are violent people among us that the only place safe is to have them in prison," Albo said in an interview Sunday. "We have limited money and there are bad guys out there that want to hurt people. John's positions are always what we could do with unlimited money and assume that all criminals could be rehabilitated."

In the plus column, SALT was successful in moving work share legislation

through the General Assembly and on to the governor's desk for his signature.

State Senators George Barker (D-39) and Bill Stanley (R-20) were instrumental in getting the legislation passed this year, after it failed last year. Horejsi said both senators, and SALT advocates, worked closely with the Virginia Employment Commission to ensure that the bill works with current VEC programs.

The program lessens the impact of layoffs by allowing employers to reduce the hours of their existing work force instead of letting employees go. A kind of unemployment insurance in reverse, the program comes with free federal dollars to keep workers in their jobs instead of supporting them after they're laid off.

"Having been through the recession and recent slight increases in Virginia unemployment rates as federal sequestration takes effect, it is important that we give Virginia businesses all the tools we can to help them

and their employees get through challenging times. This bill does that," Barker said in an interview at the beginning of this year's legislative session.

Horejsi admits there are times when he gets discouraged by "politics as usual."

"What keeps me going are notes like this, from a parishioner of St. Anne's," Horejsi said:

"John, I just want you to know I appreciate all of these emails you send. I was at St. Ann's community weekend today. I saw your sign-up sheet. I feel bad that with all that is going on with my life right now, that I haven't had time to help, but please keep the emails coming. I enjoy your posts. Every once in a while it is a helpful reminder that there are others who care."

"I truly believe there is always hope," Horejsi said, after the General Assembly session ended. "For example, Sen. Jill Vogel, the only Republican senator to vote for our Ban the Box bill during a lively debate,

made a beautiful and inspiring speech about some of her most loyal employees being those with former convictions."

Horejsi is already gearing up for next year's session, studying legislation and organizing constituent education meetings. Despite the sometimes overwhelming odds against social justice bills, Horejsi said he refuses to let social justice issues become submerged in the tide of legislation that benefits only wealthy corporations and constituents.

"Legislators have told us that what they really respect about us is that we're not asking anything for ourselves," Horejsi said. "We're asking on behalf of those who are the most desperate and in the greatest need ... That's why SALT will remain intimately involved in the process."

For more information on SALT, and how to get involved, visit the SALT website at www.S-A-L-T.org.

Local Governments Use Debt To Build the Future

FROM PAGE 1

costs for borrowing to issue bonds to finance long-term improvements,” said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership. “Local governments are asking themselves if they want to risk deferring borrowing knowing it might carry a much higher interest rate.”

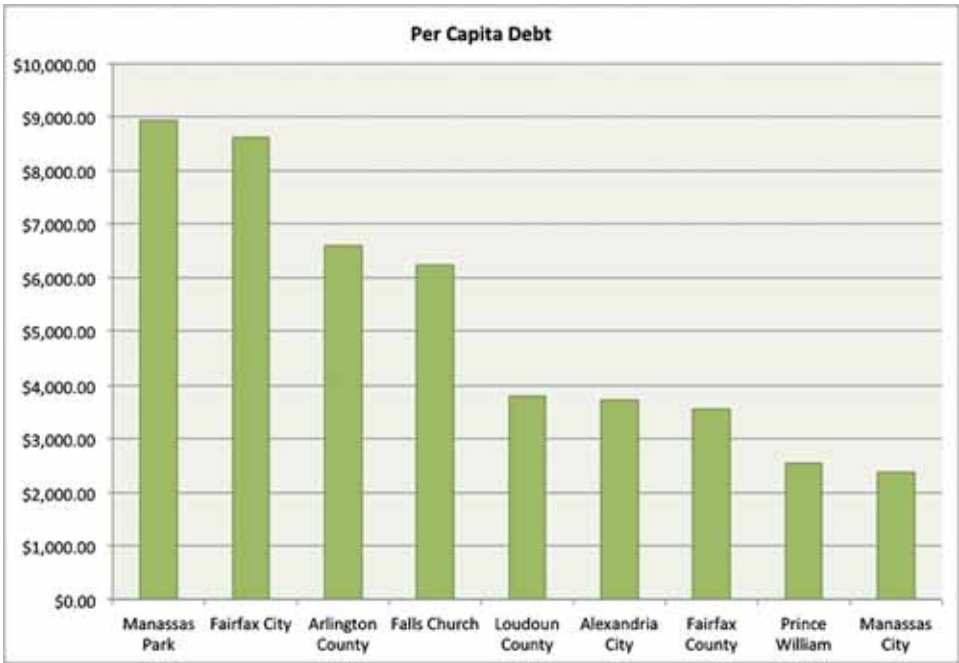
GOVERNMENT LEADERS say the old Byrd philosophy of “pay-as-you-go” is a relic of the past in much the same way as the policy of racial segregation associated with the Byrd machine. Although government officials acknowledge that local governments are taken on increasing amounts of debt, they argue that it’s all relative to the amount of money the jurisdiction raises each year and how much value is tied to land in the jurisdiction.

“All the Northern Virginia jurisdictions are looking at the same metrics — they can’t exceed a three percent limit of outstanding debt as a percent of assessed value, and annual debt payments can’t exceed 10 percent of their total budget,” said Joe LaHait, debt coordinator for Fairfax County. “Those two metrics are strongly abided by, and they are constantly monitored by the bond rating agencies who ultimately provide the ratings to every single jurisdiction in the state.”

Arlington County has one of the highest per capita debt loads in Northern Virginia, an indication that county leaders are willing to use its bonding authority to borrow money to construct everything from schools to a new aquatics center at Long Bridge Park. Supporters of the county’s efforts say the bond rating agencies approve because Arlington has an Aaa/AAA/AAA credit rating. Arlington is one of the few jurisdictions in America to have a triple-triple A credit rating, a distinction it’s held for 13 consecutive years.

“You could make a reasonable argument, I think, that we have got a number of dif-

locality	education debt	transportation debt	other general government debt	enterprise activities debt	total debt	per capita debt
Fairfax County	\$1,549,052,341	\$396,425,978	\$1,489,446,960	\$554,411,229	\$3,989,336,508	\$3,564.93
Arlington County	\$415,885,635	\$112,840,854	\$455,326,656	\$428,655,606	\$1,412,708,751	\$6,589.96
Loudoun County	\$890,389,301	\$0	\$360,213,903	\$2,060,377	\$1,252,663,581	\$3,803.35
Prince William	\$597,558,000	\$201,316,000	\$260,383,000	\$0	\$1,059,257,000	\$2,552.72
Alexandria City	\$152,270,716	\$17,340,064	\$365,761,922	\$27,144,311	\$535,372,702	\$3,731.76
Fairfax City	\$88,893,350	\$0	\$78,185,450	\$29,998,814	\$197,077,614	\$8,618.81
Manassas Park	\$58,228,329	\$0	\$59,670,144	\$14,776,604	\$132,675,077	\$8,930.79
Manassas	\$39,298,653	\$7,690,477	\$15,529,780	\$30,376,597	\$92,995,507	\$2,380.84
Falls Church	\$4,869,733	\$0	\$39,573,050	\$33,821,309	\$78,264,092	\$6,227.75



Per capita debt.

ferent programs doing the same things sometimes and you could probably streamline some things in Arlington. There’s no doubt about that,” said Robert Hynes, a member of the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission. “But I also do not think there’s a lot of great waste in the money they spend. They spend it well I think.”

ONE POTENTIAL drawback for local governments deciding to take on more debt is the risk of violating self-imposed debt limits. In Alexandria, for example, city leaders are trying to find a way to finance a new Metro station at Potomac Yard. Last year, members of the Budget and Fiscal Affairs

Advisory Committee sounded the alarm that the city was actually on track to violate its debt ceiling even without calculating the massive borrowing that would be needed to finance the Metro station, which could be anywhere from \$200 million to \$400 million. That means borrowing money to build the station would violate the city’s debt policy at least temporarily.

“The idea was, I think, to make an exception that would be paid down and then go back to the guidelines — in other words break the guidelines,” said James Bulter, former chairman of the Alexandria Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee. “But I believe that they should carefully exam-

“Some jurisdictions are having to be more careful with their debt load as they are small and have a weak real estate base. Others see that having high quality infrastructure is the best way to support a growing economy that will enable them to pay off the debt.”

— Stephen Fuller, director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University

ine their options because the debt policy has a real meaning, and it should be followed if at all possible.”

Local governments are not alone in trying to borrow money to balance the books. Last year, the commonwealth of Virginia’s total debt increased to \$37.3 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion, or 3.2 percent. According to a study by the nonpartisan State Budget Solutions, that means each private sector worker in Virginia has a state debt burden of more than \$21,000. And the federal government problems with debt are well known.

“My own personal debt concerns me, so certainly the debt of my county does as well,” said Ed Batten, a member of the Lee District Budget Advisory Group. “But when I look at what the demands are in this county, the human demands as well as what’s going on in the economy, I think that what we are doing is the best we can do given the circumstances.”

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Kyle Travers has been named to the Champlain College dean’s list. Travers is majoring in secondary education-English.

Stephen T. Kuhn completed his graduate studies at SUNY Oswego in literacy education with a master of science in education degree.

The following Marymount University students are recognized in the 2014 Edition Of “Who’s Who among Students”: **Ana Funes-Hernandez**, with a major in biology; **Chelsea Hendrix**, with a major in interior design; **Sarah Rayl**, with a major in fashion design; and **Cassie Tabar**, with a major in health sciences.

The following students graduated with honors from James Madison

University on Dec. 14: **Rebecca Keegan** graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and **Julia Pei** graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor of arts degree in sociology.

Shane Criqui earned semester honors at Kansas State University for the fall semester.

Sarah Knenlein, a member of the class of 2016 at Washington and Lee University, has earned honor roll status for the recently ended winter term 2013.

Sarah Sapirstein has been named to the dean’s list at the University of Vermont. Sapirstein is a sophomore political science major in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The following Washington and Lee students have earned dean’s list status for the recently ended winter term 2013: **Catherine Fonvielle**, a member of the class of 2017; **Alexandria**

Garcia, class of 2015; **Sarah Knenlein**, class of 2016; **Timothy Lindsay**, class of 2017; **Caleb Russell**, class of 2014; **Nicholas Smith**, class of 2014; and **Arthur Stier**, class of 2015.

The following local residents have been named to the president’s list at Clemson University for the fall 2013 semester: **Stephanie Cameron** of Alexandria, whose major is economics; **Lydia Ciavarella**, whose major is elementary education; **Shannon Frydenlund**, whose major is elementary education; **Franklin Hyre**, whose major is political science; and **Emily Smoot**, whose major is marketing.

