



R.O.C.S. Spring Camp is held at the Mount Vernon Rec Center.

Have a Little Spring Break Fun

Mount Vernon Rec Center offers Spring Break camps, ice skating and ice hockey.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

With Spring Break for public and private schools coming up on April 14 and April 21, the Mount Vernon Rec Center at 2017 Belle View Blvd. in Alexandria offers spring break camps, spring classes in ice skating and ice hockey and many opportunities to have fun. For details, call 703-768-3224 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/.

ICE SKATING CLASSES

The Mount Vernon Ice Rink is the only publicly-owned indoor ice arena in Fairfax County that's opened year-round. "We offer a wide variety of different types of classes from the beginning skater to the more advanced," said skating instructor Emme Porter. "We have classes for hockey skaters and figure skaters."

"For little kids, it's an introduction to ice skating. They are going to learn the basics, how to fall down and get up and how to march," said Porter. "For the advanced skaters, we have eight different levels, 1-8, and the skills progressively build upon each set of classes."

She adds: "It's a great way to stay healthy and fit without actually having to do a formal workout."

They offer classes for tots, such as Snowplow Sam 1, 2, 3, (3-6 years), Mom or Dad and Me (3-5 years) and Homeschool Snowplow Sam 1, 2 (3-6 years). Classes for children include Basic 1, 2, 3, 4 for ages 6-13 years old. Classes for adults include Adult 1, 2, 3 for ages 14-adults. There's also adult introductory skating and basic eight. Students learn everything from falling to getting up properly to one-footed spins, three-turns, swizzles and waltz jumps.

For example, six, 30-minute adult introductory ice skating classes are \$111 in-county (\$126 out-county).

ICE HOCKEY

There are five different types of hockey classes — from basic to hockey 1, 2, 3, and introductory skating for hockey. For example, six, 30-minute classes of Hockey 3 cost \$111 (in-county) or \$126 (out-county). Hockey 3, for example, focuses on developing proper backward striding techniques, backward crossovers on a circle and down the ice and backward stops all with hockey stick in the proper position.

In the class called Hockey Power Skating, "It's kind of a cardio blast for hockey players," said ice skating director Carl Kirtley. "We work on power turns, frontward and backward skating. It really does duplicate a fast hockey game setting itself."

The 45-minute drop-in sessions focus on explosive acceleration, backward speed and quickness. The instructors run you through drills targeting specific hockey maneuvers. Classes meet on Fridays, beginning March 28, at 7 p.m. The cost is \$11 (in-county) and \$13 (out-county). No pre-registration required. For more information con

SEE CAMPS, PAGE 23

'Pardon our Dust'

Meeting provides updates on Route 1 widening.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Widening of Route 1 from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Highway will soon be underway.

According to project officials at a packed public meeting on March 19, construction should begin in the middle of April.

The goal of the widening is to accommodate traffic and improve infrastructure for access to the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital.

Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay said at the meeting that the widening will make getting around in the Mount Vernon and

Lee districts much easier.

"Route 1 has been left behind way too long when it comes to public improvements on the roadway. This is a major step forward," McKay said.

Mulligan Road, which will connect Richmond Highway and Telegraph road and relieve congestion in the area, is expected to be completed before most of the Route 1 road improvements begin, McKay said. He also noted that the completion of that project has taken too long.

"The reason that becomes really important is because that's your way around a lot of the construc

SEE WIDENING, PAGE 9

Area Residents Depend On Medicaid Coverage

Surovell, Puller host Medicaid expansion town hall.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Before heading to Richmond to debate what Sen. Toddy Puller describes as the "biggest battle" that will occur during this session of the General Assembly, Puller joined Del. Scott Surovell and Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Hazel to discuss Medicaid expansion and its possible impact on the Mount Vernon and Lee communities.

At the town hall on March 22, Surovell shared several facts about the 44th district, in which 16 percent of the population is covered by Medicaid.

Of the number of people on Medicaid, 9,371 are children. That means that one in three children in the 44th District receives Medicaid, and most of those children live along the Route 1 corridor, Surovell said.

"For every one of those kids that gets their health care from Medicaid, there's a parent that doesn't have health insurance," Surovell said.

According to Hazel, Medicaid expansion will reduce the stress families have when it comes to health care.

"We do take care of a lot of kids,

SEE MEDICAID, PAGE 6

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www.BarbaraCousens.com



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at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center. To support Senior Services or for more information on tickets please go to: seniorservicesalex.org



Old Town \$719,500

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Previously interpreted as a formal dining room, the chief function of the “New Room” is to serve as a picture gallery filled with paintings and prints that visibly celebrate both America’s history and its future.



Gen. George Washington (Dean Malissa) arrives on horseback to view the opening of the “New Room” last Friday morning.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

‘New Room’ Unveiled at Mount Vernon Estate

Over the past 15 months, restoration and reinterpretation of the Mount Vernon Mansion’s “New Room” has been underway. After the most comprehensive room research and renovation effort in the 161-year history of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the “New Room” was unveiled on Friday morning, March 21.

The room had previously been interpreted as a formal dining room but new research shows that it was only used occasionally for dining.

Curtains were removed from the Palladian window on the north wall to show-

case the grand architectural feature. The walls were hung with artwork, gallery style, celebrating America’s history and its future. A total of 20 of the 21 works of art listed in the estate inventory are represented by a combination of Washington-owned originals and careful facsimiles.

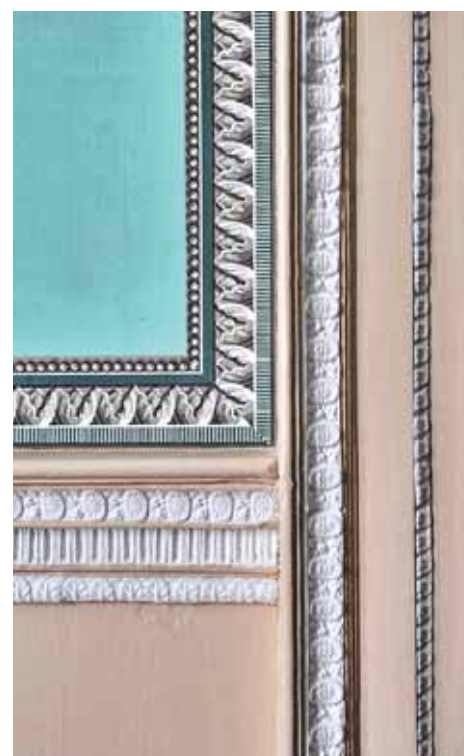
From now through Memorial Day 2014, visitors to the mansion will be able to view 12 of the original Washington-owned artwork displayed in the room. George Washington’s Mount Vernon is open daily: April – August, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; March, September, October, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; November – February, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Detail from the Vaughan mantel in the “New Room.”

Fragments of a wallpaper border found in the new room in 1902 and 1950 were researched in 2012 by Bernard Jacque.

Jacque discovered the pattern in an 18th century pattern book in the Reveillon archives at the Musee des Arts Decortif in Paris.



Gen. George Washington (Dean Malissa) passes by the grand Palladian window in the “New Room” at the mansion.



Senior Vice President for Historic Preservation & Collections Carol Cadou points out how the arrangement of furnishings and artwork complements the symmetry of the “New Room.”



Gen. George Washington (Dean Malissa) describes the artwork that adorns the walls.

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Springfield \$458,000
9439 Park Hunt Court. Beautiful, large, fully renovated all brick 3 bedroom, 4 bathroom town house in close-in, convenient Orange Hunt Square – Just off the Fairfax County Parkway. New Kitchen, baths, paint, tiles and refinished hardwood floors. Near South Run Park, shopping center and minutes to Springfield Metro.
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Old Town \$765,000
926 South Saint Asaph Street. Sunny stone cottage with sensational Garden Room addition. 2 BRS, 2 Baths, fireplace, wood floors, 3 finished levels. Parking easement.
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Alexandria \$279,000
6543 Grange Lane #202. All the amenities of Kingstowne. First floor – No Steps! Generous Master w/WI closet, sep tub/shower. 2nd BR for office or guests. Cozy fireplace. Delightful patio! W/D in unit. EZ parking. Granite Kitchen ample cupboards and counters. Resort Style Living! Quiet area near lake & jogging path. Perfect location near pools, rec facilities, shops, restaurants, theater, and major roads and Metro.
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4201 Ormond Ave. Stately custom built 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath brick colonial with approximately 6,000 sq. ft. of well designed living space. Three finished levels with 3 fireplaces. New Gourmet kitchen, New Master bath and attached 2-car garage. Expansive fenced yard with manicured lawns, mature landscaping, patio, hot tub and large shed. Blocks to Alexandria Hospital and St. Stephens St. Agnes Upper School.
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Budget Competition

Taxes to increase across Northern Virginia, some more than others.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Two things are certain in life, death and taxes. And just as the spring flowers start to bloom this time a year, so do concerns about rising tax bills. As local governments across Northern Virginia consider budget proposals, taxpayers are reaching for their wallets. A review of proposed budgets in the region shows residential property taxpayers in Fairfax are looking at the largest potential increase, more than \$300. Taxpayers in Alexandria are looking at the smallest potential increase, less than \$200.

"There is always a competition among Northern Virginia local governments for who can either cut the most or raise their property tax the least," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "So it is a healthy competition."

Now that government executives have presented their proposed budgets to elected officials, members of the public are presenting their input in a series of formal public hearings and informal discussions. At issue for government leaders is what kinds of investments are necessary to enhance property values, the cash cow for jurisdictions in Virginia. Shafroth says homeowners generally want to see their assessments increase, although nobody wants to pay the higher tax bill.

"All of that, of course, could change significantly if Congress eliminates the deductibility of the property tax and limits the home mortgage deduction," said Shafroth. "Those two changes would make today's whines seem ludicrous in comparison."

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the county executive has proposed a tax rate of \$1.085 for every \$100 of assessed value. Earlier this month, the Board of Supervisors voted to advertise a real estate rate that's two cents higher, \$1.105 for every \$100 of assessed value. Budget officials say one penny of the tax rate is equal to about \$21.9 million in general revenue, and an additional \$50 for the average residential property taxpayer. That means that supervisors might end up increasing the average bill more than \$400.

"It is important that the board allows for flexibility in considering a tax rate so that debate and discussion is not cut off at the very beginning of the budget process," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova. "The board can adopt a tax rate that is lower but not higher than what is advertised."

Last month, County Executive Ed Long presented a proposed budget with flat commercial tax revenues and lower than expected tax revenues for sales taxes,

hotel taxes and business and professional license taxes. Budget officials say the only area that is experiencing an upward tick is the assessed value of residential property. That means homeowners are likely to get stuck with a higher tax bill just to keep the current level of service.

"As the county continues to face fiscal challenges, we must persist in our cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting, only funding items that are sustainable," said Long. "We also must be ready to make the necessary decisions to maintain investment in our services, infrastructure and development of the community."

IN ARLINGTON, the county manager has proposed a tax rate of \$1.006 for every \$100 of assessed value, which includes the base rate of \$0.993 and the county-wide sanitary district rate of \$0.013 for stormwater management. Last month, members of the Arlington County Board voted to advertise no increase in the rate, which means elected officials must find a way to balance the budget using the increase in property values. Fortunately for Arlington, property values in the county have been some of the strongest in the region.

"The gap between funding for ongoing county services and revenues that I predicted in the fall was eliminated by our higher-than-anticipated real estate assessments," said County Manager Barbara Donnellan. "But we must still work to achieve efficiencies and continue to invest in our community."

In Arlington, unlike Alexandria, the tax base is split evenly between residential property and commercial property. County budget officials say that's a blessing and a curse. When residential values declined during the recession, jurisdictions that were heavily reliant on them suffered. But commercial properties have been sluggish in the wake of sequestration and shutdown because the local economy is so heavily tied to the fate of the federal government. That means that Arlington finds itself balanced between two different markets instead of tied to the fate of one.

"We like to say we like balanced development in the county," said Budget Director Richard Stephenson. "But that can be good or bad depending on where we are in the cycle."

IN ALEXANDRIA, the city manager has proposed a tax rate of \$1.038 for every \$100 of assessed value. Earlier this month, City Council members voted to advertise a tax rate that's half a cent higher. That tax rate of \$1.043 for every \$100 of assessed value would raise the average residential property tax bill by \$230. That's a 7 percent increase compared to last year.

"I did not run to raise property taxes," said Councilwoman Allison Silberberg. "But we have some growing needs."