Twenty-five residents of Alexandria have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at Radford University. They are **Kestra Noel Aardema**, sophomore art major; **Kennise J. Baker**, sophomore social work major; **Matthew Glen Collins**, junior music major; **Julie Gosline**, senior interdisciplinary studies major; **Jonathan Lee**

Krashevski, senior management major; **Kelsey Jean Lawhead**, senior interdisciplinary studies major; **Evan Kwon-Lee Scott**, senior exercise, sport and health education major; **Anne Marie Warren**, senior interdisciplinary studies major; **Sylvia Kwandzwa Addison**, senior psychology major; **Derek M. Barrera**, junior political science major; **Ayda Mamuye Bekele**, senior nursing major; **Destiny Boyd**, freshman political science major; **Burt Griffin Brown-Glazner**, senior geospatial science major; **Charles Edward Crawford**, senior exercise, sport and health education major; **Castro Basoa Frimpong**, senior exercise, sport and health education major; **Alyssa P. Klinksiek**, sophomore music major; **Jasmin Dominique Lawrence**, senior communication major; **Linnea Christine Markson**, junior interdisciplinary studies major; **Richard Osei**, junior art major; **Jessica Painter**, freshman exercise, sport and health education major; **Lauren Painter**, freshman exercise, sport and health education

major; **Natasha Perez**, freshman political science major; **Sarah Brynne Rainey**, freshman biology major; **Ariam Goitom Tedia**, freshman pre-nursing major; **Joshua Patrick Wagner**, sophomore management major; and **Chelsea Lorraine Willis**, junior pre-business major.

Rui Bai from Alexandria was named to the fall 2013 dean’s list at Wake Forest University.

The following area students made the dean’s list at James Madison University for the fall 2013 semester: **Lindsey Boggess**, a junior; **Matthew Bowman**, a senior; **Morgan Carter**, a senior; **Matthew Clasen**, a senior; **Matthew Harper**, a senior; **Julie Hirschhorn**, a junior; **Bryan Jacobs**, a senior; **Rebecca Keegan**, a senior; **Samantha Kempter**, a senior; **Olivia Kimble**, a freshman; **Malcolm**

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 26

ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'Proof'

Drama explores love and relationships, mental illness and mathematics.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theater of Alexandria is staging "Proof," a dense and compact drama/comedy written by David Auburn about mathematics and mental illness that starred Gwyneth Paltrow, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Anthony Hopkins in the 2005 film adaptation. The play, told in flashbacks, won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play.

It stars four actors, including Anna Fagan in the role of young Catherine who struggles with mental illness and who inherited some of her dad's math genius. She had cared for her father Robert, played by Chuck Leonard, a deceased math professor at the University of Chicago who battled a long mental illness. Ex-grad student Hal (played by Josh Goldman), with whom Catherine has an affair, discovers a proof about prime numbers in Robert's writings. The title refers both to that proof and to the play's central question: Can Catherine prove the proof's authorship? The play also explores Catherine's fear of mental illness, following in her father's footsteps, and her attempt to stay in control.

"She's a brilliant mathematician but she associates that side of herself with the schizophrenia that her father had," said Fagan, 27, who works at GWU for her day job. "She's very dark. I found it challenging to play a character who is bitter. ... It's hard to express someone so angry and dark, but also show that she has positive qualities too."

Leonard, 53, of Burke, who plays the dad, was the real-life director of theater at Episcopal High School in Alexandria before taking a teaching job at the GMU Honors College where he knows a lot of mathemati-

cians. "My father passed away years ago and had issues with dementia before he died," said Leonard. "So I wanted to make sure that aspect didn't get lost in stereotypical portrayal of mental illness."

"Proof" co-producer Kevin O'Dowd, 50, of Falls Church, who has produced 14 LTA productions, said, "The thing I liked about the play is how it explores the relation between brilliance and madness and how mental illness affects the family."

He had worked with Director Susan Devine years ago and wanted to work together again.

Devine, 56, of Fairfax, who called the script "simply brilliant," said they hired both a math and mental illness consultant to help the actors dissect their roles. "I always considered math as a metaphor for the complexities and struggles in life," said Devine. "With mental illness, it's very much the same — you either understand it or not."

Elizabeth Keith, 39, of Arlington, plays the role of Claire, the smart and rational sister from New York who has been providing financially for the family. "One of the beautiful things is that all of the characters are shown in good and bad situations," said Keith. "That was really fun to try to bring out those moments."

She adds: "Claire and Catherine have disagreed over the years about what is the best care for their father."

Set designer Daniel Remmers, 48, of Springfield roamed Google Earth for images of split-level homes in the Chicago suburbs to build the perfect set. "I thought the set should look like your parent's house and something that was old and run down," said Remmers, a physicist for the Navy. "The characters go through some difficult things, so I wanted a nice comfortable place for them to hang out."

"I wanted the audience to feel like the neighbors who were across the back yard looking in next door," said Devine, who also directed the LTA's production of "Chicago."

"Proof" runs through March 29 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Tickets are \$17 and \$20. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-0496.



PHOTOS BY MATT LIPTAK

Anna Fagan (Catherine) and Josh Goldman (Hal) star in LTA's production of "Proof."



Anna Fagan (Catherine) and Chuck Leonard (Robert) star in LTA's production of "Proof."

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Songwriter's Showcase. Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Features a different Songwriter's Association of Washington artist each week. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com for tickets.

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 through March

16. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html for more.

Art Exhibit. See Katie Runnerstrom's drawings and paintings through March 16 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The show reflects her exploration of several areas of science such as mycology and the study of jellyfish. Free. Visit nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Theater Performance. See "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., through 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.

Art Exhibit. See "7th and H Streets, NW: The Hidden Refrain of Inner City DC" by Fred Zafran at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Feb. 18-March 30. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/ 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.

Exhibition Fundraiser. From March 8-23 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibition features nearly 200 panels of artwork created by local artists. \$150/panel. The panels will be for sale and proceeds will benefit March of Dimes and the Target Gallery's outreach programming. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit. "Portraits of Pop Culture" art exhibit will be on display at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see artists' interpretation of pop culture, featuring compelling cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians, pundits and

other pop figures. Show runs March 7-30. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Woodlawn Exhibit. See work of needlers from across the country, including objects created by First Ladies and First Family members, including items by Edith Roosevelt, Dolley Madison and Barbara Bush. The exhibit runs March 1-31 at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. Lunch is available from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for a fee. Admission is \$10/adult; \$5/student. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See photographer E.E. McCollum transform the figure in "The Cocoon Series" March 13

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crisis and financial education to ensure a brighter future.*

Special thanks to **Mount Vernon Gazette**

ENTERTAINMENT

through April 7 in the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Through a series of black and white photographs, McCollum transforms the human figure by using nylon tubing to encase the body. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit. “ColorField” pays homage to the Washington Color School by encouraging Art League artists to revisit this method of abstract painting in which color is emphasized and form and surface are de-emphasized. The exhibit runs through April 7 in the Art League at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See “REVOLUTION: Art and Technology” art exhibit from April 4-27 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists explore their relationship with technology in computer-created art, digitally manipulated art, art made from electronic parts, mixed-media pieces expressing feelings about technology, and more. Hours are Thursdays noon-6 p.m.; Friday & Saturday noon-9 p.m.; Sunday noon-6 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

Art Exhibit. See “LOULOU DI Flower/To Flower” at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The exhibit explores the natural process of flowering and its metaphorical context through object making and installation. Free. The exhibit runs March 20-May 4. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Art Exhibit. See “Spirit of Place: Dyke Marsh,” an exhibition of photography by Anthony Peritore and sculptural works by Megan Peritore from March 26 through May 18 in the Crossroads Gallery, located in Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church. Free.

Attics and Alleys Tour. Tickets are now on sale for the Attics and Alleys tour, a three-hour walking tour featuring rarely seen spaces of four sites — the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Carlyle House. Tours will be offered Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-noon. \$35/peron. Reservations required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Art Exhibit. “Women Legends of Alexandria: 2007-2013” art exhibit will be on display at Prudential PenFed Realty, 300 N. Washington St., suite 100. The exhibit will showcase portraits from the Living Legends of Alexandria project with selected works from the Del Ray Artisans. Show runs March 3-June 27. Hours are Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

New Exhibit. Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington’s design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, “Gardens & Groves: George Washington’s Landscape” at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington’s landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

George Washington’s Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello and James Madison’s Montpelier to expand the “Presidents Passport,” Virginia’s premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year’s program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or

WATCH Awards

The Port City Playhouse, The Little Theatre of Alexandria and Aldersgate Church Community Theatre each took home honors from Washington Area Theatre Community Honors (WATCH) for artistic and technical excellence in community theater.

“We are excited about the wealth of talent represented by this year’s WATCH Award nominees and winners,” said Roy Peterson, WATCH chair. “This group is just one indicator of the vitality of the DC-metro community theatre scene.”

WATCH is the organization that judges productions and presents annual awards recognizing artistic and technical excellence in community theater in the Washington, D.C. area. There were a total of 114 productions (42 musicals and 72 plays) judged in 2013 from which nominations and awardees were chosen. The WATCH awards were announced at a ceremony at the Birchmere on Sunday evening, March 9.

The Aldersgate Church Community Theatre WATCH Award was for Outstanding Hair Design in a Play — Rachel Royall in “Life with Father.” Staging theater productions since 1990, the Aldersgate Church Community Theatre performs at Wesley Hall of Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 1301 Collingwood Road. Visit www.acctonline.org.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria received two awards: Outstanding Light Design in a Play — Ken and Patti Crowley in “33 Variations” and Outstanding Set Design in a Play — John Downing and Bill Glikbarg in “Twentieth Century.” Founded in 1934, the Little Theatre of Alexandria performs at 600 Wolfe St. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Port City Playhouse won for Outstanding Sound Design in a Play — Sean Doyle in “Shiloh Rules.” Founded in 1977, the Port City Playhouse performs at 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

For more on WATCH, visit www.washingtontheater.org.

— DAVID SIEGEL

purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria’s “Key to the City” pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria - a \$26 added value. Learn more at PresPassport.Monticello.org.

Art Exhibit. See “Sit Down and Take a Stand: Samuel W. Tucker and the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In” at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The exhibit focuses on the life of famed civil rights attorney Samuel Wilber Tucker, and highlights the role of Robert Strange, who was a runner between the library and Tucker’s office, keeping Tucker abreast of developments. The exhibit runs through August. Free. 703-746-4356.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Metro Club After-School Program.

Through June, 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 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.

SUMMER CAMP

Camp Offering. Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre will hold sessions starting June 30 to Aug. 22. There are two-week sessions with morning, afternoon or all day sessions, and one-week sessions that go all day. To register, visit www.mvcct.org.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FUN

Cherry Blossom Food Tour. On Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 2 p.m., take a guided tour of Alexandria, exploring the architecture, while pausing in locally-owned eateries to sample cherry-centric dishes and learn about cherry blossom history. \$49/person. Runs March 22-April 12. Visit www.dcmetrofoodtours.com/cherry_blossom_food_tour.html for more.

Blossoms by Bike River Ride. On Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 1 p.m., enjoy a three-hour bike tour along the Mount Vernon Trail, into DC and around the tidal basin to see the blossoms up close. Runs March 22-April 13. \$40/person age 13 and older. Visit www.bikethesites.com/tours for reservations.

Cherry Blossom Boat Tour. Departing Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. at Cameron and Union Streets. Take a boat cruise and view the blossoms along the river. Runs March 29-April 13. \$26/adult; \$14/child age 2-11. Visit

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/GAZETTE PACKET

Portraits of Pop Culture

Barb Boatman checks out an exhibit at the **Del Ray Artisans Gallery** during the **March 7 opening reception for Portraits of Pop Culture**, a show featuring cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians and other pop figures. The show runs through **March 30** and features a **Heads Up Silent Auction fundraiser**. **Del Ray Artisans Gallery** is located at **2704 Mount Vernon Ave.** Call **703-838-4827** or visit **TheDelRayArtisans.org**.

CALENDAR

www.potomacriverboatco.com/blossoms2014.php to register.

THURSDAY/MARCH 13

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m., meet the artists of "ColorField," which pays homage to the Washington Color School by encouraging Art League artists to revisit this method of abstract painting in which color is emphasized and form and surface are de-emphasized. Located in the Art League at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Toast to Fashion. 6:30-10 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Hosted by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center, the event features a fashion show, marketplace, raffle, cocktail reception. All the proceeds will benefit programs operated by the center. \$55/advance or \$65/door. Visit www.campagnacenter.org for more.

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m., meet the photographer of "The Cocoon Series" E.E. McCollum, in the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Through a series of black and white photographs, McCollum transforms the human figure by using nylon tubing to encase the body. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will

perform music for mixed chamber wind ensembles. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Michele Murray and Buck Stone perform. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/MARCH 14

Grand Opening. 4-6 p.m. at 529 Kids Consign Boutique, 7918 Fort Hunt Road. 529 Kids Consign will celebrate the opening of their second location in the Hollin Hall neighborhood of Alexandria. Shoppers will be treated to bubbly, desserts and discounts up to 25 percent off. Visit www.529kidsconsign.com or call 703-721-2921.

Art Party. 7-10 p.m. in Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Meet the artists who created panels, enjoy prizes, food, wing-off competition and more. Panels will cost \$100 at the event, with proceeds benefiting March of Dimes and the Target Gallery's outreach programming. \$15/advance or \$20/door. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Performance. 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Singers' Theater of Washington presents "Suor Angelica," a one-act opera from Giacomo Puccini's "Il Trittico." \$20/general; \$15/student, senior, group. Visit www.singerstheater.com for tickets.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Patty Reese Band will perform. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com for tickets.

Comedy Improv. 8 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Give suggestions to the comedy group and watch as they turn them into scenes and games. \$10/person. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Touch-a-Truck Event. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Children can explore, climb and press buttons on trucks of all sizes. \$5/person older than 2 years of age. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html for more.

Vegetable Gardening 101. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Horticultural agent Kirsten Buhls, assisted by Master Gardeners of Arlington/Alexandria, will discuss the basics of vegetable gardening including seed starting, soil preparation and when and where to plant. Free. Registration is requested, e-mail mgarlalex@gmail.com or 703-228-6414.

Children's Program. 11 a.m. at the Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. "Dezmo & the Secret Power of Knowledge." There will be music, dancing, audience participation and more. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com for more.



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

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

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Country-Western Dance. 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Lessons begin at 6:30 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. \$10/member; \$12nonmember; \$5/child under 18. Bring your own refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

SUNDAY/MARCH 16

Special Tours and Demonstrations. 1-4 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Discover items from poison bottles to dragon's blood and find out how they were used and if they worked. There will also be demonstrations. Recommended for children in 3rd grade and older. \$6/person. Reservations recommended. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-3852.

Civil War Sunday. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum in Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. See an original May 26, 1861, edition of "The New-York Tribune" detailing Colonel Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death, a TimeTravelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy, a diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria to warm Civil War hospital tents during the winter of 1861, a cocked and loaded Wickham musket discarded in a privy during the 1860s, and an exhibit on a Lee Street archaeological site during the Civil War. Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org or call 703-746-4399.

Music in the Gallery. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Cynthia Marie will perform. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Music Performance. 4 p.m. at Beverley Hills Community UM Church, 3512 Old Dominion Blvd. The folk duo Simple Gifts will perform. All ages. Free. Visit www.bhccumc.org for more.

Dance Performance. 4:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Jane Franklin Dance will perform "Mouse in House," adapted from the book "The Mouse of Amherst" by Elizabeth Spires. \$12/adult; \$10/child. Visit www.janefranklin.com for tickets.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Folk duo Mustard's Retreat will perform with Kipyn Martin. \$18/general; \$15/advance. Visit www.focusmusic.org or 703-380-3151.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18

Music Performance. Don Williams will perform at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$59.50/person. Visit www.birchmere.com for tickets.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

Music Performance. The Marshall Tucker Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Talk. 7:30 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Wanda S. Dowell will discuss the daily lives of women in Union-occupied Alexandria during the Civil War. Free. 703-746-4554.

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Reception. 6 p.m. at Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. "Meet the Legends" reception. \$45/by March 19; \$55/door. Register at meet-the-legends.eventbrite.com.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will play music for the String Quartet. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or

202-767-5658.

Anniversary Party. 6-9 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King Street, in Alexandria. The Arlington/Alexandria chapter of Holistic Moms network will celebrate five years with an anniversary party. Visit www.holisticmomsarlex.blogspot.com or www.holisticmoms.org for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 21

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Enjoy music by the Mount Vernon Swing Band. \$4. 703-765-4573 TTY: 711.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit mvctt.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Bus Tour on the Civil War Defenses of Washington. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., meet at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. The itinerary includes Forts Reno, DeRussy and Totten, and highlights Fort Stevens and Battleground National Cemetery. Pre-registration required, \$85/members of the Friends of Fort Ward; \$100/non-member. Call the Museum at 703-746-4848 to register.

Reptiles Alive! Noon at the Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. See snakes, crocodiles and more. Fun for the family. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com for tickets and more.

Theater Performance. 6:30 p.m. See "The Foreigner" at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Proceeds benefit Empowers, Inc., an after-school program for at-risk children and youth of the area. Appropriate for children age 11 and older. \$12/online. Increased cost at the door. Buy tickets at showtix4u.com or 703-855-4444.

Cheesetopia Event. 2-5 p.m. at Balducci's Food Lover's Market, 600 Franklin St. Taste gourmet cheeses, enjoy demos, meet renowned tastemakers, a raffle and more. Free. Visit www.balduccis.com.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Hear music by Brahms, Bolcom and others. \$20/general; \$15/senior; \$10/student and teacher. 703-765-4342.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit mvctt.org for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Theater Performance. See "The Foreigner" at 6:30 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Proceeds benefit Empowers, Inc., an after-school program for at-risk children and youth of the area. Appropriate for children age 11 and older. \$12/online. Increased cost at the door. Buy tickets at showtix4u.com or 703-855-4444.

Theater Performance. 3 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit mvctt.org for more.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meet some of the artists of "LOULOU DI Flower/To Flower." The exhibit explores the natural process of flowering and its entire metaphorical context through object making and installation. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Author Discussion. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Stuart Butler will discuss his book "Defending the Old Dominion," about Virginia and its militia during the War of 1812. Free for Alexandria

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You've heard about St. Patrick who drove the snakes out of Ireland, but did you know about St. Catrick, who saved the kittens out of shelters? Now's your chance to find out! Join Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation for a St. Catrick's Day celebration, and learn how you can help save lives.

- ✿ Foster Crew Members will answer questions about the most important thing you can do to help.
- ✿ Adoption Center Coordinators will provide information about volunteering at PetSmart centers.
- ✿ Our Transport Coordinator will explain how you can help with little more than some time and a car.



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www.lostdogandcatrescue.org



ENTERTAINMENT

Historical Society members.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit mvtct.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Rummage Sale. 9 a.m.-noon at Fort Hunt Preschool grounds, 1909 Windmill Lane. Browse infants', children's and maternity clothes, books, games and furniture. Household items such as kitchenware, linens and decorations will also be on sale. All proceeds benefit the preschool. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html for more.

Story Time. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Meet Carol Butler, the author of "Genois Wilson, Firefighter, She Dared to Be First," and Genois Wilson. Tour the historic firehouse and ring the bell. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. For children age 6 and older. \$4/child. Reservations required, www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse or 703-746-4994.

Signature English Tea. 2-4 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Enjoy music, a silent auction and more. \$40/adult; \$25/child age 12 and under. 703-497-5927.

Generation to Generation Gala. 6-11 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. Enjoy dinner, dancing, silent auction and more. SSA will pay tribute to some Alexandria residents for the impact they've had on the community. Buy tickets

at www.eventbrite.com/e/generation-to-generation-gala-tickets-10630589379 or visit www.seniorservicesalex.org/ for more.

Great Rum Punch Challenge. 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 138 N. Royal St. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local restaurants and distilleries and vote for your favorite, as Cutters of Barbados defends its title. The Alexandria Town Crier will announce the winner at the end of the evening. There will also be food, a silent auction and more. Beverages will be provided for designated drivers. \$50/person or \$100/person for VIP pre-event tasting. Proceeds benefit the museum's educational and preservation efforts. Reservations required. Visit <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> for tickets.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Gala Concert, Reception and Silent Auction. 4 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia will host a silent auction that opens at 3:30 p.m. \$25/advance; \$35/door. Visit www.sonovamusic.org for tickets.

Theater Performance. 3 p.m. at Bryant High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. See "Once Upon a Mattress." \$12. Visit mvtct.org for more.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic will perform the world premiere of a cantata by local composer Lawrence Ries. \$20/general; free for children 18 and under. Visit www.wmpamusic.org for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 1

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Calmus Ensemble Leipzig will perform. \$25-\$30. Visit www.classicalmovements.com or 703-683-6040.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2


Mardi Growl Gala. 5:30-8 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Mardi Growl is a New Orleans-style celebration featuring food from local restaurants and an open bar that will serve signature "Howlicanes." There will be an auction, costumes, music, caricature artists, stilt walkers and dancing. Proceeds benefit Alexandria's homeless animals. \$85/person or \$150/pair. Visit www.alexandriaanimals.org/mardigrowl for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 4

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m. see "REVOLUTION: Art and Technology" art exhibit from April 4-27 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists explore their relationship with technology in computer-created art, digitally manipulated art, art made from electronic parts, mixed-media pieces expressing feelings about technology, and more. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Braddock Day Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 138 N. Royal St. Enjoy dancing and more. 1750s attire requested. \$45. Tickets at <http://shop.alexandriava.gov>.