Unlike Arlington, Alexandria's tax revenues lean heavily toward residential properties. Almost 33 percent of the city's revenues come from residential property taxpayers, while commercial property taxpayers contribute only 25 percent of the tax base. That means the average single-family house, which increased about 3 percent this year, is shouldering a disproportionate amount of the burden for the increased cost of government in Alexandria.

"We have an 18 percent vacancy rate that's devaluing the commercial side of the ledger," said Alexandria Budget Director Nelsie Smith. "If we had a healthier commercial base that wasn't contributing to an 18 percent vacancy rate, we would not have seen the 0.68 percent growth from last year to this year."

Proposed Tax Increases

♦ Alexandria: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$4,901 to \$5,091. The additional \$190 would be a 3.88 percent increase.

♦ Arlington: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$5,278 to \$5,560. The additional \$282 would be a 5 percent increase.

♦ Fairfax: The average residential property tax bill would increase from \$5,071 to \$5,403. The additional \$332 would be a 6.54 percent increase.

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Alex./Mt. Vernon Estates \$449,900
3604 Sexton Street
Beautiful 4BR, 2BA split level w/garage and 2 level deck overlooking lovely bkdy. Newly refinished hdwd flrs main & upper levels; freshly painted int. Brand new kitchen w/granite, ceramic flooring, new appliances and newly updated bathroom. Large family rm w/woodburning fireplace. Spacious living room & dining room. Great location near Ft. Belvoir & G.W. Pkwy.



Alex./Mt. Vernon Terrace \$619,900
5108 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy
Stunning 5 BR, 3 BA brick Cape, remodeled from top to bottom on an absolutely spectacular .53 acre lot. Updated kit & baths w/beautiful family rm addition across the back opening to a beautiful deck. Replacement windows, refinished hdwd flrs, fully finished w/o basement to a huge patio overlooking expansive fenced back yard. An amazing setting - 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir; 20 mins to Old Town & 30 mins to Ntl Airport - Gorgeous, Gorgeous Home.



Alexandria City Cameron Station \$698,000
5242 Tancreti Lane
Cameron Station's finest offering! Beautiful 4 level brick townhome, end unit, with 2 car garage. Gorgeous upgrades throughout and meticulously maintained. Spacious, open floor-plan, gourmet kitchen with granite and SS, high ceilings, hardwood floors, beautiful bathrooms, Trex decking, dual zone HVAC, etc. It's a 10! Fabulous location inside the Beltway, close to Old Town, Pentagon, National Airport, and D.C. Community shuttle to nearby Metro.



NEW PRICE

Alex./Mt. Zephyr \$487,500
8529 Richmond Ave
Large, beautifully updated 4 BR, 2.5 BA Split w/large spacious 2-car garage. Updated kit w/cherry cabinets & Corian counters. 2.5 updated baths w/12" ceramic tile flrs & newer vanities & mirrors. Replacement double pane windows throughout plus lovely screened porch overlooking large landscaped bkdy w/beautiful privacy fence. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 mins to Ntl Airport. Short Sale - In great condition, Super Buy.



Alex./Riverwood \$744,900
3713 Riverwood Road
Fabulous 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in prestigious river front community of Riverwood. 3 finished levels, updated & expanded kitchen w/plenty of storage - large sun room addition with wrap-around deck overlooking a beautiful, fenced bkdy. 425 SF of storage below sun room - remodeled baths - finished walkout lower level w/2 BRs, rec room, den and full bath. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, 25/30 mins to Pentagon/D.C.



NEW LISTING

Alex./Riverside Estates \$529,900
3109 McGeorge Terrace
Lovely 5 BR, 3 BA Split with 2-car garage on a lovely fenced lot. Freshly painted interior - dazzling refinished hardwood floors - new carpet lower level, updated kitchen and baths, replacement windows. Great Community. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir - Great Buy!

For more information: www.RexReiley.com



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Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources Bill Hazel speaks to members of the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts at the Mount Vernon Government Center on March 22.



State Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell hosted a town hall on Medicaid expansion at the Mount Vernon Government Center on March 22.

Surovell, Puller Host Medicaid Expansion Town Hall

FROM PAGE 1

but kids who have unhealthy parents don't typically do as well. When you look at some of the issues we have with families and youth at risk, stress on families includes lack of health care," Hazel said.

Surovell also pointed out that the 22306 and 22309 zip codes have the highest number of people going to the emergency room for primary health care in the Northern Virginia area.

In addition, Surovell said that although most people don't consider Fairfax County as a place of high poverty, there are more Medicaid deliveries in INOVA Fairfax than any other hospital in Virginia.

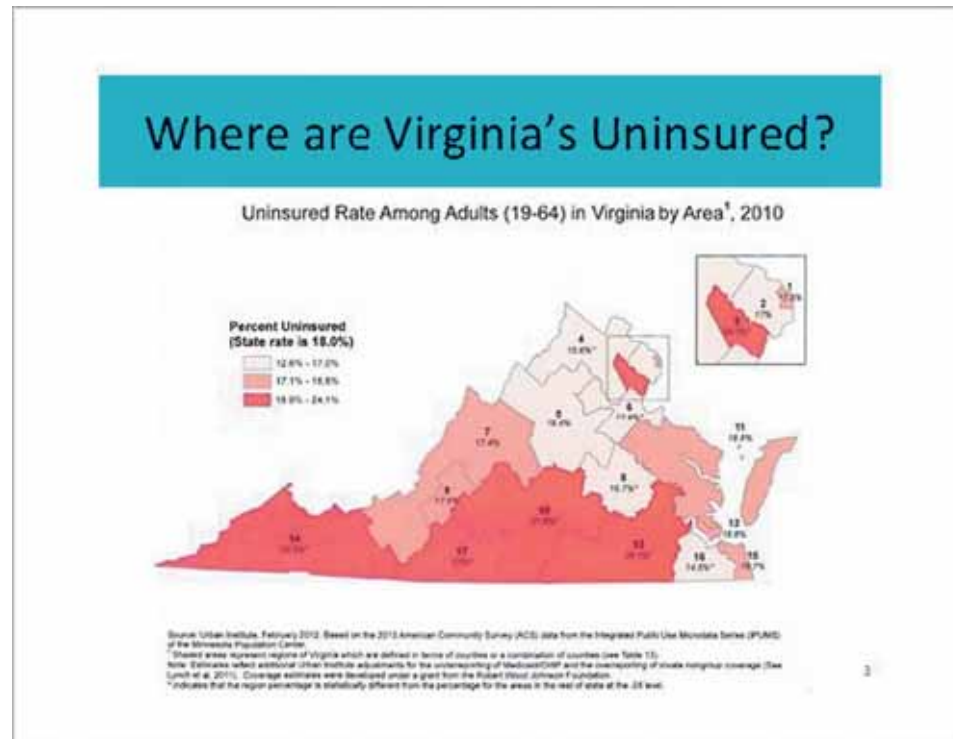
On his blog, Surovell has a display that continuously counts how much Virginians have lost in federal funding. Expanding Medicaid, Surovell said, will save taxpayers money, as every year that Virginia does not close the coverage gap, taxpayers will lose \$2 billion.

Hazel told the audience that Medicaid expansion would provide health care for 400,000 Virginians.

"It's obviously a huge, huge priority for us and for Governor [Terry] McAuliffe," Hazel said.

According to Hazel, 71.3 percent of those lacking insurance in Virginia are working families.

"Many of these individuals, if you look more in detail, have two, possibly three jobs in the family trying to make ends meet," Hazel said.



COURTESY OF VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES BILL HAZEL

A map of Virginia's uninsured shows that a large number of the state's uninsured population live in the Northern Virginia area.

Hazel said that 46 percent of uninsured Virginians are white and non-Hispanic. Twenty-four percent of Virginia's uninsured are black, and 20 percent are Hispanic.

"These are folks who frankly, look a lot like the people in this room," Hazel said.

Hazel has been touring the state, along

with McAuliffe, and talking to people who would benefit from Medicaid expansion.

"In Emporia, I met a young lady who had stopped working to take care of her aunt. If she wasn't taking care of her aunt, her aunt would be in a nursing home and likely on Medicaid, and the taxpayers would be sup-

porting her in the nursing home. She's taking care of her, but she doesn't make enough money to buy insurance. She went to the exchange, and guess what? She does not make enough money to get the benefit," Hazel said.

Through his visits to the federally qualified health centers and talks with certified application counselors who help people sign up for insurance through the marketplace, Hazel has been told that 75 percent of the people that are going to the federal marketplace don't qualify because they don't make enough money to qualify.

Hazel said that Medicaid expansion could create 30,000 new jobs.

In the 44th district, Surovell estimated that closing the insurance gap will bring 400 new health care jobs, and will provide 5,337 new people with health insurance.

Republicans in the Virginia House of Delegates oppose Medicaid expansion, and some believe it should be debated separately from the budget.

The Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, and McAuliffe are among the supports of Medicaid expansion. McAuliffe announced a proposal for a two-year pilot program for Medicaid that has been approved by the federal government on Monday.

"I don't understand the Republicans and their reluctance to embrace this. I can't imagine that they want to keep their constituents from being able to be covered by health insurance. It will save us all money," Puller said.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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 more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 27

Community Forum. 7 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike. Will feature personal stories and local professionals talking about how marijuana impacts the developing teen brain, academics, mental wellness and more. \$10 adults, \$5 students. Register noon March 26 at

www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org. Seating is limited.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28

Flea Market. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Sell gently used clothing, toys and more or browse the wares being offered. Forty percent of all the proceeds benefit local and national charities. Call 703-971-7957.

Meeting. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Model Railroad Club presents "The History of the Railway Express Agency." Free. 703-765-4573.

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Flea Market. 9 a.m.-noon at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Call 703-971-7957.
Housing Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Lee
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 26



OLD TOWN \$3,200,000 | ttrsir.com/id/AX8275884

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PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

A packed room at Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. came to hear Gov. Terry McAuliffe and ANHSI patients discuss the benefits of Medicaid expansion.

McAuliffe Talks Medicaid Expansion

Patients share stories at Medicaid expansion roundtable.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Just a few days before the Virginia General Assembly convened in a special session in Richmond to decide on the budget and the possibility of Medicaid expansion, Gov. Terry McAuliffe met with patients of Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services in Arlington, as they shared with him how Medicaid expansion would change their lives for the better.

"The idea that we could not cover the 400,000 Virginians and provide quality care to me is morally unacceptable," McAuliffe said. "I take this very seriously."

At the roundtable, McAuliffe said he hopes to get the special session of the General Assembly over quickly. The governor announced Monday that he has proposed a two-year pilot program for Medicaid that has been approved by the federal government.

McAuliffe told patients and administrators of Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. that Medicaid expansion will happen this year.

Patients of the Alexandria clinic feel that Medicaid expansion cannot come soon enough.

Ted Woynicz, a veteran with PTSD, told McAuliffe that due to his health problems, he is unable to work. He also cannot afford the treatment that would make him better.

Because they cannot afford primary care, many Virginians such as Woynicz use the emergency room for health care. Now, Woynicz is afraid to go due to the high costs.

"It's a really scary thing when you're afraid now even to take yourself to the emergency room," Woynicz said.

According to McAuliffe, Medicaid expansion will allow more people to receive primary care and prevent people from going



Gov. Terry McAuliffe, ANHSI Board Chair Keith Hearle, and ANHSI Medical Director Basim Khan listen to patients' stories at a Medicaid expansion roundtable in Arlington.

to the emergency room as much.

Woynicz said he is also unable to make it to the University of Virginia Medical center to receive specialized treatment.

"I really put off what could be an oncological issue for about a year," Woynicz said.

Lori Piper worked as a business executive until five years ago when she was diagnosed with several auto-immune diseases. After she went through chemotherapy and her condition worsened, she had to quit her job.

"Chemotherapy made me much worse. I lost my job and I was not able to work after that. I became homeless and my mother died while I was homeless," Piper said.

Piper needs to see an oncologist at UVA, but can't afford to go.

"There are days when I don't have enough money to eat," she said. "ANSHI clinic is my only care. Thank God for them, or I wouldn't have any medical care."

McAuliffe said that if Medicaid expansion doesn't go through, medical centers at the University of Virginia and Virginia Commonwealth University will face cutbacks.

"That's why I'm so passionate about this topic," McAuliffe said.

Virginia House Republicans are opposed to Medicaid expansion. At the discussion on Thursday, McAuliffe said he wishes Republicans would sit down and listen to patients' stories.

"Every day we wait, it's another \$5.2 million that we are giving up," McAuliffe said.

McAuliffe has spent the last two weeks before the reconvening of the General Assembly to tour Virginia and talk to patients who would be impacted by Medicaid expansion.