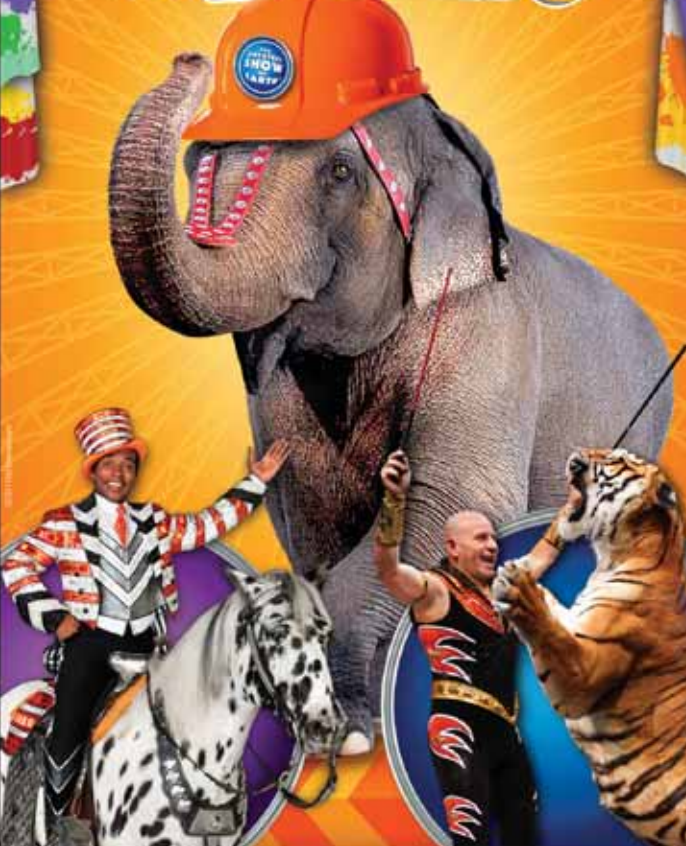
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Conversation with ... The Man Millions Have Heard



PHOTO BY MIKE SERLIN

Bill Livingood

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 20

Lenore, a sophomore; **Christine Macey**, a sophomore; **Erin McNamara**, a junior; **Laura Mertins**, a sophomore; **Yaw Owusu**, a junior; **Anna Peck**, a sophomore; **Andrew Reese**, a senior; **Thomas Skelly**, a senior; **Briana Smith**, a sophomore; **Eliana Sutton**, a freshman; **Kristine Sweezey**, a junior; **Orion Taylor**, a freshman; **Jeffrey Toth**, a senior; **Amanda Trenchard**, a freshman; **Hope Vandever**, a senior; **Richelle Villa**, a junior; **Cheryl Welch**, a senior; **Madeline White**, a sophomore; and **Cara Yaworske**, a senior.

David W. Heller of Alexandria was named to the president's list at the University of Mary Washington. Heller is a senior.

Wheaton College student **Theodora Beschel** was named to the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.

The following students were named to the dean's list at The University of Mary Washington: **Kyle M. Daehnke**, a sophomore; **Lauren A. Floyd**, a senior; **Campbell A. Parker**, a sophomore; **Jonathan C. Polson**, a junior; and **Eva M. Turcios Corea**, a freshman.

Emma Hasting was nominated for the American Voices Award by the Scholastic Writing Awards. Emma's short story "Westward Leading, Still Proceeding" was among the five works selected from nearly 800 submissions to represent the best teen writing from the DC metro region. The five nominees will go on to be read on the national level, where one piece will be selected to represent the region.

William Donahoe, **Natalie Felice**, **Isabelle Marie Marquez** and **Stephanie Restifo** have been named to the University of Delaware's dean's list for the 2013 fall semester.

Hailee Reeder, a freshman studio art major, has been named to the fall 2013 dean's list at McMurry University.

Shuaib Kamara, a student at Davis & Elkins College, was named to the fall 2013 dean's list. Kamara is the son of Rashida Kamara of Alexandria.

Timothy Bryan Long graduated

with a master of business administration degree through Averett University's Graduate and Professional Studies Program.

Christopher Fry, who studies electrical engineering, and **Jocelyn Griser**, who studies mathematics, were named to the dean's list at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Shannon Frydenlund was named to the president's list at Clemson University. Shannon, a graduate of West Potomac High School, is majoring in elementary education.

Leah Griser, **Sophia Naide** and **Phoenix Wilson** have been named to the honors list at Mary Baldwin College.

Anna Dixon, who majors in nursing, and **Carolyn G. Lucas**, who majors in theatre, were both named to the dean's list at DeSales University.

Victoria Polchinski received academic honors from the W.P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University by making the university's dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.

Matthew Heller, a fourth-year student in the ASL-English interpretation program in RIT's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, made the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.

Kathleen Wyskoczka was named to the deans' list/honor roll at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Wyskoczka is a junior pre-mild/moderate disabilities K-6 major in the College of Education and Human Sciences.

Michael Patrick Flynn was named to the dean's list at Texas Lutheran University.

Gregory Lambert, of Alexandria, graduated in December from Saint Joseph's College of Maine with a bachelor of science degree in business administration - management.

Emily Rose Jayne graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor of science degree in special education.

The following local residents graduated from Radford University: Earning bachelor of science degrees were **Stephen Andrew McFarland**, psy-

chology; **Tewodros Degefu Desta**, biology; **Kristin Ashley Kayes**, political science; **Charlotte Patricia Warrington**, communication; **Emily Sohyoung Besse**, media studies; and **Megan Marie Maple**, interdisciplinary studies. Earning a bachelor of art degree was **Andrew Spencer Williams**, art. Earning a bachelor of administration degree was **Andrea Michelle Laplace**, history. Earning bachelor of business administration degrees were **Stephanie Carolyn Cockayne**, finance; and **Emily Sohyoung Besse**, marketing.

Mount Vernon At Home in partnership with Collingwood Library & Museum had an overflow crowd to listen to Bill Livingood, recently retired Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives and veteran of the U.S. Secret Service, discuss his career.

During his 17 years at the House, hundreds of millions have heard him announce "Mr. Speaker, the President of the United States" to joint sessions of Congress. This very high profile activity was thrust upon him, not sought by someone with 30 years of low-profile behind-the-scenes law enforcement.

With a mixture of humorous and inspirational stories Livingood took the audience behind the scenes describing his experiences in such diverse Secret Service assignments as protecting Lyndon Johnson's daughter at the University of Texas (being asked to

shed his suit and tie to blend in more) and serving on the advance team for President Nixon's surprise trip to China (including teaching the hotel cooks how to fry eggs).

As Sergeant-at-Arms he described the challenge of protecting everyone at the U.S. Capitol while dealing with the anthrax attacks and the decision to get everyone away from the Capitol on 9-11. Shortly after 9-11 he visited the Shanksville, Pa. crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 which had been targeted for the Capitol. He discussed the heroism of those passengers who saved his and many lives by knowingly giving up their own, saying, "we should remember all the people who lost their lives that day and their families — those left behind."

"I enjoyed, not just every minute, but every second of my two careers," said Livingood. He concluded by reminding everyone that, "heroes are made, not born, and freedom is not free."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

June Malina received the second highest civilian medal from Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for her work as a Citizen Diplomat and Citizen Diplomat Coordinator for National Defense University. With them is Ambassador Wanda Nesbitt, vice president of the university.

Malina Earns Civilian Medal

June Malina, a long-time Belle View resident, received the second highest civilian medal from Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, for her work as a citizen diplomat and citizen diplomat coordinator for 10 years for National Defense University.

"I feel so honored to receive this award," Malina said. "It gives recognition to the work I do and makes the National Defense University international students' families feel welcome in this country. It is difficult for them in the beginning because they arrive in the summer, when there is no

school to help the children make friends. The wives, too, leave their support systems at home and frequently are at a loss — without knowing English — to know how to get around and how to manage important tasks like shopping, laundry, and enrolling their children in public schools. I assign a citizen diplomat sponsor to each international family to help in whatever way is needed. The friendship develops the entire year the international families are here. Many times it lasts for years. It is a lot of work, but the personal rewards are tremendous. This medal recognizes the value of what I do."

Mount Vernon Girls' Basketball Loses in State Semifinals

The Mount Vernon girls' basketball team graduated its top three players from the 2012-13 campaign and opened this season with a 28-point loss to Centreville.

How did the Majors respond?

With one of the best seasons in program history.

Mount Vernon lost to Princess Anne 65-57 on March 8 in the 5A state semifinals at Old Dominion University. With the victory, Princess Anne earned a trip to its sixth consecutive state championship game.

Mount Vernon made what is believed to be its first trip to the state tournament in more than a decade despite losing the talented trio of Kelly Loftus (Hofstra), Taylor Dunham (Navy Prep) and Tiffany Webster (Barton). The Majors ended the year with a 22-7 record, finishing Conference 13 and 5A North region runners-up. Head coach Courtney Coffey has said losses throughout the season helped the Majors focus. Unlike previous seasons, where Coffey felt Mount Vernon teams with superior talent peaked too soon after dominating opponents early in the season, the Majors were forced to overcome adversity and it helped them focus.

Senior forward Samantha Porter surpassed 1,000 career points, earned first-team all-region honors and played a major role in the team's success. Point guard DJ JeanPierre, a senior transfer, and senior guard Chanel Shannon were also significant contributors. Seniors Morgan Kuhns and Kelly Quigley were also saw their final action for the Majors.

Mount Vernon-West Potomac Boys' Soccer To Open Season

The defending state champion Mount Vernon boys' soccer team will host rival West Potomac in the season-opening Gunston Eagle game at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 18.

West Potomac Hires Football Coach

West Potomac High School recently hired Jeremiah Ross as its new head football coach.

Ross comes to West Potomac from Caroline County High School in Milford, where he has been head football coach and a health and physical education teacher for the past two years. From 2010-2012, Ross was on the coaching staff of Western Carolina University as an offensive line coach and then co-offensive coordinator. Prior to that, Ross coached in his native California. In his seven years at Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, Ross compiled an overall record of 40-20, made two California Interscholastic Federation championship game appearances and earned one state title in his five years as head coach. Ross also sent 20 players to NCAA Division I programs. He garnered CIF Coach of the Year nominations in 2005 and was named the Daily News Coach of the Year in 2007.

Ross is a graduate of Rancho Alamitos High School in Orange County — a school with diversity similar to WPHS. In high school, Ross earned Super Prep All-Far West and Blue Chip All-Western Region recognitions and was named first-team All-Orange County by the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Register. Ross then went on to be a four-year letter winner and three-year starter at right tackle on the offensive line at Fresno State University. Ross earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1999 and began his coaching career at West Hills College in Coalinga, Ca., as the run game coordinator and an offensive line coach in 2000. He returned to his alma mater, Fresno State, in 2001 to work as the offensive graduate assistant coach while completing his master's degree in education administration.

Ross and his wife, Leilani, have four daughters Keona, Kalea, Miah, and Nalani and look forward to relocating nearer to family in Northern Virginia.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

Senior point guard DJ JeanPierre and the Mount Vernon girls' basketball team reached the state semifinals this season.



PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE GAZETTE

More?

Will this year's polar vortex never end? The Northern Virginia area is expected to be hit by more snow flurries on Monday. This could make for a messy commute during the St. Patrick's Day festivities; 1-3 inches of snow are expected. Wind chills may be 5-10 mph.

COMMUNITY



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Thespian Inductees

West Potomac High School held its International Thespian Society inductions on Feb. 10 for Troupe #1899, which is now 58 members strong. Students were inducted as New Thespians, Honors Thespians, and National Honor Thespians. West Potomac High School Theatre Department's Beyond the Page is thriving under the direction of its theatre arts teacher, Philip L. Clark. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

New Thespians (from left) include Steffi Dineros, Delaney Clauseen, Jordan McCray, Gwendolyn Ghiloni, Marge Lingenfelter, Rebecca Lehner, David Jarzen, Lizzy Rader, Kendell Haywood and Emily Carbone.



Honor Thespians (from left) are Hannah Lau, Grace Denton, Alyssa Denton, Ethan Lyon, Cythina Mullins and Tegan Wilson.



National Honor Thespians (from left) are Sam Poole, Eddie Perez, Emma Norville, Ben Roberts, Peter Serle and Lesya Melnychenko.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

BURGLARY

- ❖ 8500 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 27. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.
- ❖ 7500 block of Republic Court, Feb. 26. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

LARCENIES

- ❖ 7900 block of Audubon Avenue, laptop computer from vehicle
- ❖ 2000 block of Belle View Boulevard, cell phone from business
- ❖ 7200 block of Fairchild Drive, cell phone from business
- ❖ 7200 block of Herbert Springs, tools from vehicle
- ❖ 800 block of Herbert Springs Road, tools from vehicle
- ❖ 7500 block of Republic Court, property from residence
- ❖ 6600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
- ❖ 7500 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business
- ❖ 3300 block of Lockheed Boulevard,

- tires and rims from vehicle
- ❖ 6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
- ❖ 6200 block of North Kings, wallet from business
- ❖ 6700 block of Richmond Highway, handbags from business
- ❖ 8200 block of Russell Road, cell phone from business
- ❖ 6600 block of Richmond Highway, beverages from business
- ❖ 7700 block of Richmond Highway, keys from business
- ❖ 7800 block of Richmond Highway, cell phones from business
- ❖ 6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
- ❖ 7700 block of Richmond Highway, purse from location
- ❖ 8200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
- ❖ 6300 block of Richmond Highway, electronic device from business
- ❖ 6700 block of Richmond Highway, registration stickers from vehicle
- ❖ 4300 block of Amblewood Road, wallet from vehicle

Sunset on Potomac River

The photo was taken Saturday night, March 8, at the steps of the George Washington Estate.



PHOTO BY SYLVAIN RICHARD

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

21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000422 Dental Services
RFP Closing Date and Time: April 8, 2014, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time Non-Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: March 20, 2014 at 8:30 a.m., prevailing local time at Dental Clinic, 4480 King Street, First Floor, Suite 124, Alexandria, VA 22302
For general inquiries contact Christina Wells, Supervisory Contract Specialist at 703.746.4291.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

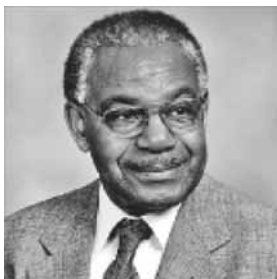
21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Samurai Hibachi & Sushi Bar, LLC trading as Samurai Hibachi & Sushi Bar, 4603 Duke St. Alexandria, VA 22304.
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Kuang Hui Li, owner
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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OBITUARY DR. GILBERT MAYS (AGE 94)



of Alexandria, VA on March 5, 2014. Loving husband of Maudy Walker Mays; beloved father of Blanche Delores Mays Maness of Alexandria, VA; devoted grandfather of T. Nicole Hutchinson of Alexandria, VA. He is also survived by one great-grandson Brandon O. Hutchinson of Alexandria, VA; brother-in-law Benjie Randolph Walker of Lawrenceville, VA; niece Jean Wynn of Warfield, VA; cousins Mable Barksdale, Clara Callis of Lawrenceville, VA Irvin Barksdale, Jr. of Dinwiddie, VA; and a host of other relatives and friends. A viewing was held 3/12 at Alfred Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St, Alexandria, VA 22314. Interment at Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA Arrangements by Lyles Funeral Service serving Northern VA. Eric Lyles, Director, Lic VA/DC/MD 1-800-388-1913

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PUBLIC NOTICE

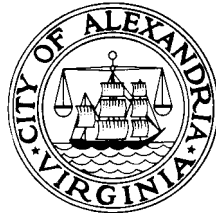
In accordance with the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) public participation requirements of 9 VAC 20-160-120, the general public is hereby notified that the property identified as Potomac Yards Landbay L Multi-Family, located at 625 E. Monroe Avenue, in Alexandria, Virginia is working towards obtaining a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) through VRP. This property is referenced by the City of Alexandria Map-Block-Lot Number 044.01-06-01. The VRP participant is the property owner, Woodfield Investments, LLC, who performed remediation in 2012-2013 as a result of historical petroleum, arsenic and lead contamination resulting from the properties former use as a portion of a railroad yard. The property has been successfully remediated through the removal of petroleum-impacted, arsenic-impacted and lead-impacted soils from the site for proper off-site disposal as part of redevelopment activities. Institutional land use controls established by the property owner have been selected as an additional remedial action to satisfactorily protect human health based on the future use of the site. The institutional land use controls specifies that "groundwater beneath the property shall not be used for any purpose other than environmental monitoring or testing" and "all areas of the property not covered by the building or hardscape will consist of the two feet of clean material." Anyone with an interest in this voluntary remediation who has comments or questions may call or write Woodfield Investments, LLC through their representative, Mr. David Bookbinder of ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, 14026 Thunderbolt PI, Suite 100, Chantilly, Virginia 20151 (703) 471-8400 or DBookbinder@ecslimited.com. Comments will be accepted for 30 days following the publication of this notice.

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Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Title 9 (Licensing and Regulations), Chapter 12 (Taxicabs and Other Vehicles for Hire), Division 2 (Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

The proposed ordinance follows the direction given staff by Council at the November 12, 2012 legislative session and: (a) amends Sections 9-12-30 and -31 to remove driver transfer provisions; and (b) amends Section 9-12-35 to make changes to how grandfathered certificates are treated upon the certificate holder's departure from the Alexandria taxicab industry.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Sheet No. 064.02 of the "Official Zoning Map, Alexandria, Virginia," adopted by Section 1-300 (Official Zoning Map and District Boundaries), of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, by rezoning the property at 500 North St. Asaph Street from RM/Townhouse to CRMU/X Commercial Residential, Mixed Use (Old Town North) with proffer in accordance with the said zoning map amendment heretofore approved by city council as Rezoning No. 2014-0001.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Rezoning No. 2014-0001 to rezone the property at 509 North St. Asaph Street from, RM/Townhouse to CRMU/X Commercial, Residential, Mixed Use (Old Town North) with proffer.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Old Town North chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2014-0001 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2014-0001 to amend the land use and zoning maps for the property at 509 North St. Asaph from RM/Townhouse to CRMU/X Commercial Residential, Mixed Use (Old Town North) approved by the City Council on February 22, 2014.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain the Master Plan of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, by adopting and incorporating therein the amendment heretofore approved by city council to the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan Chapter of such master plan as Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0006 and no other amendments, and to repeal all provisions of the said master plan as may be inconsistent with such amendment.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Master Plan Amendment No. 2013-0006 to amend Figure 4-10 on page 4-14 of the Eisenhower East Small Area Plan to allow office space to be converted to hotel or residential approved by the City Council on February 22, 2014.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 11-700 (Transportation Management Special Use Permits) of Article XI (Development Approvals and Procedures) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment No. 2013-0009.

The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2013-0009 to adopted revised transportation management plan special use permit regulations.

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Article XIII (Environmental Management) of the City of Alexandria Zoning Ordinance, in accordance with the Text amendment heretofore approved by city council as Text Amendment NO. 2013-0014. The proposed ordinance accomplishes the final adoption of Text Amendment No. 2013-0014 to adopted revised stormwater management regulations.

PUBLIC HEARING and Review of Decision to Remove Parking on King Street from West Cedar Street to Highland Place in order to install bicycle lanes and associated pedestrian and bicycle improvements.
THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL. JACKIE M. HENDERSON, MMC, CITY CLERK

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OPINION

Top 20 Reasons

FROM PAGE 14

automate the processing of traffic tickets. This will free up officers to catch bad guys instead of doing data entry. Also, Fairfax County saved one Circuit Court and General District Court Judgeship. A Juvenile Court Judgeship was eliminated pending a judge's retirement, but language was adopted to reconsider the study in light of the number of cases involving interpreters. We will revisit this in future sessions.

(15) VA DREAM Act Denied. The legislature, unfortunately, defeated a bill to allow in-state college tuition for Virginia immigrant children granted deferred action by the federal government.

(16) Car Title Lenders Dominate. The legislature killed a bill to restrict car title lending locations.

(17) Minimum Wage Hike Killed. The legislature rejected efforts to raise the minimum wage.

Three critically important issues for the 44th District are hung up in the pending budget negotiations:

(18) Medicaid Expansion. The expansion of Virginia's healthcare program for low-income and disabled families would cover 400,000 people, and result in about \$24.9 million of new healthcare spending and 444 jobs right here in the 44th District.

(19) \$4 Million for U.S. 1 Study. Sen. Toddy Puller and I secured \$4 million to continue the preliminary engineering, environmental studies and federal grant requests for U.S. 1 transit in the Senate Budget.

(20) Secondary Education Funding. At least \$47.1 million of new money for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Expanding Medicaid could potentially add another \$20 million per biennium for FCPS.

It is an honor to serve as your state delegate. Please email me at scottsuovell@gmail.com if you have feedback.

In Richmond

FROM PAGE 10

Virginians access quality, affordable health care.