"Hearing your stories brings, I think, tears to everyone's eyes in this room," McAuliffe said.

Attendees of the roundtable discussion also included some members of the Virginia General Assembly, including Sen. George Barker (D-39) and Delegates Bob Brink (D-48) and Charniele Herring (D-46).

"I'm lucky. I have health insurance. But it shouldn't be a matter of luck. It should be a matter of our state's priorities," said Herring.

OBITUARY

Adrian Eugene Miller



Adrian Eugene Miller, 75, of Lake Monticello, died on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at Hospice House in Charlottesville. Born on April 2, 1938 in Alexandria, he was the son of the late Clancie Hope Hamilton Miller and David M. Miller. He was also predeceased by his brother Richard M. Miller.

After eight years in the National Guard as a Spec4, he worked for 37 years as an insurance agent and manager for Peoples Life Insurance, now Monumental Life. In 2002, he and his wife retired to Lake Monticello, after working and raising their family in the Alexandria area. He was an avid hunter and fisherman, and belonged to many clubs including the Gold Hounds, of which he was treasurer. Adrian was one of the most involved of citizens in his local county government, frequently speaking before the Board of Supervisors and expressing his opinions in the Fluvanna Review. He was the treasurer of the Fluvanna County Taxpayers Association. Adrian had a great sense of humor and enjoyed playing poker with his many friends.

A devoted family man, he especially loved being a grandfather. Adrian is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jacqueline L. Miller, their three children, Lureen Lavonne Deemark, John Adrian Miller and his wife Penny Potter Miller, and Kenneth Warren Miller and his wife Vicki Burnett-Miller; seven grandchildren, Brandon Deemark, Melissa Deemark Minnick, Justin Deemark and his wife Christina, Megan D. Vardiman and her husband Ben, John Adrian Miller, II, Jaden A. Burnett -Miller and Evren Burnett -Miller; six great-grandchildren, Amiee and Kiera Minnick, Allison Deemark, Thane and Ashley Vardiman, and Jude Miller. Last but not least, his dogs Prissie, Peaches, Punkie and Zini will all miss him.

Visitation was held on Friday, March 21, 2014 at Hill and Wood Funeral Home. A funeral service followed in the Hill and Wood Funeral Chapel with the Rev. Sidney Craig officiating. Entombment followed at Monticello Memory Gardens.

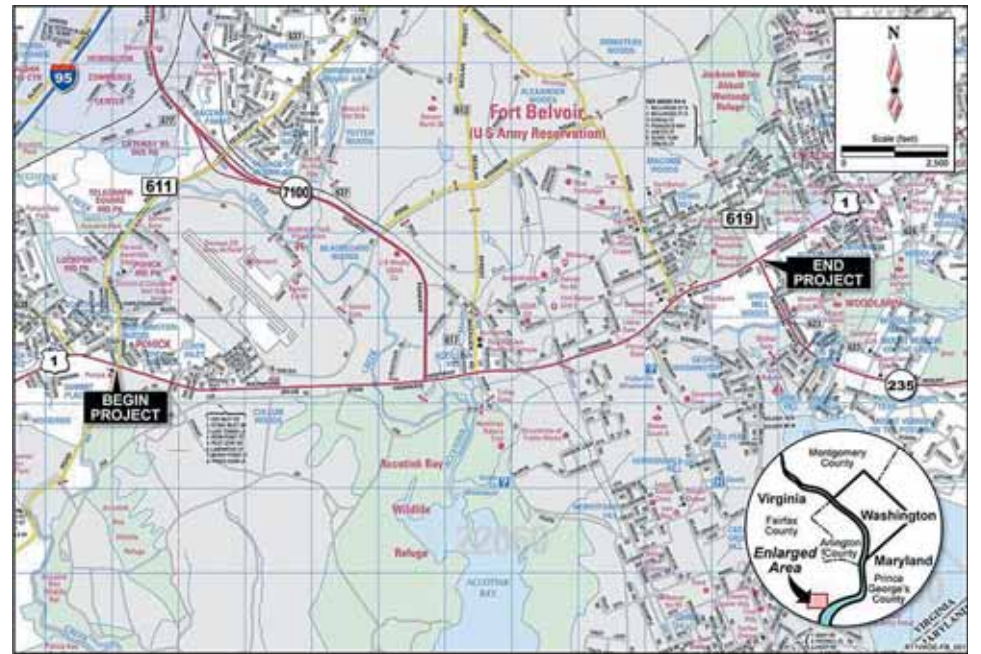
A special thank you to Sue Cotellessa for all her kindness to Adrian and the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Fluvanna SPCA, P.O.Box 1078, Troy, VA 22974 or to Hospice of the Piedmont, 675 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22911, or to the Friends of the Fluvanna Library, 214 Commons Blvd, Palmyra, VA 22963.

Friends may send condolences to his family at www.hillandwood.com.



Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay and Del. Scott Surovell address community members at a “Pardon our Dust” meeting on Route 1 widening on March 19.



An aerial map of the Route 1 widening project between Telegraph Road and Mount Vernon Highway.

Widening Scheduled To Begin Early April

FROM PAGE 1

tion along Route 1,” McKay said. “Without Mulligan Road, it’s not possible.”

The Route 1 improvements include widening to six through lanes, left and right turn lanes at intersections, on-road bike accommodations, a multi-use trail, and pedestrian sidewalk.

Bridges over Accotink Creek will also be constructed.

According to McKay, the improvements are being made with pedestrian safety and public transit in mind.

In addition to Route 1 widening, residents also have the Multimodal Alternatives Analysis to think about.

The widening includes room for whatever is decided from the analysis, which include curbside buses, buses down the middle, light rail down the middle, or a yellow line extension to Hybla Valley that will include

buses to the Occoquan River, Surovell said.

“This is all about the vision for the community for the next 20 years,” Surovell said. “This project is an important part of laying the groundwork for us to take the next step.”

In 2012, due to the efforts of U.S. Representatives Jim Moran and Gerry Connolly, the Department of Defense allotted \$180 million for Route 1 widening to address the increased traffic that resulted in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

The project is divided into five different sections. For the next five months, the focus will be on sections B, C, and D. For more information on the project, as well as a schedule of lane and shoulder closures, visit rte1ftbelvoir.com.

“Pardon our Dust” meetings will be held either every six months or before major traffic switches, according to officials at the meeting. The widening is expected to be completed in 2016.

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Challenging Budgets

Local Government should be able to access income taxes to give relief on real estate taxes.

Northern Virginia governments are facing shortfalls in the classic budget sense: projected revenues are less than last year's expenditures plus increases in costs.

Alexandria City Manager Rashad Young Young: "This is the seventh straight year of budgetary challenges, where the cost of current services and previous commitments exceeds our revenue growth." His proposed budget includes \$190.6 million for Alexandria City Public Schools, a 2.62 percent increase over FY2014 but \$2.5 million less than requested by the Alexandria School Board.

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova: "This will be a very challenging budget." Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza proposed an increase of 5.7 percent, \$98 million more than the schools requested last year, but supervisors have said to expect an increase of 2 percent.

Fairfax County, along with Arlington and Alexandria, is wrestling with how to fund increasing financial requests from schools, increasing needs for human services and providing a safety net, and many other areas of local budgets.

In Virginia, localities are allowed few areas of revenue, and local budgets are funded primarily through real estate property taxes. Property

values have increased this year, and local governments are also considering increases in the property tax rate, meaning homeowners will pay more in taxes.

Fairfax County Real Estate Assessments increased 5.8 percent for single family homes, 8.4 percent for townhouses and 10.5 percent for condos. In Arlington, property values grew about 5.8 percent this year. That includes single-family houses and townhouses, which went up 6.2 percent, as well as condominiums, which went up 5.9 percent. In Alexandria, residential assessments increased 4.8 percent.

But just because a home is worth more this year than last year doesn't actually put any more money in anyone's pocket. The increases are mostly modest and necessary in an area that prides itself on providing an exceptional quality of life and thriving business environment. Employment and jobs are also strong in Northern Virginia, with unemployment at 3.7 percent in Fairfax, 4.1 percent in Alexandria and 3.2 percent in Arlington. Northern Virginia is the economic engine of Virginia. The overall unemployment rate in Virginia is 5 percent, with these statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These rates are far below the national rate.

But state income tax, paid disproportionately by workers in Northern Virginia, are collected by the state for the state budget. The exact

percentage of money that returns to Northern Virginia is debated, but it is definitely small. Localities should have the ability to add a piggyback tax to the state income tax in order to provide needed and expected services while giving relief to homeowners.

Anyone familiar with the political process in Virginia knows that this is a pipe dream with essentially zero chance. It would have to pass the Virginia General Assembly. Nevertheless, it makes no sense for Northern Virginia to pay income taxes to the state without being able to benefit.

Meanwhile, Arlington FY 2015 tax rate public hearing is March 27 at 7 p.m. More on Arlington's budget: <http://countyboard.arlingtonva.us/budget/>

Fairfax County's public hearings, all in the board auditorium at the government center: Effective Tax Rate Hearing 3 p.m., April 8, 2014; Budget Public Hearing 6 p.m., April 8; 3 p.m., April 9; 3 p.m., April 10. More on Fairfax County Budget, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

For more on Alexandria's budget <https://www.alexandriava.gov/budget/info/default.aspx?id=75641>.

A favorite guideline on testimony at budget hearings comes in Arlington: "Repetitious testimony is discouraged." Good luck with that.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re-Striping Plan Hurts Homeowners

To the Editor:

The overarching problem with FCDOT's and VDOT's proposal for Sherwood Hall Lane is that it is concerned exclusively with the imagined needs of bicycle riders and with passing through commuters of whom there are already far too many. The residents of the neighborhoods stretching from Route 1 and Gum Springs to Ft. Hunt Road, which include Hybla Valley [Frances and Schelhorn], Sherwood Estates and Hollindale are being told to accept changes to the road that will only degrade the neighborhood further and, therefore, decrease property values. The first degradation occurred in the early '70s with the widening of Sherwood Hall Lane from a little two lane road to what we have now. We lost property and many fine trees but at least we got sidewalks [we do have walkers and runners] and on street parking.

We are still a neighborhood with needs associated with suburban

living. The parking lanes are integral to that way of life. From the library east to Ft. Hunt Road on the south side of Sherwood Hall Lane there are 20-25 homes that have only a one car garage or no garage. They have limited driveway space. Most families have multiple drivers and multiple vehicles. Being able to park on the street is therefore a necessity. The elimination of on street parking will cause spillover parking onto side streets such as Evening Lane, encroaching on innocent neighbors. People still do have get-togethers of all types—Birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas among others. Where will the plumber and other repair men park? Where will the contractor, who is remodeling a bathroom or kitchen park? The Tree Company or Landscaper? Where will brush for collection be stacked?

The proposed bike lanes are unnecessary. The parking lanes, because of their ample width, provide sufficient room for bikers even if a full size SUV or Pick-up is at the curb. At a meeting several years ago with Supervisor Hyland, instigated by a biking enthusiast, it was agreed that the above was true and the idea of

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12



Up Close

To the Editor:

The OspreyCam on Little Hunting Creek in Stratford Landing within our own community (www.littlehuntingcreek.org/ospreycam.html) has infrared capability and as such will operate 24/7, save for occasional computer glitches. This capability enabled viewers, earlier this week, to observe two male ospreys fighting over a female osprey just before dawn (see accompanying photo). Enjoy the show!

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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OPINION

Closing Healthcare Gap

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)

As the General Assembly attempts to complete work in Richmond on the \$90 billion state budget, the looming obstacle to an agreement is how to close the health insurance gap or cover uninsured Virginians.

There are an estimated one million uninsured adults in Virginia today or about one in every eight Virginians. The federal Affordable Care Act (ACA) is designed to provide coverage in three ways: (1) require large employers to provide health insurance;

COMMENTARY (2) create a healthcare exchange to give uninsured adults bargaining power to purchase insurance in a pool at competitive rates, with subsidies for lower-income adults; and (3) expand Medicaid eligibility for all adults whose incomes are 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) or lower. Under this approach, people would be eligible if their income ranges from around \$16,000 for an individual to \$32,000 for a family of four.

Medicaid is a proven, federal-state health insurance program for low-income and disabled people. Although Virginia has the eighth highest per capita income in the United States, we currently have the low-



est eligibility allowed by law. The only people covered today are low-income children, blind and disabled adults, pregnant mothers and extremely poor elderly in full-time nursing care who have "spent down" all their assets. The federal government pays

around half the costs. Under the ACA, the federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of the Medicaid expansion in the first four years, declining to 90 percent of the cost after 10 years.