I will be giving several post-session legislative reports over the coming weeks. Please mark your calendars for:

❖ Saturday, March 22 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Arlington Career Center (816 South Walter Reed Drive). Sponsored by the Arlington branches of the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women.

❖ Monday, April 7 from 8-9 p.m. at Minnie Howard School (3801 West Braddock Road, Alexandria.) Legislative update will follow an abbreviated Alexandria Democratic Committee meeting starting at 7:30.

❖ Wednesday, April 9 from 7-9 p.m. at the Lyceum (201 South Washington Street, Alexandria.) Sponsored by the Old Town Civic Association.

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

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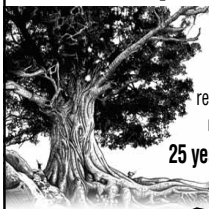
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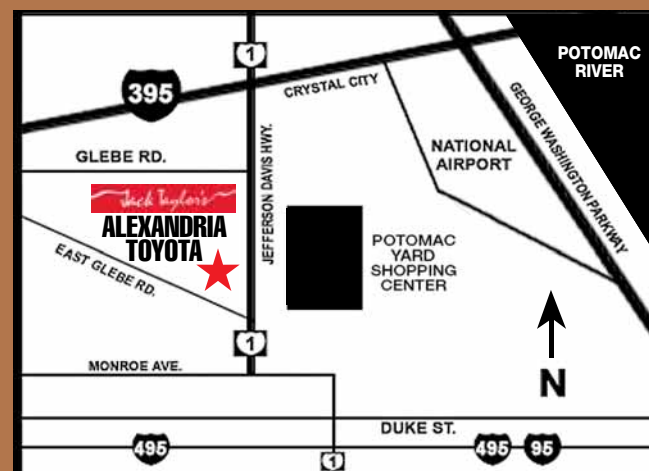


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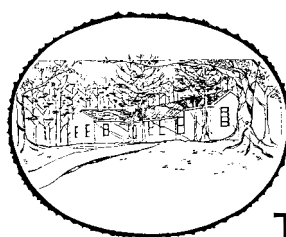


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TAX HELP

AARP Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free tax preparation and tax counseling volunteer program starts its free Tax Preparation Services Feb. 1. The program, sponsored by the IRS, is staffed with Certified IRS Tax Counselors and use IRS computers and software to prepare and eFile tax returns for low to middle income families and elderly citizens. Please bring Government-issued picture IDs, and social security cards for all persons that will be included in your tax return. Also bring a printed copy of last year's tax return, if you itemized. Located at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Mondays-Saturdays from 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. and Mondays-Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide for additional information.

THURSDAY/MARCH 13

Talk. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Ed Raduazo will talk about different types of mushrooms and how to grow them at home. Free. 703-765-4573.

Tax Relief Program. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Seniors 65 and older and citizens who are permanently and totally disabled may be able to reduce their Fairfax County real estate and personal property taxes. Applicants must meet certain income and asset eligibility requirements. Free, open to the public. Registration required, call 703-765-4573.

Information Program. 11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Fairfax County Police crime prevention officer Greg Kotteman will present a program on senior scams and frauds. Free. 703-324-4600.

FRIDAY/MARCH 14

Speaker Series. 8:30 a.m. at SpringHill Suites, 6065 Richmond Highway. "Creating Business Opportunities in Southeast Fairfax" will discuss how to start a business all the way to managing a successful franchise. Free. E-mail info@sfdc.org to RSVP. Visit www.sfdc.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Reception. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Meet some of the artists displaying their work at the center. Free. 703-765-4573.

MONDAY/MARCH 17

MVHS Improvement Plan Meeting. 2:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, Media Center, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road. This meeting is for all stakeholders (students, parents, community members, faculty and staff) and is part of a continuous process for improvement to meet district and cluster goals. Contact Michelle Lyttle at MLLyttle@fcps.edu or 703-619-3270 with any questions.

Sober Ride. 4 p.m. Monday-4 a.m. Tuesday Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free cab rides (up to a \$30 value) to would-be drunk drivers in the metro-Washington, D.C. area, including Fairfax, Arlington and Montgomery counties and Alexandria. Call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294). AT&T wireless customers can dial # WRAP for the same service. Visit www.soberride.com for more.



Spring 2014 HomeLifeStyle

Mount Vernon Gazette

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3. no longer owned or known



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Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

Built-ins, cleverly articulated interior increase usable space without need to add-on.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes life's second act requires a bold set change. How else are others to know that the featured players have moved on, embracing new beginnings?

Reinvention is after all the quintessential triumph of creativity, and can be a very personal process when the thing reinvented is your home itself.

"Of course, large-scale life changes don't necessarily demand a whole house makeover," recently retired teacher Cindy Borer said. But in the past year, her only son moved out to start a new career and her husband is now traveling less, so the timing was right for discoveries.

BUT TO START AT THE TOP: last spring the Borer family had celebrated 20 years residency in their two-story, four-bedroom Colonial-style house in Burke, and were taking stock of what they wanted from the years ahead.

At just over 800 square feet, the home's primary living area had been serviceable enough; even so, the formal dining room and adjacent den on opposite sides of the front facing foyer were hardly ever used and the rear family room was dark and cramped.



By borrowing a mere nine square feet from the dining room, the designers found space for a small mudroom with bench immediately to the right of a side kitchen door.

Evaluating options, Borer considered enlarging a few rear rooms. She also wondered if some of the home's interior walls could be modified in way that would allow for more natural light. What to do?

It was at this juncture that Craig Durosko, founder of Sun Design Remodeling, was called-in to discuss possible space improvement scenarios.

Durosko pointed out that the couple

didn't so much lack square footage as a sensible space plan tailored to how they actually use their home. The existing "center-

SEE EMPTY-NESTERS, PAGE 4

Kitchen Confidential

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When Allie Mann of Arlington, a designer and senior interior specialist at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. was tasked with giving the first

From light-filled to dramatic, local designers create dream kitchens.

floor of a McLean, Va., home a face lift, she had to think free-flowing and airy.

"[The] client wanted to focus on making the kitchen feel open and connected to rest of home," said Mann. "[They] needed to have plenty of space to cook and entertain plus lots of storage."

Mann said the homeowner was making a cross-country move and settling in Virginia, so adhering to a strict timeline and budget were critical.

However, near the end of the project, the homeowner wanted to make a change.

"At nearly 85 percent job completion, client decided they wanted to completely remove the wall between the kitchen and family room. In the original design, we partially removed the wall," said Mann. "This meant a shift and redirection of scope, additional



PHOTO COURTESY NICELY DONE KITCHENS

A vertical, glass subway tile backsplash adds a dramatic flair to this kitchen by Nicely Done Kitchens.

engineering [because] the remaining portion of the wall housed a three-story fireplace, relocation of cabinets had already been installed and modifications to counter tops. And still deliver a project close to on

time."

The finished kitchen is a light-filled space with cabinets by Crystal Cabinetry, honed Vermont Marble countertops and appliances

SEE KITCHEN, PAGE 4

Mount Vernon Gazette

HomeLifeStyle

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Empty-Nesters Re-invent the Family Home

FROM PAGE 3

hall” configuration defined rooms were consistent with tradition, yet were functionally underutilized most of the time. This accounted for daily traffic patterns that didn’t work as well as they might, and a nagging sense that the entire first floor was space-restricted.

On a second subject: the mid-house floor-to-ceiling bearing wall dividing the front and rear sections of the house could be completely deleted by installing concealed vertical supports at strategic intervals, Durokso said. Such a move would dramatically increase natural light, creating the floor space needed for an alternative layout more appropriate for both daily use and entertainment.

“On the first visit Craig pretty much solved our space plan problem,” Borer said. “From this point on, I was mainly to think about the interior design details.”

So Borer’s meeting with Jon Benson, the makeover’s lead designer, proved a revelation from the start.

A veteran home remodeling specialist as well as a nationally recognized furniture designer, Benson’s input shaped a floor plan focused on personal requirements in which custom built-ins eliminate unneeded walls while sharply improving both room function and interior design integrity.

To create a more functional relationship between the kitchen and the dining room, for instance, the designer replaced an interior pantry with a 27.5-square-foot food preparation surface and dining counter that serves both rooms equally.

By borrowing a mere nine square feet from the dining room, Benson also found space for a small mudroom with bench immediately to the right of the side entrance to the kitchen.

Re-situating the front hall closet to the right of the front door not only widened the front foyer but also created dramatic front-to-back sight lines that make the entire house seem much larger.

Measured in square feet, the changes are small. Yet such revisions liberate the first level circulation plan, re-organizing the home’s primary living area into rooms that are both interactive and articulated.

To visually differentiate the front-facing library from the family room, the designer converted existing overhead beams into an elegant tray ceiling supported by Craftsman-style piers.

A floor-to-ceiling bookcase—also a Benson original—provides an elegant yet useful wall for the new reading room. The new family room fireplace hearth was custom-designed to accommodate the plasma TV that now hangs above it.

Additional interior design decisions emerged from Borer’s collaboration with



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

To differentiate the front-facing library from the family room visually, Sun Design converted existing overhead beams into an elegant tray ceiling supported by Craftsman-style piers.



The new transitional-style interior employs decorative elements to create distinctive use-zones in an open floor plan.

Sun Design’s Jessica Page.

“Jessica helped me discover the design style I’d been looking for,” Borer said. “She opened up a lot of resources. Ideas that I liked were added to a project scrapbook which we both referenced regularly to keep the decision process on track.”

As space plan modifications proceeded, Borer’s research revealed a strong personal attraction to transitional-style interior design, a contemporary concept that seeks to reconcile traditional architecture with the spatial freedom of an open floor plan.

On this score, Benson’s original floorplan sketch anticipated the use of loveseats as



Transitional interior design style seeks to reconcile traditional architecture with the spatial freedom of an open floor plan.

space dividers between the family room and the den. Meanwhile, Borer’s preference for soft white and grey duotones inspired an interior paint scheme that combines sharp white and khaki.

In the kitchen, Giallo Sioriato granite surfaces are set off by a vividly original glass tile and stone backsplash which lends an invigorating streak of color to the broader visual panorama.

“Its very comfortable balance of traditional and open really works well for us,” Borer said. “I found the whole process really enlightening.”

Kitchen Confidential

FROM PAGE 3

by Sub-Zero, Wolf, KitchenAid and Miele.

NICELY DONE KITCHENS in Springfield, Va., created a kitchen with drama for a Centreville, Va., family. “White semi-custom cabinetry and a contrasting dark island creates a dramatic look,” said Stephanie Brick, designer. Brick cited the focus on the vertical, subway tile back splash.

The rest of the back splash in the kitchen is horizontal, which is the standard for subway tile, said Brick.

The kitchen also includes ample, easily accessible storage space.

“The paneled refrigerator helps conceal the appliances and helps them to blend in with the cabinetry to give the aesthetic more continuity,” said Brick. The kitchen includes easily accessible storage space and ogeedged granite counter tops.

OPENING UP and adding light were priorities when Guy Hopkins Semmes, partner and founder of Potomac-based design-build firm Hopkins and Porter and Lea Allen, one of the firm’s senior architects, remodeled the kitchen of a Bethesda, Md., home.

“The kitchen was small, but we were able to add a lot more space, by making few minor changes,” said Semmes. “Before there was an enclosed porch next to the kitchen. We opened the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent enclosed porch.”

Semmes and Allen made another major elimination: appliances. “We got rid of the



COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING INC

Arlington, Va., designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. created a free-flowing and elegant feel in this McLean, Va. kitchen.

refrigerator and moved it downstairs,” said Semmes. “All of the other appliances are located under the counter and open up like drawers.”

Semmes also found a creative way to make the space more light-filled. “We took out a stairway wall to the second floor and replaced it with a triangular opening so light from stairwell came down into the kitchen.”

The kitchen now has maple cabinetry and white Silestone countertops. “It was done on a budget. It’s amazing what you can do when you work with what you’ve got.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPKINS AND PORTER

Guy Semmes and Lea Allen of Potomac-based design-build firm Hopkins and Porter removed walls to create space and add light to the kitchen of this Bethesda, Md. home.

Garden Club of Virginia Celebrates 81st Tour



This Alexandria garden will appear on the 81st Historic Garden Week tour.

House and garden tours will take place across Virginia during the 81st Historic Garden Week. Garden week runs from Saturday, April 26-Saturday, May 3.

Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of Virginia’s historic gardens. Each spring visitors are welcomed to more than 250 of Virginia’s most beautiful gardens, homes and historic landmarks during “America’s Largest Open House.” This eight-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see gardens at the peak of Virginia’s springtime color, as well as beautiful houses sparkling with over 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members.

Statewide tour passes are available for \$175. The Alexandria tour takes place Saturday, April 26, tickets are \$35. The Vienna tour takes place Tuesday, April 29 and tickets are \$25. There is a 240-page guidebook with detailed descriptions of properties on each tour. The \$10 charge covers the shipping and handling cost of the book. Free copies of the guide are available at Virginia businesses, visitor centers, and some AAAs. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center says cold season annuals like these yellow pansies can add bright color to a garden now.



PHOTO COPYRIGHT CAROLINE WILLIAMS

Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

Local experts tell you what you should do now, in spite of the cold weather.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

on the environment. It reduces bad bug populations and is safe over all.”

It doesn’t feel like spring. Last week’s snow made it seem like warm weather might never arrive, so planting a garden might be the last thing on your mind. However, local gardening experts say this is the ideal time to start preparing your landscape to yield colorful spring foliage.

Bill Mann, of Behnke Nurseries in Potomac, Md., said spring garden preparation plans differ from year to year. “It depends on the landscape beds you have and whether or not you’re planning to put in a vegetable garden,” he said.

“This is the time to inspect shrubs for damage that might have been broken during the snow load,” said David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center, which has locations in Fair Oaks, Merrifield and Gainesville, Va., Don’t go overboard, however: “You don’t want to prune plants before they bloom. A good rule of thumb is to prune a flowering plant right after it blooms.”

Instead, spend some time tidying up. “Right now is the time to fertilize your shrubs, remove old mulch, put down new mulch and just clean up,” said Watkins. “Everybody is sick of winter, especially this winter. This is the time to clean up old leaves. Because the winter has been so cold, there are going to be some plants that won’t have made it.”

“In March, a lot has to do with inspecting the yard for winter damage,” said Mann. “This is a great time of the year to look for insect damage and deer damage.”

Mann expects extensive deer damage this year. “Deer didn’t have much to eat except for plants like azaleas and rhododendrons.”

Insect damage is less obvious and more difficult to identify. “This is the time to do damage-control by using safe or organic-based products like neem oil,” said Mann. “When sprayed on plants, it smothers insect eggs or some insects in the larva stage. It also kills stinkbugs. If you can see them, you can control them. You can use a higher concentration this time of year and it is a lot safer and easier

WHILE EAGER GARDENERS may be excited to start planting spring flowers in their newly cleaned plots, Watkins offers a caveat: “It is a little early for most annual flowers in pots on patios, but you can plant annuals like pansies, which are cold season annuals,” he said. “They don’t like heat, so in June they start to wither. Then you can put other flowers in like petunias and geraniums.”

Watkins recommends planting hearty, ornamental shrubs in patio flowerpots and surrounding them with flowering plants to ensure year-found foliage. “A nice thing to do in pots is plant a woody ornamental,” he said. “It is nice to have plants in the pots that stay year round. I put a Japanese maple in a pot on my deck. In another pot I put ilex verticillata [winterberry] and I had red berries all winter long. In the spring, I’ll put petunias in the soil around it, and around the edge I’ll plant a flowering plant that will trail down over the pot from April to October. Then the rest of the year I’ll get red berries.”

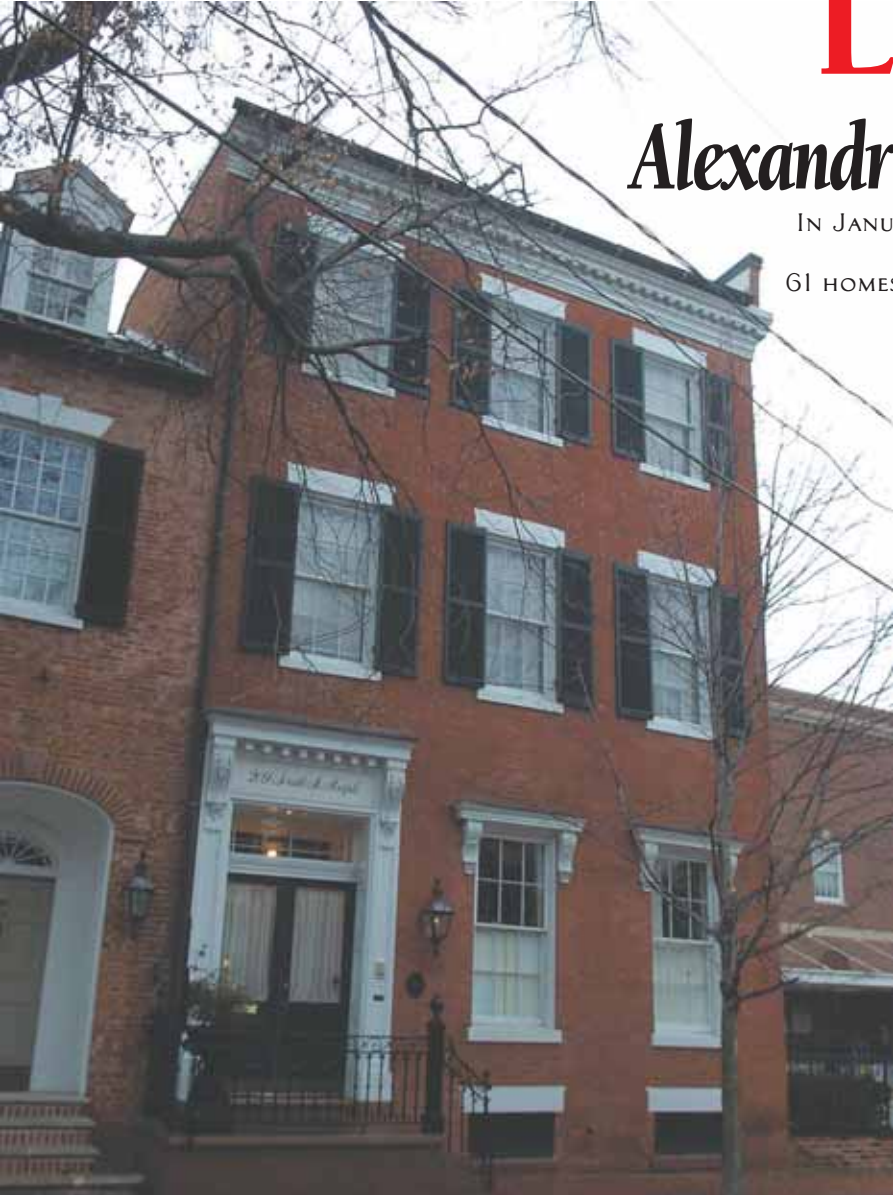
Sowing grass seeds is also an ideal project to begin now. “The seeds won’t germinate until it gets to be 52 degrees,” Watkins continued. “So even if we get another snow storm, it helps work the seeds into the soil.”

Randee Wilson of Nature By Design in Alexandria encourages the use of indigenous plants. “Look for sources for native plants — they help sustain our local wildlife. If we didn’t have local plants, butterflies would be gone.”

Native plants also require less maintenance. “Some native plants are cardinal flower, which is bright red; bee balm, also bright red; blue cardinal; iron weed, which has purple flowers, and native wisteria vine,” said Wilson.

If a new patio is in your plans this spring, Watkins says to get started now. “We’ve been putting down putting patios all year long,” he said. “A good garden center is going to get backed up when the weather is warmer. The sooner you start getting your job in the line, the better.”

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE



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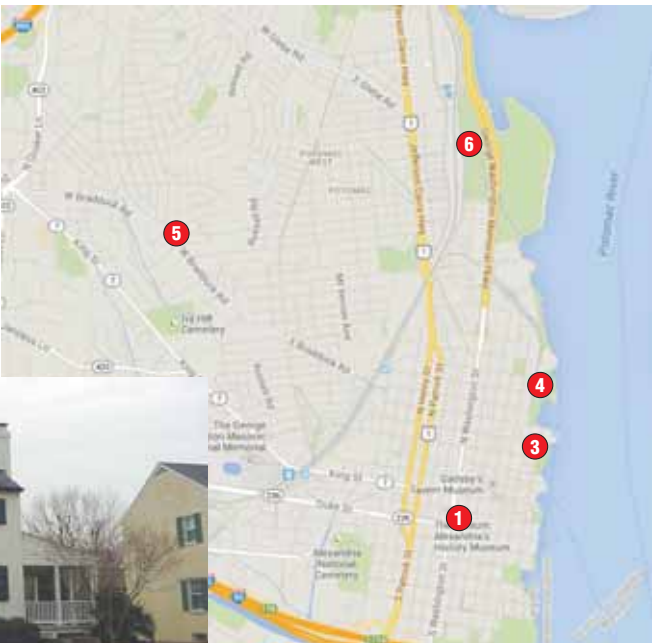
Alexandria & Mount Vernon Top Sales in January 2014

IN JANUARY 2014, 91 ALEXANDRIA HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,900,000-\$119,810 AND 61 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,785,000-\$95,000 IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA.