Of all House of Delegate districts in Fairfax County, the 44th District is tied for the largest Medicaid population. It is second in Northern Virginia of all delegate districts. Sixteen percent of 44th district residents are currently covered by Medicaid, including over 9,000 children or one in three children.

Last year, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the ACA is constitutional, but also held that the federal government cannot force states to expand their Medicaid programs. Thus, Medicaid remains optional for states.

In my view, Virginia's failure to expand

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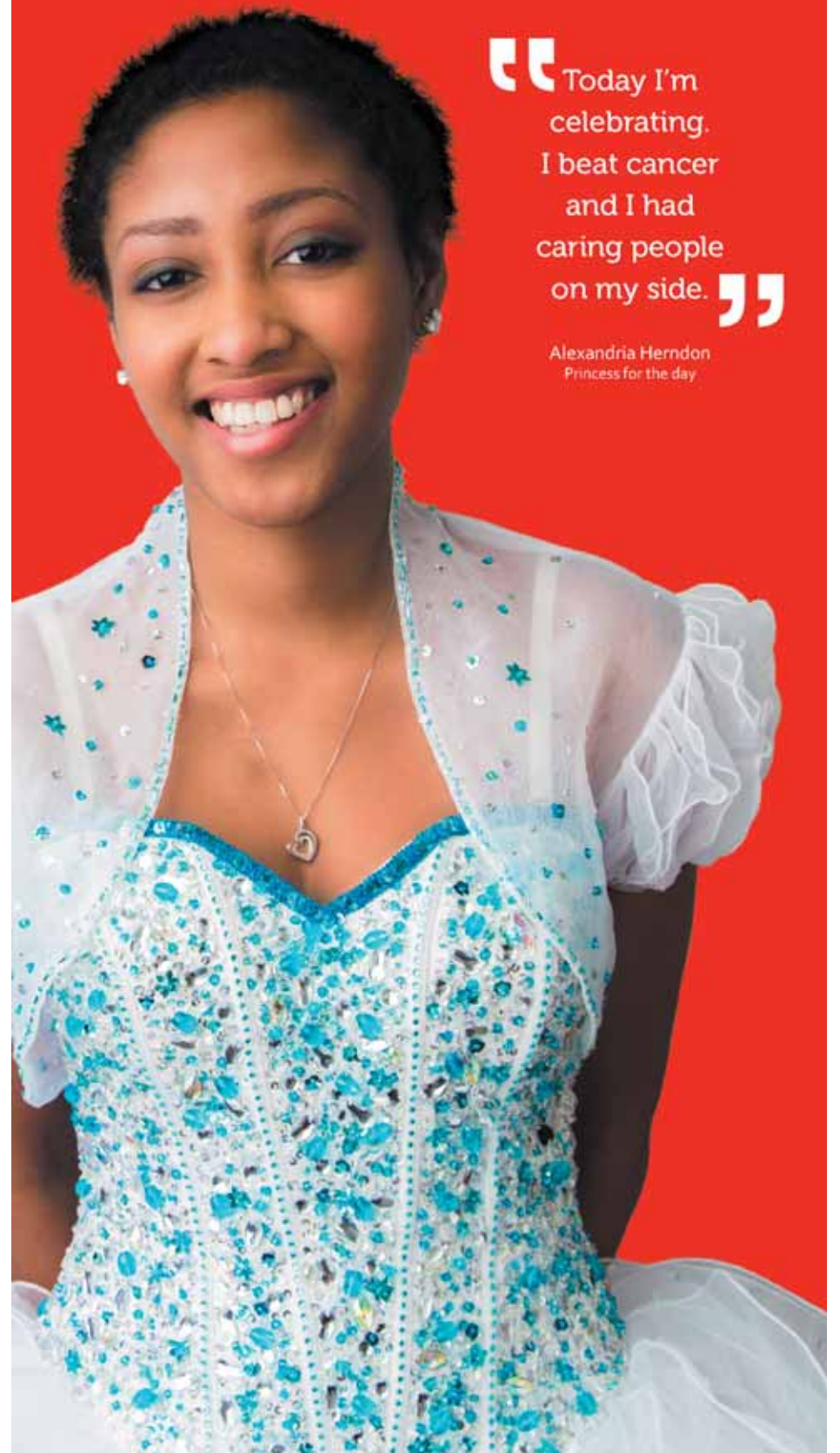
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Alexandria Herndon
Princess for the day

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

bike lanes was dropped.

FCDOT and VDOT maintain that eventually there will be bikers coming from Route 1. That strikes us as highly unlikely. Even if bike lanes are put along Route 1 when it is finally redone, that would be many years from now and who would want to ingest all the fumes.

We, of course, oppose the dedicated left turn lanes because 1) they cause the elimination of the parking lanes, 2) they will only entice more cut through commuters and thereby increase the already high volume of traffic and 3) they are unnecessary from Ft. Hunt Road to Parker's Lane because that is not where the back-ups, because of left turns, occur. Queenie Cox, Gum Springs representative, has brought to our attention the proposed transit center to be located at either Hybla Valley Center or the South County Government Center location. A copy of the Gum Springs Resolution coming before MVCCA, which we strongly support, is attached. Concept #2 between Ft. Hunt and Kirkside: because this narrows the parking lane it will make it much harder to back out of driveways or nose out to merge into traffic. A narrower lane will barely accommodate full size vehicles. Opening the driver's door to exit one's vehicle will be less safe. But, most importantly, by far, it will be easy for VDOT/FCDOT to convert Sherwood Hall Lane to a true 4-lane road simply by eliminating the parking lane stripe. Then we would have 4, 11 foot lanes—our worst nightmare.

In conclusion:

This is a hasty, poorly researched concept rushed into being simply because of the repaving of Sherwood Hall Lane. As Winston Churchill and later Rahm Emmanuel said, "Never let a serious crisis go to waste." But there is no "crisis." The road will have to be re-paved again in 10 years or so. By then, perhaps changes to Route 1 will be planned or in place and it will be clearer what is eventually needed for bikers.

If the present proposal is imposed on the neighborhood there will be no traffic "calming", only congestion.

The impact on our community, outlined above, has not been considered.

More thought and study is imperative, taking all of the above into consideration, including specificity about locations of accidents, where drivers crossing the parking

lines are being ticketed—how many and over what period of time (years). Also, counts, other than at 4 p.m., of cars using parking lanes.

Finally, the nail in the coffin of this harmful concept is that Charlie Strunk, FCDOT Bicycle Program coordinator, told the MVCCA Transportation Committee that, "The lack of bicycle-friendly bike paths on Fort Hunt Road is the number 1 complaint received from Mount Vernon citizens. Various problem spots were identified and will be monitored and promoted." First things first! Fix Ft. Hunt Road first! We are already bike friendly. We want Sherwood Hall Lane between Ft. Hunt Road and Parker's Lane to be re-striped as it is now.

When Cingular Wireless wanted to install a cell tower at the site of the Masonic Lodge located near Elkins Lane and Fort Hunt Road, residents of the surrounding neighborhood who lived the closest to the proposed site opposed the installation. Even though a larger population backed by the Fairfax County Planning Commission and the MVCCA wanted the tower, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors turned down Cingular's application. Cingular appealed the decision before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia/Alexandria Division. That court upheld the Supervisors' decision and when it went to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on March 12, 2012, that court upheld it as well on March 19, 2012, on the grounds that the validity of a decision to deny a particular land use application turns on the quality of concerns about the proposal, not the quantity of objectors. "Given the proximity of those residents opposing the tower to the proposed site, the Fairfax Board acted reasonably in according significant weight to their concerns." Among the arguments the neighbors made against the cell tower were 1) it would be aesthetically unappealing, 2) inconsistent with the residential character of the neighborhood, 3) would likely lead to declining property values in the area, 4) would disrupt the neighborhood and 5) a cell phone tower and its accompanying facilities do not belong in a residential community such as ours. The Court found those objections to be "eminently reasonable."

The same concerns are equally applicable to the proposal to transform a two-lane road with parking areas on both sides into a road having a third lane down the middle for

turning purposes, two bike lanes and elimination of street parking in numerous portions of the road. These proposed changes will adversely impact property values, are not commensurate with the residential character of the neighborhood and will not accomplish the goals of reducing vehicle speeds and enhancing safety. For all of these reasons, it is most appropriate to retain the current configuration of striping for Sherwood Hall Lane.

At the March 19 meeting of the Sherwood Estates Citizens' Association and adjacent neighboring associations, the attendees voted 53 -1 to maintain the present striping configuration for all the reasons cited above.

Christopher Granger

President

Sherwood Estates Citizens' Association

Proposal Affects Public Safety

To the Editor:

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) has the power to destroy neighborhoods. With its latest proposals for Sherwood Hall Lane, it will do just that: speeds will increase, our neighbors will lose their on-street parking, and pedestrian travel will become hazardous, altogether altering the character of the road by making it less residential. Proposed changes include removing most street parking, adding bike lanes narrower than the current lane, and adding continuous turn lanes. Their proposals seem to be a solution in search of a problem. FCDOT's information sheet says they want to make the road "more pedestrian and bicycle friendly," but most of their proposals will have the opposite effect.

Continuous turn lanes: Speed is currently held down on this road by two things: one, that cars face oncoming traffic, and two, that drivers must be alert to the possibility of cars slowing or stopping to turn. Turn lanes, especially continuous turn lanes, will remove these impediments to speed. Turn lanes also negate the residential qualities of the road. They will be used to go around drivers slowing to turn right, again increasing average speed.

Parking lanes: I cannot object strongly

enough to on-street parking being taken away from my neighbors. This will affect their daily lives, deliverymen, guests, and their (and my) property values. Parking lanes make it safer for them to back out of their driveways. The parking lane also serves as a buffer between pedestrians and street traffic; Sherwood Hall Lane is well traveled by joggers, walkers, dogs and owners, and children.

Passing: If the problem is people passing turning cars, then the answer is not to change the road to accommodate the illegal behavior. A combination of random, continual enforcement and better signage would be vastly preferable to road changes that encourage speed on this residential road. Instead of signage that says "No Passing" how about "No Passing Turning Vehicles"? Alternatively, write "No Passing" on the road surface in the current parking lanes.

Bike lanes: The current parking lane is used as a generous bike lane. Because of the width, it is safe enough that parents and children can bike together, including using bike trailers for small children. It is also used by joggers. Actual commuter bicyclists make up the smallest group to use the road, and do not warrant sacrifices by the other 99 percent of us who use the road. Under no circumstance should bike lanes be added at the expense of parking.

If you haven't heard about the changes, that's because the public notification was spotty: one notice was posted in the library, and HOAs were notified. No signboard went up on the road in question, leaving most of us in the dark. An information meeting was held at the Parkers Lane Government Center on March 12, where FCDOT announced they would take comments until March 19. That deadline has now been extended to March 26 because of strong neighborhood opposition. The time to act is now: call Supervisor Hyland, Delegate Surovell, and Senator Puller if you feel these changes are contrary to the neighborhood's interests.

The character of Sherwood Hall Lane should remain consistent with the other residential arteries in this well-established neighborhood — Fort Hunt Road, Shenandoah, Elkins, and Collingwood Lane. Where width allows, they have street parking. Turn lanes are only used in commercial areas, as at Hollin Hall. As a negative

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Photo by Ed Knepley

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

example, look at Beacon Hill Road and its continuous turn lane — speeding is epidemic in that section. The addition of turn lanes will increase speeds on a road where many pedestrians walk and cross every day. In sum, the proposed changes run opposite to FCDOT's stated goals and will make Sherwood Hall Lane decidedly pedestrian unfriendly.

Valerie Wohlleben
Kirkside

poles in all of the areas where people insist turning left from the middle lane and thereby blocking a complete lane of traffic. This is not only a dangerous and unsafe condition, but it also results in significant traffic delays. Suggested locations are the Old Thieves Market and from Frye Rd towards the Post Office.

❖ Do not issue another building permit to anybody near Route 1 until realistic plans for achieving the desperately needed four lanes

are in place.

When I read the interim report from the last "study" it was full of suggestions like more buses and extending the Yellow Line from Huntington Metro to Ft Belvoir. Del. Scott Surovell just sent me a "Your Opinion Matters" 2014 constituent survey. Question 7 in this survey does not even mention what is really needed: Route 1 should be made into a major roadway with four lanes going in each direction with left and right turn

lanes; plastic poles to prevent left turns from blocking a complete lane of traffic while the vehicle is waiting to turn, and bus stops that ensure a bus completely leaves the curb lane free for traffic. To make Route 1 into a major roadway vice the congested road it currently is would likely not take nearly what it would cost to extend the Yellow Line or to buy more buses. Once Route 1 is usable then work can begin on the Yellow Line / Bus issues.

All building permits should be put on hold until the developer can help with the cost of adding lanes and traffic patterns to accommodate their developments. We now have Costco/Wal-Mart and Kings Crossing retail facilities attracting huge numbers of shoppers and yet there is not one new lane for traffic in any direction. Planning means taking into account the traffic created by growth and public requirements, with safety being

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

Route 1 Traffic Problems

To the Editor:

Wake up politicians in Northern Virginia: we need four lanes on Route 1 in both directions that are usable. Traffic is backing up further and further at Kings Crossing and the Costco/Wal-Mart location near Hybla Valley. The back up at Kings Crossing causes commuters to take Fort Hunt, Quander Road to Sherwood Hall Lane. Sherwood Hall Lane is now backed up from Route 1 past the Sherwood Regional Library almost every afternoon.

There are several things that can be done with seemingly little effort that would improve traffic flow quickly. Please stop trying to placate us by funding another million-dollar study that talks about buses and Metro. In the last few years at least \$4 million has been spent to "study" the problem of Route 1. Stop wasting our money. Everybody who drives on Route 1 could tell you what I am describing for free.

The buses and Metro solutions are in the billion \$\$ category. Look at how much time and money have gone into the Silver Line and it still is not operating. Modernizing and improving Route 1 would be much more cost effective and immediate.

The general public is buying more cars than ever before and therefore there is a real world demand for more traffic lanes. This is today's reality. You need to change your mass transit bias.

Some immediate action items that will benefit all of us and can be accomplished near term:

❖ Remove all bus stops that do not allow the bus to be completely out of the right lane to pick up passengers. And, do not permit a second bus to stick its nose into the curb which then leaves the back of the bus blocking two lanes. This happens often at Kings Crossing southbound so that southbound traffic is backed up to Quander Road.

❖ Install 2-foot vertical plastic

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Region's Small Farmers Need Clean Water

BY MARIETTE HIU NEWCOMB
AND KIMBERLY WILLIAMS

Northern Virginia's small farmers know the importance of keeping the water that we all depend on clean. They worry that polluted water could contaminate their crops — the fruits and vegetables that are supposed to keep people nourished and healthy. Local farmers are doing their part to reduce runoff pollution into the streams that feed into the Potomac River.

But the Potomac River and other waterways across Virginia remain at risk. So, in the biggest step forward on clean water in a decade, the Environmental Protection Agency has proposed a rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to waterways across the country.

The Clean Water Act has been helping protect waterways across the country from pollution for the past 40 years. Through its protections, we've made huge progress in cleaning up Virginia's waterways, giving even more Virginians the opportunity to fish and swim in rivers like the Potomac. But if

polluters like Big Ag and Big Oil have their way, that progress will stop here.

Polluter-led lawsuits have opened up huge loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

These loopholes leave 57 percent of Virginia's streams and many of its wetlands at risk of unchecked pollution. To make matters worse, these are the same waterways that feed and filter waterways like the Potomac River and, on their own, provide the drinking water for 2 million Virginians.

The effects of these loopholes on Virginia could be huge. The health of our families, our local economy, and the ecosystem depend on our waterways being clean and safe. And our farms need clean water to grow healthy food for our communities. No one should be allowed to dump waste into the waterways that provide our communities with drinking water and a place to visit and enjoy. We all have a stake in clean water, and we know from the days before the Clean Water Act that when polluters dump into our streams and pave over our wetlands, we all suffer.

Virginia's small farmers have a particu-

larly large stake in clean water and would feel the impacts of an impaired water source. And because of that, many small farmers in Virginia take great care to be stewards of their land and our waterways. But without adequate protections to all our waterways, we can't ensure that our water will remain clean enough for drinking, swimming, or watering our crops.

Fortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has the power to close these loopholes and help ensure that all Virginia's waterways are safe for future generations to enjoy just like we do today.

For over a decade, the nation's biggest polluters have been fighting tooth and nail to keep the EPA from fixing these loopholes and letting the cops on the environmental beat protect waterways like the Potomac River. But this spring, the EPA took the biggest step forward in a decade by formally proposing a rule to finally close these loopholes. This is great news for people across Virginia, especially small farmers. If the EPA continues to move forward and finalizes this rule to fix the Clean Water Act, our water-

ways could soon again have the protections they deserve.

Whether we're fishing, swimming, watering crops, or just turning on the tap, the health of our waterways is critical to our way of life. All our waterways should be clean enough that we can swim in them without risking getting sick and fish from them without fearing the catch is too contaminated to eat. And the water that farmers give to their livestock should come from protected sources. Whether we're farmers, entrepreneurs, local officials, or ordinary families, we all need the EPA to finalize a strong rule to fix the Clean Water Act to ensure that places like the Potomac River are protected now and for future generations.

Mariette Hiu Newcomb is the owner of Potomac Vegetable Farms, a local farm in Northern Virginia that specializes in growing crops without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. Their vegetables, herbs, and cut flowers are available at farmers markets, our two on-farm roadside stands, and through their 550-member CSA.

Kimberly Williams is the Clean Water Associate with Environment Virginia, a citizen based advocacy organization.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 13

paramount.
BUSES:
Facts:

❖ The people who drive vehicles pay 80 percent of the cost of bus transportation so we should have an input into how many there are and where they go.

❖ The current bus stops on Route 1 in many places reduce the available lanes by 33 percent to 50 percent because there is no dedicated pull out at the bus stops. This is especially true at Kings Crossing and Hybla Valley.

❖ During a two-month period during January and February 2014 I kept track of the number of people riding buses along Route 1 as observed from Beacon Hill and Hybla Valley and Fort Hunt. The Fort Hunt buses never had more than 10 passengers on the bus at one time. The Beacon Hill and Hybla Valley buses were usually half full or less. My observations were usually after 6 pm. Conclusion: the current buses are way too big. Many times in the evening the buses are completely empty. When you go to the Mount Vernon circle at about 7 in the evening you can see 2-3 buses sitting there empty. Suggest getting smaller buses, and run them less often, and stop wasting our money on the current gas hogs.

❖ The bus advocates have tried hard to get more riders by adding frequency and routes but nobody is stating the obvious; people do not want to ride buses no matter how frequent they come. This program needs to be cut back significantly. The money saved needs to be used to fill pot holes and repave worn roadways.

Funding Resources for improving Route 1:

❖ Redirect some of the \$30 million Fairfax County is paying for the Lorton Arts Cen-

ter. Since this land was given to Fairfax County people have tried to establish an arts and crafts center there. It is failing and would have been foreclosed by Wells Fargo if the county had not agreed to pay Wells Fargo this significant amount of money.

Phil Boughton
Alexandria

Thank You To WPHS

To the Editor:

Recently, U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry issued a communication to exceptional schools in the U.S. that support public diplomacy efforts by hosting high school exchange students sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. AFS has just learned that West Potomac High School received this commendation from Secretary Kerry, and we want to express how proud we are to work in educational partnership with this outstanding school and its visionary leaders.

Nearly 30 years ago, I was welcomed into a U.S. high school as an exchange student from Argentina. The experiences I had while living with a host family, attending school, and becoming a member of a community are what led me to an international career and eventually to become the president of AFS-USA.

As global headlines continue to focus on issues of conflict that affect us all, regardless of where we live, I cannot think of anything more important than creating opportunities for young people from diverse backgrounds to understand one another better.

By opening their doors to host exchange students, West Potomac High School is providing all students with opportunities to

increase their global awareness and cultural understanding as they continue on the path towards becoming global citizens and the kind of leaders this world needs.

The AFS mission is to help build a more just and peaceful world. Our work would be impossible if not for the outstanding educators, host families, and volunteers who recognize the importance of global exchange.

Thank you, West Potomac High School. We hope that more schools will follow the example you have set by hosting young people from around the world and encouraging U.S. students to have a similar experience abroad.

Jorge Castro

President, AFS-USA and a former AFS Exchange Student to Paw-Paw, Michigan

Advice on Road Sand

To the Editor:

To follow up on several recent letters regarding collection and disposal of residual road treatment sand from this winter's snows, I have the following suggestion:

1. remove shovel and push broom from garage (1 minute)
2. sweep sand from road into gutter (5-10 minutes)
3. use shovel to scoop sand from gutter and place in low spots in yard or in flower beds, etc. (don't put it where the kids play or in your vegetable garden) (5 minutes)
4. place broom and shovel back in garage (1 minute)
5. get a beer from fridge and relax
6. congratulate yourself for taking respon-

sibility for your domain, beautifying your yard, getting a little exercise, taking a potential burden off the taxpayers, reducing sediment and toxins going into Little Hunting Creek and the Potomac.

Think globally, act locally.

Scott Chamberlain
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must include writer's full name. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or mail to Mount Vernon Gazette, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

AMUSINGS

George Washington had a brilliant mind and many interests. Among them was his love for words and, specifically, anagrams. As you know (or maybe not), an anagram is a word or phrase which is created by rearranging its letters to form another word or phrase. As an example, the word "horse" can be "anagrammed" into "shore." George, as a student of English, loved creating anagrams. One famous one was inspired one day when Martha asked George to install a swing behind Mount Vernon for children to play on. George complied, and quickly built a fine swing in the garden area (no one knows exactly where). George famously replied, I'll run right out "with wings" and get it done! And thusly, George invented the anagram, as "swing" is the anagram of "wings." Clever dude, that George.

— BART HEWITT

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The Point At Twin Lakes \$649,000
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Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562



Alexandria Knolls West \$340,000
6101 Edsall Rd. 1808, Alexandria, VA 22304
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Skyline House \$309,900
3713 George Mason Drive 705-W, Falls Church, VA 22041
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5013 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway
\$979,500
Stunning New Luxury Home!
 Absolutely nothing comparable for under \$1 Million. Just completed luxury home designed on the "Great Room" concept. Incredibly wide open main level with high ceilings and many windows provides bright, airy atmosphere. Other features: 3 luxuriously finished b'ns, 5 full baths, hdwd flrs and stunning master suite! Gorgeous setting on level 1/2 acre lot. **OPEN SUN 3/30, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate, L-Patton; L-service 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.



4324 Adrienne Dr
\$714,900
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 fr 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 3/30, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate, R-Southwood; R-Adrienne.**



4713 Dolphin Lane
\$1,150,000
Rare Close-In Waterfrontage!
 Set sail from your own backyard to open waters of Potomac, Chesapeake Bay & beyond! Private dock with power lift on protected waters of recently dredged canal just off Potomac. Spacious 4000 sq ft contemporary Rambler with cathedral ceilings & large expanses of glass capitalize on striking nautical views. Just repainted & features gorgeous hardwood flrs & expansive decking. Unique opportunity to acquire huge home for price of waterfront lot.



4505 Tarpon Ln
\$575,000
Contemporary Rambler Near Water!
 Unique opportunity! Large Rambler with Frank Lloyd Wright influence. Gorgeous condition—many features include open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, fabulous master suite, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, and finished lower level with spa entrance. Prime location on half acre wooded lot near marina.



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8888 McNair Dr
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Steve Kindrick
 Instructor
 703-683-0400 (office)
steve.kindrick@LNF.com

***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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Alex. / Belle View
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SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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 "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.

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.

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.woodlawnpopeleigh.org for more.

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

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.

Sculpture Exhibit. Friday, March 21-Sunday April 27 at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, located in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College. See Edmond Nassa's "Innermost Evocations." His

website <http://edmondnassa.com/> showcases some of his work. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Art Exhibit. See "LOULUDI 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 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

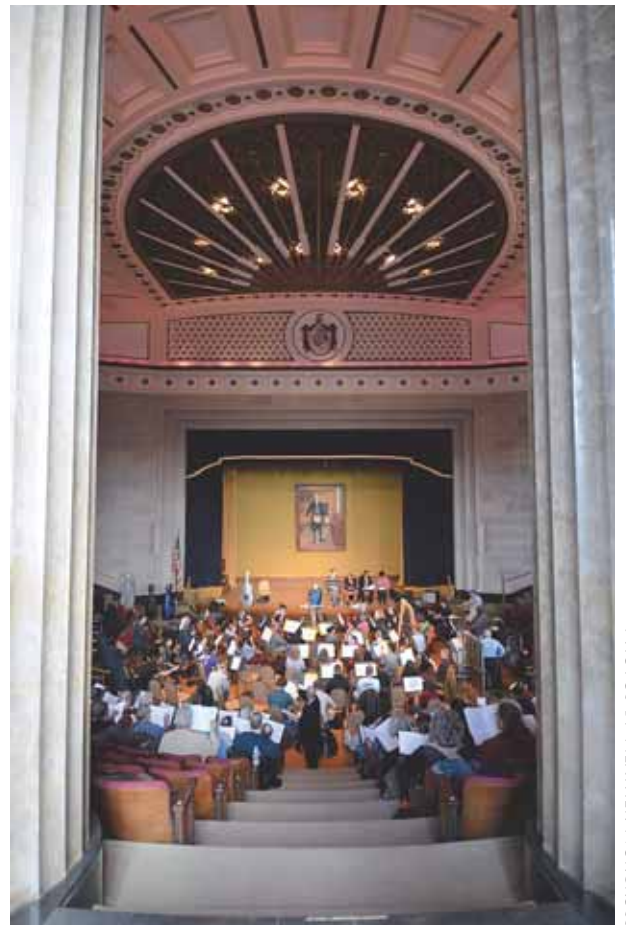
Metro Club After-School Program.



Composer Lawrence Edward Ries follows the musical score as the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic rehearses "Sea Surface Full of Clouds."



Harpist Heidi Sturniolo will join the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic in concert March 30 at T.C. Williams High School.



Members of the NOVA Community Chorus join musicians from the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic for a rehearsal at the George Washington Masonic Memorial.

PHOTOS BY HEATHER NORCROSS

'Sea Surface Full of Clouds'

WMPA, NOVA Community Chorus will debut work of local composer.

BY ROBIN PARKER
WMPA MANAGER

Many of us vividly remember the scene in the movie "Amadeus," where Mozart is hearing the music in his head and furiously scribbling, frantically trying to get his inspiration on paper. Not just a single line of music, but an entire symphony. While Mozart was in a different realm, the ability to create a piece of living, breathing music is something of great beauty.

At a recent rehearsal of the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, composer Lawrence Edward Ries observed the orchestra as it performed his cantata "Sea Surface Full of Clouds." Images of what brought him and his music to this point swirled in the air as Ries witnessed the first moments of his music coming to life.

"My musical goal in 'Sea Surface' is to capture and convey the marvelous verbal, impressionistic and coloristic character of the poem," Ries said of the Wallace Stevens work of the same name. "I am one of those composers who see and hear colors in music. There is so much color in Stevens' poem that it inspired me to write music that attempts to match the colors and images in the poem. The poem is also about light and radiance, some of which I try to capture with the orchestration and some of which I try to capture in the vocal parts."

Ries originally wrote "Sea Surface" in 1986 as a two-piano version, but that changed as the piece evolved.

"I had an orchestration in mind when I wrote it," Ries said. "I wrote all the music sequentially from part 1 to part 5. At the time, I was balancing music composition with being a stay-at-home father caring for our two young children and the piece rested for several decades. But when I retired from my career in the federal government in 2009, I decided to capture the 'Sea Surface' handwritten score on the computer, using a computer music notation program."

The result of this more than 20-year journey will culminate on Sunday, March 30, when the world premiere of "Sea Surface Full of Clouds" will be performed by the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic along with the NOVA Community Chorus. Joining them will be guest soloists soprano Tia Wortham, mezzo-soprano Anamer Castrello, tenor Duane A. Moody and baritone Jason Buckwalter.

The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic and NOVA Community Chorus will perform "Sea Surface Full of Clouds" March 30 at 3 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The concert will also include Rodrigo's "Concerto de Aranjuez" with harpist Heidi Sturniolo and will conclude with Debussy's "La Mer."

Tickets are \$20, 18 and younger attend for free. Purchased tickets at wmpamusic.org or at the door.

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

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

Theater Camp. 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.mvctt.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.

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 28

SWAN Day Performance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Local poet Shelly Bell leads an evening to "Support Women Artists Now," showcasing their work through short performances of poetry, dance, music, and visual arts. A dessert reception follows the performance. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

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 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.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Two More Weekends

The family-friendly classic, "Anne of Green Gables," based on the novel by L.M. Montgomery, continues for two more weekends: Friday and Saturday, March 28-29, and April 4, 5 at 8 pm, and Sunday matinees on March 30 and April 6 at 2 pm. There is a cast and director talk-back scheduled after the matinee on March 30. The show, presented by ACCT (Aldersgate Church Community Theatre), tells the story of the red-headed orphan, Anne Shirley, who charms the brother and sister duo at Green Gables with her wit and imagination. For tickets, visit www.acctonline.org. Tickets are \$12 for youth and seniors, and \$15 for adults. ACCT is located at 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria at the intersection of Fort Hunt and Collingwood roads.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

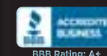


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ENTERTAINMENT



The Metropolitan Chorus of Arlington, with conductor Barry S. Hemphill, will join the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra for two performances this weekend.

'To Change'

Barry S. Hemphill, conductor of the Metropolitan Chorus of Arlington will conduct the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra's upcoming concerts March 29-30 at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in Alexandria and Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna. The concert features the Metropolitan Chorus of Arlington in a performance of Karl Jenkins work "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace." This concert is a part of the ASO's 70th anniversary season.

Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" is among the most performed works by a living composer today. Commissioned by the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds, England to commemorate the millennium, "The Armed Man" honors the passing of the 20th Century, noted as "the most war-torn and destructive century in human history," and dedicated to the victims of the then-ongoing war in Kosovo. The work is a call for peace through combinations of sacred and secular texts from around the world.

Titled "To Change," the March concert also features James Stephenson's "Fanfare for an Angel." The work was dedicated to and inspired by Jeanne Pocius, a trumpet teacher who was working with young musicians in Haiti at the time of the massive earthquake of 2010. "Fanfare for an Angel" was premiered at Logan Airport, greeting Pocius upon her return to the United States, after months of work to rebuild and reorganize her music education program.

WETA commentator Marilyn Cooley once again leads the audience in conversation with Sarah Chang at the ASO's Pre-Concert Chats.

The ASO's 70th anniversary season culminates in May when Maestro Kim Allen Kluge returns to conduct "To Inspire," featuring Beethoven Symphony No. 5 as well as the debut of Anita Johnson, soprano, on works of Mozart, Gounod and Verdi and Matt Johnson, trumpet, on Trumpet Concerto No. 1 by Molter.

Visit www.alexsym.org call 703-548-0885.

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.

Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Barry S. Hemphill, guest conductor will lead the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, featuring the Metropolitan Chorus of Arlington. Free pre-concert chat one hour prior to performance. Reserved seating starts at \$20 adult; \$10 student with ID; and \$5 for 18 and under. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

Victorian American Girl Tea. 2-4 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. Enjoy a children's tea and etiquette lesson, featuring American Girl doll, Samantha. Children will make a craft to take home, and learn about Victorian etiquette and tea customs. \$12 per child, \$5 per adult chaperone. Reservations are required, space is limited. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

Musical Classics. 5 p.m. at First Christian Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. National Men's Chorus, under the direction of Thomas Beveridge, will present "Gilbert & Sullivan and other Classics of the Musical Stage." The program will feature soprano, Debi Smith, and pianist, Thomas Pandolfi. At the door: \$20 (general admission), students and children free. Visit www.nationalmenschorus.org or call 202-244-7191.

MONDAY/MARCH 31

Annual Salute to Women Awards. 6 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Each year, the Alexandria Commission for Women celebrates Alexandria's outstanding women, men, and youth who have made a significant impact on women and girls in Alexandria. This year's networking reception and awards ceremony will be celebrating both the 40th anniversary of the Alexandria Commission for Women and the legacy of Vola Lawson. \$65, proceeds benefit Alexandria's Sexual Assault Program and other women's initiatives. Visit www.alexwomen.com for more.

The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba. Come with or without a partner. Beginner (7-7:45 lesson) and advanced (7:45-8:30 lesson) dancers welcome. Practice 8:30-9 p.m. \$15 per lesson. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

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.alexadriaanimals.org/mardigrowl for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 3

Jazz Concert. 8 p.m., The Lyceum 201 S. Washington Street Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Members of the Airmen of Note presents: An Evening of Jazz: Trumpet/Saxophone Sextet. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

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 for more.

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. Visit <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> for tickets.

Fundraiser. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. The Nelly Custis Chapter of the NSDAR will host a fundraiser to help restore the children's crib at Mount Vernon. Vendors will sell jewelry, handbags, cosmetics, cooking ware, books and more. Cash, check and credit cards will be accepted.

"The Grandest Congress" Meeting. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Major General Edward Braddock, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Forces in North America, has convened a meeting of five colonial governors at John Carlyle's Alexandria home to prepare for the impending French & Indian War. Carlyle will call the meeting "the Grandest Congress...ever known on the Continent." Visit <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> for tickets.

The Civil War Returns. 1-4 p.m., at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Historic Huntley will commemorate its heritage as Camp Michigan — a tenant farm occupied by Union forces during the winter of 1861-62. Join military and farming re-enactors as they demonstrate camp life and how civilians coped with soldiers overrunning their farms. Suggested donation \$5; children 10 and under, free. Rain or shine. Light refreshments. This special event is sponsored by the Friends of Historic Huntley. For more information call Huntley Meadows Park at: 703 768-2525.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Marching Band Concert. 7:30 p.m., at Springbank Auditorium, West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac High School marching band will perform their concert, "March Madness." Free. Visit www.wolverineband.com, or call 703-718-2586.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 26

Book Discussion. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Street. Historian and author Stuart L. Butler will discuss his recent book, *Defending the Old Dominion: Virginia and its Militia in the War of 1812*. \$5 per person, free for Alexandria Historical Society members. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4994.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m., at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 401 Dulany St. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is once again hosting the Mardi Growl Gala, the organization's largest fundraising event of the year. \$85, or \$150 for a pair, with all proceeds benefiting Alexandria's homeless animals. Tickets can be purchased online at www.AlexandriaAnimals.org/ MardiGrowl, or www.alexandriaanimals.org/ MardiGrowl.

Movie Screening. 6:30 p.m. at the Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. The Friends of Duncan Library and The Duncan Library Cinema Club will screen the final film in The Films of Alfred Hitchcock series. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705. After movie discussion at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Call 703-746-1705.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Benefit for Fisher House Foundation. 6:30-10 p.m., at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will host a fund-raising event for the Fisher House Foundation. Proceeds go to Fisher House. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Visit www.nvewda.org or call 703-860-4941.

THROUGH SUNDAY/APRIL 6.

Community Theater. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m., at 1301 Collingwood Road. Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents the premiere of the family-friendly classic "Anne of Green Gables." \$12 for youth and seniors



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6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

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10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm

(en Español); 6:30 pm

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7:30 pm Mass en Español

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SUNDAY/APRIL 6

Pocahontas and John Rolfe

Wedding Celebration.

3-5 p.m. at

Collingwood Library, 8301 E

Boulevard Drive. There will be a talk

by Dr. James Ring Adams about the

life of Pocahontas, followed by a

reception. \$30/person will benefit

NSCDA's American Indian Nurse

Scholarship Fund. E-mail

evelyngriswold@m.com or 703-765-

3655.

Concert.

4-5:30 p.m., at The George

Washington Masonic National

Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Annie

Yu, WTTG-FOX 5's morning anchor,

will host the concert that includes

performances by Metropolitan Youth

Ballet, Metropolitan Youth Tap

Ensemble, MSA's Impulse Jazz

Company, MSA Academy vocalists

and live music by local musicians,

like Voices of Liberty. \$75 per person

or \$100 per couple with proceeds

benefitting MSA's Alexandria studio's

Black Box Theater Project. A

reception will immediately follow at

5:30 p.m. Visit

www.metropolitanarts.org.

Opening Reception.

4-6 p.m. meet

the artists of "Spirit of Place: Dyke

Marsh," an exhibition of photography

by Anthony Peritore and sculptural

works by Megan Peritore in the

Crossroads Gallery, located in

Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads,

3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church.

Free.

Concert.

5 p.m. at Immanuel Church-

on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road.

The EcoVoce Ensemble — an

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EcoVoce teams up with The

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Chorus, in this multimedia concert

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people of South Africa. Suggested

donation \$10. Students \$5. Call 703-

683-0322 or visit www.ecovoce.org.

Spring Forward Fundraiser.

6-9:30

at Union Street Public House, 121 S

Union St. Community Lodgings is

hosting their 9th annual Spring

Forward fundraiser. here will be

cocktails, a buffet dinner, silent

auction, and a short program,

including the presentation of the

Christopher McMurray Award to a

family or child in our Transition in

Place Housing or Youth Education

Programs. \$75/person. Visit

www.communitylodgings.org.

Movie Night.

7 p.m. at Del Ray

Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

Watch "The Thomas Crown Affair."

Free, but donations encouraged.

Register at

www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 7

R.E. Lee Camp Dinner.

6:15 p.m., at

the American Legion Post 24 Hall at

400 Cameron Street. Hear author Ed

Trexler address "Causes of the

American Civil War." \$25, \$30 at the

door. RSVP at 703-299-1725. Checks

should be made out to R.E. Lee Camp

#726 and mailed to 401 Wilkes

Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 and

must be received by April 4. Visit,

www.leecamp.org.

Poetry Reading.

7:30 p.m., in the

Meeting Room of Duncan Library,

2501 Commonwealth Avenue,

Alexandria. The Friends of Duncan

Library and the Duncan Library

Poetry Society will host local

Alexandria poet, Margaret B.

Ingraham reading from her book,

Proper Words for Birds.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 9

Spring2Action. This online giving event helps nonprofits reach fundraising goals. In this 24-hour period, how much can Alexandria raise? Every donation counts. Visit spring2action.razoo.com/giving_events/act14/home for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 10

Trunk Show Kickoff. 7 p.m., at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade retailer on King Street in Old Town Alexandria, is hosting its second annual Fair Trade clothing trunk show through Monday, April 14. Visit www.alexandria.tenthousandvillages.com, www.matatraders.com, www.symbologyclothing.com, or call 703-684-1435.

Concert. 8 p.m., at The Lyceum 201 S. Washington Street, Alexandria. The United States Air Force Band-Members of the Air Force Strings will perform an evening of string music. Free. Visit, www.usafband.af.mil, or call 202-767-5658.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Plants, Food, and Art Market. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The American Horticultural Society will be holding its annual Spring Garden Market at its River Farm. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahs.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

Plants, Food, and Art Market. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The American Horticultural Society will be holding its annual Spring Garden Market at its River Farm. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahs.org.

Round Table Discussion. 10 a.m.-noon at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Discuss "Using Technology to Promote Art." Free, but donations encouraged. Register at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Firefighting History Walking Tours. 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Explore Alexandria's firefighting history through a tour. Learn about three major fires, the five volunteer fire companies and more. For people age10 and older. \$6/adults; \$4/age 10-17. Reservations required, www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse or 703-746-4994.

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Presentation. 2-3 p.m., at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Northern Virginia Geocaching Organization will present an overview of geocaching, a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us, or call 703-746-1702.

Folk Concert. 7 p.m., at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St.. Focus Music presents folk singer David Mallett, with Thomas Gunn. \$25, \$20 for advance sales and members. Visit www.focusmusic.org/concerts_alexandria.php, www.davidmallett.com, or www.thomasgunnnn.com, or call 703-380-3151.

MONDAY/APRIL 14

The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba. Come with or without a partner. Beginner (7-7:45 lesson) and advanced (7:45-8:30 lesson) dancers welcome. Practice 8:30-9 p.m. \$15 per lesson. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The

Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear vibraphonist Gary Burton and pianist Makoto Ozone perform. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Live Music. Lily Costner opens for Kevin Costner & Modern West at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets. Visit www.kevincostner.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Easter Egg Hunt. 3:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street. Children 12 or younger are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults are welcome to enjoy all other activities. \$12 for children aged 0-12, \$5 for others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Easter Egg Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street. All children of elementary school age or younger (children aged 0-12) are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults are welcome to enjoy all other activities. Tickets are \$12 for children aged 0-12, and \$5 for all others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mt Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Liz Longley will open for Johnnyswim. Visit www.lizlongley.com/ or www.Birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Herb and Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax Street. Celebrate spring with the Friends of Carlyle House's Annual Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. Free. Admission for the House tour is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5-12 years old, free for children 4 and under or free with your Alexandria Garden Day ticket. Visit www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park for more.

Firefighting History Walking Tours. 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Explore Alexandria's firefighting history through a tour. Learn about three major fires, the five volunteer fire companies and more. For people age10 and older. \$6/adults; \$4/age 10-17. Reservations required, www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse or 703-746-4994.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Cook Off. Noon-3 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Carpenter's Shelter is bringing together new and old restaurants. Contributions from other organizations help Carpenter's serve more than 1,000 homeless and formerly homeless individuals and families, provide shelter for more than 300 individuals, and open the Homeless Services Assessment Center to serve and place homeless individuals in shelter faster. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Visit www.carpenterscookoff.com or www.carpentersshelter.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 28

Biography Book Club. 7-8 p.m., at the Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid by Bill Bryson. Call 703-746-1751 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPRING FUN

New Food for Spring

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When Dara Yaffe Lyubinsky was growing up in Potomac she always enjoyed cooking, whether it was with her family and friends, or for her synagogue. Today, she's passionate about cooking fresh, seasonal meals.

Lyubinsky, like many chefs and culinary enthusiasts, is looking forward to strolling through farmers markets and creating fanciful spring dishes with the season's freshest bounty, especially as she prepares to return to D.C. from New York. However, she and other chefs are making the most of the available spring produce even if warm weather seems a like a distant dream.

"Since it's still so chilly outside, and the forecast is still calling for snow, we're incorporating some of spring's newest produce into some heartier, cold weather dishes," said Lyubinsky, a professional personal chef and the owner of Tastes Like More Personal Chef Service (www.tasteslikemoreDC.com), a boutique culinary service. She's also a graduate of the Institute of Culinary Education and the University of Maryland, as well as a 2001 graduate of Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville.

One meal that melds comforts of winter with the freshness of spring is vegetable risotto. She combines green, spring veg-

etables with cool, creamy aioli, which she flavors with ramps to combine the best flavors of both seasons.

Although Lyubinsky often cooks for athletes, media personalities, and financiers, her favorite people to cook for are families who simply want to eat more wholesome, carefully-curated, good-for-them food at home.

"...We've been slowly dipping our toes into lighter fare influenced by the beautiful produce that is slowly becoming available as spring tries to fight its way through this seemingly everlasting winter."

— Chef Dara Yaffe Lyubinsky

"We've been slowly dipping our toes into lighter fare influenced by the beautiful produce that is slowly becoming available as spring tries to fight its way through this seemingly everlasting winter," said Lyubinsky.

Among Lyubinsky's most savory transitional meals is a winter recipe makeover: spring vegetable pasta fagioli with pea pesto crostini. She trades winter root vegetables like butternut squash for spring's zucchini and fava beans in this classic soup.

COMBINING THE BOLDLY DIFFERENT tastes of fennel and citrus is also a favorite of Arlington, Va., based chef and instructor Kristen Robinson of The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Washington.

"Fennel: I like to shave [it] thin and prepare a salad of shaved fennel and grapefruit over arugula dressed with lemon juice and olive oil," she said. "I love to fry artichokes and serve [them] with a mint pesto and currants and pine nuts, or braise the artichokes with saffron and dried cherries."

Robinson uses fava beans and peas in spring salads, but she also finds heartier uses for them: "I also like to purée them and use them as a substitute for potatoes and add herbs like parsley or chives." She recommends serving her fava and pea purée with chicken or fish.

In spring, asparagus can often be found roasting in Robinson's kitchen. "I like to roast it in the oven and eat it with ricotta cheese with lemon zest and black pepper," she said. "Sometimes I add a poached egg and call it breakfast."

Nancy Pollard of La Cuisine in Old Town Alexandria, Va., said, "One of the first things

Local chefs offer suggestions for using spring vegetables in cold weather.



Kristen Robinson of The International Culinary School at The Art Institute of Washington enjoys combining the bold flavors of fennel and grapefruit to create spring salads.

I do with spring produce is make some ... risotto. In the next week or so, we'll start seeing more asparagus at farmers markets. I love doing risotto with whatever I can find at the farmers market like asparagus, peas or ramps," she said. "It is great served with grilled fish or grilled meat."

Mount Vernon Rec Center Offers Spring Break Camps

FROM PAGE 1

tact Carl Kirtley at carl.kirtley@fairfaxcounty.gov.

R.O.C.S. CAMP

To coincide with Spring Break, Mount Vernon offers Spring R.O.C.S. Camp the weeks of April 14 and April 21, starting at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday

Spring Hills Celebrates Nutrition Month

Using 21st century technology, the senior residents of Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living, are celebrating National Nutrition Month by creating indoor vertical aeroponic growing systems to harvest homegrown fruits, vegetables and herbs to serve at the dining tables in the senior community.

Aeroponic growing systems are vertical tower gardens that use water and air in sunny indoor or outdoor areas to produce vegetables, herbs or flowers in about half the time of traditional growing locations. Spring Hills Mount Vernon residents, associates and volunteers will tend the state-of-the-art gardening towers as they produce tomatoes, lettuce, basil, peppers, spinach, beans, cucumbers, melons and herbs.

Visit www.springhillsmountvernon.com for more about Spring Hills Mount Vernon.

for ages 6-12. It stands for "Reccenters Offer Cool Stuff" for Spring Break.

"It's a basic camp that gives a synopsis of the entire rec center, including arts and crafts, swimming, ice skating, movies, bowling, baseball games, pizza parties, laser tag, field trips to Shadow Land, Nats Games and Mystics Basketball games," said Camp Director Mike Richards. "We have plenty of opportunities for fun. They get to go ice skating and swimming. We usually have arts and crafts, and kids really love that." For example, five, seven-hour classes are \$225 (in-county) and \$240 (out-county)

TECHNOLOGY & GAME DESIGN CAMP

Mount Vernon Rec Center also offers Technology & Game Design Camp for ages 8-11 where children don't just play videogames, but learn how to create them. The camps run the weeks of April 14 and April 21.

"It's generally a lot of fun," said Richards. "They get to learn new skills and meet new kids. They make games using templates; they can do things with that template like running games, or jumping over obstacles."

Campers will learn the principles behind making 2D arcade and platform games using Multimedia Fusion and Adobe Photoshop as well as build custom characters and produce their own music and sound effects to import into games. The camp offers half-day and full-day options. The cost for five, seven-hour classes is \$495 (in-county) and \$510 (out-county). The half-day option is \$295 (in-county) and \$310 (out-county) for three hours per day.



The Mount Vernon Rec Center offers ice skating classes in the spring.



While everyone enjoyed the treats from the buffet, Bolivian dancers from Tinkus Cochabamba, Virginia, entertained them with a lively folk dance.

Stratford Landing Elementary Hosts Multicultural Night



Reanna Anthony, a 4th grade student, charmed everyone with her Indian Dance performed to the song "Ajab Si."



Adalet Sabit, a Uyghur traditional and professional dancer from East Turkistan. She performed a Uyghur dance for the Stratford Landing community, while wearing traditional dress.



Hidayet Begzad, also from East Turkistan, played traditional Uyghur song called "Fathers." The song was played on a dutar, a traditional Uyghur instrument.



Stratford Landing families filled the school for Multicultural Night on March 14 and enjoyed a buffet of homemade dishes from around the world. Members of the community were asked to bring dishes and wear clothing that represented their culture.



Husband and wife event co-chairmen Michael and Allison Priebe Brooks, pictured with daughter McClain, were happy with the well-attended event.



After dinner, families went into the auditorium to enjoy the music and dance performances. First up were songs by the Stratford Landing 2nd Grade Singers.



A performance by the Boyle School of Irish Dance got the audience clapping. Three of the dancers are Stratford Landing students (Elizabeth Calhoun, Emma Campbell, and Megan Teitel).



New Stratford Landing Principal, Dr. Maureen Marshall, attended Multicultural Night with daughter Paige. They wore Ethiopian clothing in honor of their friends.

PEOPLE

'Mount Vernon Revisited' Captures Community's History

More than 215 images covering 340 years.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS
THE GAZETTE

Whether a history buff or a photography enthusiast, local residents will find something of interest in the newly released "Mount Vernon Revisited."

Journalists Michael K. Bohn and Jessie Biele co-authored the book which features more than 215 photographs, paintings and maps covering 340 years of Mount Vernon's history.

The book is available at Mount Vernon retailers and bookstores and online book outlets such as Amazon.com. It is also available through Acadia Publishing at 888-313-2665 or <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/9781467121132/Mount-Vernon-Revisited>.

"Mount Vernon Revisited" is a part of Acadia Publishing's Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series.

When Biele got the initial call from Acadia Publishing about putting together a book on Mount Vernon's history in 2012, she was very excited.

"Local history is one of my side hobbies. I enjoy learning about towns' backgrounds and so I ended up writing a proposal and sending it off to Acadia and it was accepted. Then I started gathering ideas for the book," she said.

However, Biele began to see what an enor-



Authors Jessie Biele and Mike Bohn

mous undertaking it was after a few months of writing the book. A mutual friend, Glenda Booth, mentioned that she should contact veteran journalist Michael K. Bohn.

"I emailed him and he has been a huge help as a co-author," she said.

During their research, they collected various images of Mount Vernon from the Library of Congress, Fairfax County Public Library, Woodlawn Plantation and the Mount Vernon Estate.

In addition, they also obtained a great deal of their research from Susan Hellman, director of the Carlyle House in Alexandria.

Bohn describes the book as a pictorial journey of how Mount Vernon developed and grew as a community.

"It starts off with Pocahontas and the Colonial Era and then ends up in the 1980s. We also cover major milestones throughout the period such as the coming of the trolley," he said.

According to Biele, the book also allows the reader to "envision everything as their reading it."

Overall it took them three to four months to compile and format the book.

Besides collecting photos, paintings and maps of Mount Vernon, they also gathered stories from the individuals they interviewed during their research.

Biele discussed meeting the former pastor of Woodlawn Baptist, Travis Hilton, who spoke with her about the church's history including how the church was established and the historic cemetery on the church grounds where some of its founding members were buried. Woodlawn Baptist is a part of the Woodlawn Estate. In 1802, President George Washington gifted the estate to his adopted daughter Nellie Custis.

For Bohn, he remembers learning about the Quaker families in Woodlawn during the Civil War. The Union forces camped out at their meeting house and started demolishing their furniture and pews for fire wood. Despite these adjustments, they were able to continue their daily church services and activities.

"Susan Hellman, the current director of the Carlyle House, is related to some of the Quaker families that moved to the area in the 1840s and 1850s from New Jersey. It was neat to talk to someone who has family ties to the area," he said.

Although Long Island native Biele knew a little about Mount Vernon when she started working with the Mount Vernon Patch, she said that writing "Mount Vernon Revisited" has taught her a lot about the historical background of the community she covered.

In fact, two of her favorite Mount Vernon landmarks are Mount Vernon Estate and the Woodlawn Plantation.

"It's gorgeous there (Mt. Vernon Estate).

I love the architecture," she said.

Bohn's favorite landmarks include the old homes that are hidden from public view. On the weekends, he takes seniors from local retirement homes or churches on tours of these historic homes.

One such example is a historic colonial house which once was an inn during the Colonial period which had two entrances, the one for women led to the kitchen and the other for men led to the tavern.

Despite the years, Mount Vernon has managed preserve its historical background. Bohn believes this has been accomplished

by using modern techniques to preserve its historic architecture's "original look."

"There is the Estate, and then behind the Estate are all these tractors, equipment shops and carpenter shops that maintain the Estate. It's a huge campus but not all of it is visible to the public," he said.

For Bohn, writing this pictorial history book was a slight departure from the narrative nonfiction books

he has written in the past. He had to focus on using digital images to create and tell the story.

"We wanted to show the reader what the rest of the Mount Vernon community, beyond just the Mount Vernon Estate, looks like throughout history," he said.

Biele has a M.A. in public communication from American University. She is the former editor of the Mount Vernon Patch. Currently she is working as a communication consultant.

Bohn is a reporter for McClatchy Newspapers, the Washington Post magazine and Connection Newspapers. In addition, he has written six nonfiction books since 2003. Bohn also served as a career naval intelligence officer from 1969 to 1988. Bohn and his family have lived in the Mount Vernon area since 1981.



Wagner Ready for NYU

Centerfielder prepares for baseball in New York.

BY LORI LUSTER
THE GAZETTE

Come August right-handed power hitter David Wagner will be packing his bags and heading to New York University. "I've spent my whole life working towards earning a college baseball career. It was very rewarding to finally reach my goal and play for New York — my top choice. New York is the 'coolest' city in the world."

When asked about his journey through the application and recruiting process, Wagner shared that the past year was stressful. In addition to playing for Coach Jim Sullivan at West Potomac High School, he also played both summer and fall baseball, attended national college prospect camps and played showcase ball.

"I felt a lot of pressure to perform for

all of the coaches watching. It was extremely competitive," Wagner said.

Head Coach Doug Kimbler helped him with NYU every step of the way through the admissions experience.

"This is a very exciting time in David's life. We are thrilled for him," said his mom, Joy.

"My parents have always stressed the importance of taking school as seriously as I take baseball," said Wagner. "APLL also helped set the foundations for me as a player. I wouldn't be the player I am today if it weren't for the coaches who mentored me, the great friends I made, and the passion for the game that was instilled in me."

Alexandria Potomac Little League is known as a boutique league that grooms its players for a life-long love of the game.

Growing-up, Wagner was inspired by the likes of Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz. In his down time he enjoys playing guitar, music by The Doors and Spielberg movies. Starting this week, Wagner will focus on helping the West Potomac Wolverines win their division.



David Wagner

'East-West Dialogue:' An Art Show



PHOTOS BY SALLY B. MACKLIN/THE GAZETTE



A close-up of one of HIRO's works of art.

HIRO, an artist from Hollin Hills, is exhibiting her artwork at Tachibana Japanese Restaurant, 6715 Lowell Ave. in McLean. With her is Sushi Chef Takayuki Ota, nephew of the owner, Chef Eiji Yahashi.

News



PHOTOS BY LASHAWN AVERY-SIMON/THE GAZETTE

Spring Fun

Visitors can pull out their cameras and snap pictures of local wildlife at Dyke Marsh wildlife habitat.



At Gunston Park, visitors can play basketball, soccer and walk their pets to the local dog park.



At Fort Hunt Park, visitors can spend the afternoon exploring the outsides of Batteries Robinson, Sater, Porter, and Mount Vernon, riding bikes and playing volleyball.



PHOTO BY AL DUNN

Basketball Champions

The Fort Hunt Athletic Association fifth grade basketball championship game was played March 15 at Waynewood Elementary School between the North Carolina Tar Heels and Duke Blue Devils. The Tar Heels bested the Blue Devils 24-12 to win the championship game. In front row: Brian Aguilar, Clay Clarke, Jake Cooper and Conner Dunn. Back row: Head coach Graham Smith, Grant Gillinger, Matthew Glaser-Verduin, Benjamin Chambers and assistant coach Peter Shane.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Successful Season

At Stone's Dance Invitational in Centreville on March 15, the Carl Sandburg Middle School Dance Team won 1st place in Pom, and 2nd place in the following categories: Captains, Jazz and Hip Hop. This was the final competition of the season and the team completes the year with two Grand Champion titles, 13 first place finishes, and three second place finishes. The team's graduating 8th graders include: First row (from left): Ashleigh Roddey, Charlotte Anderson, Lauren Williams, Madison Smith and Kate Wimbish. In second row: Kenna McClure, Marissa Nolasco, Nikki Alderman, Kameron Clarke, Connie French, Cassidy Bayer and Rebekah Jenne

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

High School, 6540 Franconia Road, Springfield. Anyone looking for an affordable place to live in Northern Virginia should plan to visit the 2014 Northern Virginia Housing Expo Visit www.NoVaHousingExpo.org for more.

the future of mainline denominations. \$10/person; reservations required: <http://aldersgate.net/upcoming-events>. Contact office@aldersgate.net or 703-765-6555.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

Combat Financial Fraud. 9:30 a.m. at Ernst Cultural Center, NOVA Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Nora Dowd Eisenhower who will discuss the complicated financial decisions about retirement, home equity, long-term care, and financial care taking responsibilities for seniors. Free. Call 703-503-0600.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

"Lunch with the Bishop." 12:30 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church is located at 1301 Collingwood Road. Reverend Dr. William H. Willimon will preach during services at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:15 a.m. At the 12:30 lunch there will be an informal question/answer on



Mount Vernon seniors Samantha Porter (top row, third from the left) and De'Ja Jeanpierre (bottom row, far right) played for the East all-stars during the 10th Suburban Classic on March 23 at Oakton High School.



Mount Vernon senior and East all-star De'Ja "DJ" Jeanpierre, left, dribbles against Centreville senior and West all-star Jenna Green during Sunday's 10th Suburban Classic at Oakton High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

East All-Stars Beat West in Suburban Classic

Mount Vernon's Porter scores 10 points for East team.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Sunday's 10th Suburban Classic started with a 3-point shootout — the perfect competition for West Springfield senior Amy Berglund to show off her sharpshooting skills.

After posting the top score of the first round (19), Berglund won the event with a score of 9 in the finals, beating McLean's Cami Prock, Centreville's Jenna Green and Osbourn's Bailey Dufrene.

Berglund, who scored more than 1,000 points in her high school career, knocked down countless 3-pointers in her four years as a Spartan, but she said performing in front of a small crowd in a quiet Oakton High School gym was more nerve-wracking than playing in a big game.

"My heart was racing, I don't know why," Berglund said. "I was pretty nervous. It was fun. I felt like I was in the NBA all-star [shootout]. My legs got tired in the second round, that's why my score dropped so much, but it was fun."

Berglund's 3-point shootout title preceded the afternoon's main event: the East-West all-star game. Berglund, who plans to play for University of Northwestern St. Paul next season, scored 10 points and helped the East all-stars beat the West 78-64 on March 23.

The Suburban Classic featured some of the top seniors from the 6A North and 5A North regions. The Northern Virginia Women's Basketball Coaches Association sponsored the event and helped raised

scholarship money for athletes.

The East all-stars, coached by Edison's Dianne Lewis, led the West squad, coached by Madison's Kirsten Stone, by as many as 22 points in the second half.

Mount Vernon seniors Samantha Porter and De'Ja Jeanpierre, who helped lead the Majors to the 5A state tournament, were teammates on the East all-star team. Porter, who earned first-team all-state honors, finished with 10 points. Jeanpierre, who will play for Barton College, finished with four points.

Porter, who said it was "wonderful" to get one more chance to be teammates with Jeanpierre, is excited to play college basketball at Christopher Newport.

"Everybody says college ball is way better than high school," Porter said, "so I hope that they're right about it."

T.C. Williams teammates Tykera Carter and Angie Schedler played for the East all-stars, finishing with nine and three points, respectively. Carter buried a 3-pointer and scored on a putback in the fourth quarter, giving the East a 68-49 lead.

Carter and Schedler are undecided about their respective college plans.

"It was great," Schedler said about getting to play one more game with Carter. "I'm going to miss playing with her, a lot."

Prock finished with 12 points for the East and earned team MVP honors. Prock "took a couple emotional days off" following McLean's season-ending loss to T.C. Williams in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament on Feb. 24. Following her decompression session, Prock returned to the gym to work on her game. While her time with the McLean girls' basketball team was over, Prock's hard work paid off a month down the road with a strong performance in the Suburban Classic.

The East all-stars led 34-30 late in the

second quarter. Prock helped the East pull away, though, scoring six points in the final 90 seconds of the first half as the team built a 41-30 halftime advantage.

Prock agreed that the environment was a combination of competitiveness and enjoyment.

"It was definitely a great mixture of both," she said. "I know when I'm competing and having fun at the same time, it's a great feeling."

Prock will attend the College of William & Mary next year and is debating whether to attempt to join the university's basketball team as a walk on.

South Lakes guard Caitlin Jensen, a member of the West all-stars, was another athlete who didn't take long to return to the gym after her high school season had ended. Jensen said she went back to work the following day after the Seahawks lost to Centreville in the regional quarterfinals on Feb. 25.

On Sunday, Jensen led all scorers with 22 points, including four 3-pointers.

"I've been working really hard since the season ended," Jensen said. "It's a great feeling."

Jensen will continue her basketball career next season at the University of Mary Washington.

On this afternoon, she got to play once again with South Lakes teammate Abby Rendle, and with girls she had competed against during her high school career.

"It was a good experience," Jensen said. "It was nice because I've played against these people forever and now playing on the same team with [Centreville point guard] Jenna [Green] and all them, it's a new feel, but I liked it."

Madison senior Katie Kerrigan has also been working hard, but in a different sport. After the Madison girls' basketball team lost

to Stonewall Jackson in the region semifinals on Feb. 27, Kerrigan transitioned to her primary sport of lacrosse, which she will play at Ohio State University. On Sunday, she was back on the hardwood as a member of the West all-stars.

"It was definitely a lot of fun playing with the best players in the region," Kerrigan said. "It's definitely a little hard because I haven't touched a basketball in three weeks. It was fun. It was a great experience. I got to play with a lot of my close friends. It was a great way to end my high school career."

Kerrigan scored six points, played aggressive defense and got to play for Coach Stone one more time.

"It was fun," Stone said of coaching Kerrigan in the all-star game. "She's just a workhorse. You don't really see many