2 6236 Radcliff Road, Mount Vernon — \$1,785,000

1 209 Saint Asaph Street South, Alexandria — \$2,900,000



© Google Map data



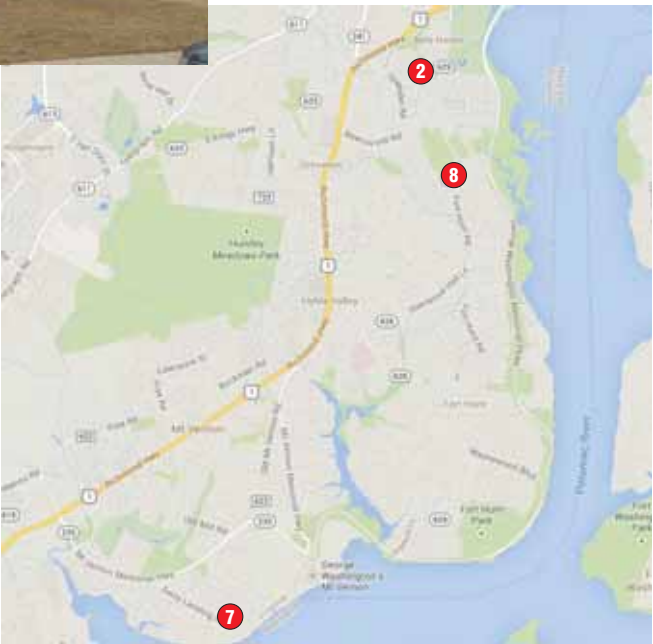
3 422 Union Street North, Alexandria — \$1,185,000



4 119 Montgomery Place, Alexandria — \$1,050,000



5 514 Fontaine Street, Alexandria — \$1,000,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	..	Sold Price	....	Type	.....	Lot AC	..	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold
1 209 SAINT ASAPH ST S	4	..	3	..	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$2,900,000	....	Semi-Detached	0.09	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	01/06/14
2 6236 RADCLIFF RD	4	..	5	..	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,785,000	....	Detached	0.30	.....	22307	.....	BELLE HAVEN	.....	01/30/14
3 422 UNION ST N	3	..	3	..	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,185,000	....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22314	.....	OLD TOWN	.....	01/07/14
4 119 MONTGOMERY PL	3	..	4	..	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,050,000	....	Townhouse	0.04	.....	22314	.....	RIVERGATE	.....	01/17/14
5 514 FONTAINE ST	5	..	3	..	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,000,000	....	Detached	0.17	.....	22302	.....	JEFFERSON PARK	.....	01/31/14
6 1851 POTOMAC GREENS DR .	4	..	3	..	2	.....	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$975,000	....	Townhouse	0.03	.....	22314	.....	POTOMAC GREENS	.....	01/31/14
7 9406 OLD MOUNT VERNON RD	7	..	4	..	1	.....	ALEXANDRIA	....	\$855,000	....	Detached	0.52	.....	22309	.....	MT VERNON GROVE	.....	01/23/14
8 6921 FORT HUNT RD	4	..	2	..	3	ALEXANDRIA	\$850,000	Detached	1.40	22307	MARLAN FOREST	01/10/14

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Extreme Weather and Your Home

BY JOHN BYRD

While common sense suggests that home improvements should be put off to warmer weather, a sustained period of colder temperatures often reveals systemic problems that will need correction sooner or later.

As temperatures dropped precipitously several weeks ago, all Reston homeowner Craig Mattice knew was that his original mansard roof was plagued with ice dams and his 10-year-old, 600-square-foot addition was so cold the pipes were freezing.

"After living in the house for over 25 years the chill was a surprise," Mattice said. "It wasn't just that the winter has been colder than usual ... it was beginning to look like a larger problem, particularly in the new wing, which was five degrees colder than other rooms."

To determine the cause of ice-clogged gutters, Mattice turned to remodeler David Foster who had completed a number of home improvements for his son.

"The damming was literally the tip of the iceberg," said Foster, principal of Foster Remodeling Solutions. "When I inspected the attic it was clear that the envelope was not adequately sealed, insulated or ventilated, which is why the upstairs had been too hot last summer."

Add to this the fact that prior to 1980 local building code required less thermally-resistant insulation (R-19) than the current R-38 standard. "It's not unusual to find that the existing insulation just isn't the best application for some of our coldest days," Foster said. "Different parts of a house can call for different insulation strategies."

The larger technical solution was to blow-in R-25 fiberglass, which raised the attic's thermal resistance to R-44.

The more recently completed family wing was another matter. Turns out the Mattice's artfully-designed addition was built over an unheated crawl space, and the HVAC duct wasn't even connected in the kitchen.

"An appropriate insulation strategy starts with a kind of forensics," Foster said. "Where is a wall, ceiling or roof exposed to outside conditions? Is it difficult to regulate temperatures in different parts of the house? These are some basic questions we start with."

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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2014 Assessments by Area

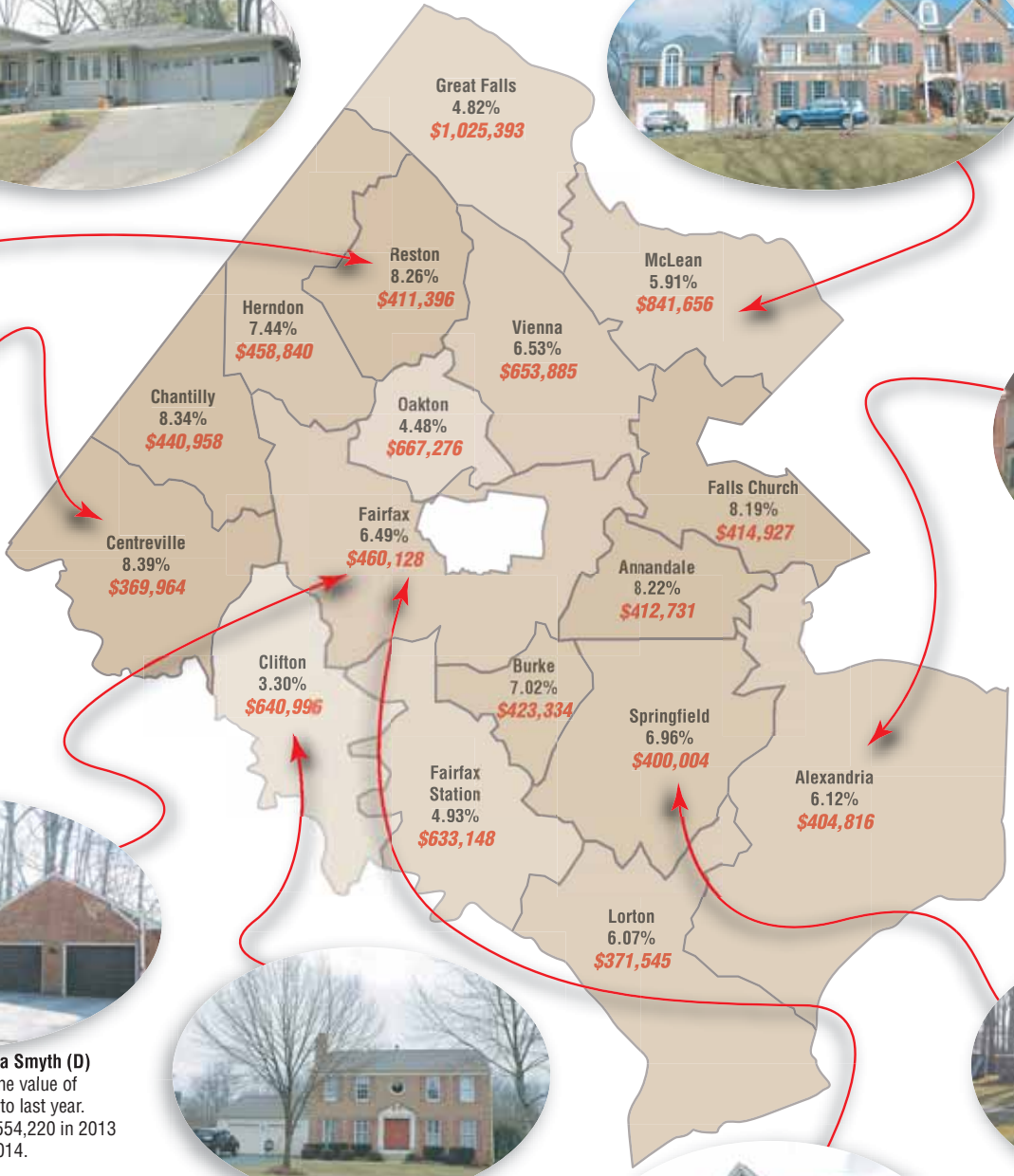
Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**
saw her assessment go up 10.80%
from \$575,910 in 2013 to \$638,100 in 2014.



Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)**
saw a 6.16% drop in his property value when compared to 2013.
The county valued Foust's house at
\$3,109,050 last year and \$2,917,660 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)**
saw a 11.96% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Frey's home was assessed at \$225,820 in 2013
and \$252,830 in 2014.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**
saw no change in his home assessment.
This year, his home was worth \$710,220,
same as last year.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**
saw a 7.22% increase in the value of
her house when compared to last year.
Smyth's home was valued at \$554,220 in 2013
and \$594,220 in 2014.



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)**
saw a 3.56% gain in his property value
when compared to 2013.
Last year, his home was worth \$553,770 and
this year it is valued at \$573,460.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**
saw a 13.37% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Cook's home was assessed at
\$586,220 in 2013 and \$634,760 in 2014.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**
saw her home value go down 2.62%
from \$617,750 in 2013 to \$601,550 in 2014.

0% 10%
2014 County Average (Percent Change)
Single Family Detached **\$598,711 (5.82%)**
Townhouse **\$370,849 (8.39%)**
Condos **\$247,943 (10.51%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2013 MEAN	2014 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	381,426	404,816	6.12
Annandale	381,386	412,731	8.22
Burke	395,580	423,334	7.02
Centreville	341,337	369,964	8.39
Chantilly	407,026	440,958	8.34
Clifton	620,491	640,996	3.30
Fairfax	432,104	460,128	6.49
Fairfax Station	603,429	633,148	4.93
Falls Church	383,502	414,927	8.19
Great Falls	978,233	1,025,393	4.82
Herndon	427,060	458,840	7.44
Lorton	350,288	371,545	6.07
McLean	794,688	841,656	5.91
Oakton	638,692	667,276	4.48
Reston	379,741	411,096	8.26
Springfield	373,964	400,004	6.96
Vienna	613,796	653,885	6.53

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a
single family home in Fairfax County
for 2014 is \$598,711, up 5.82%

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY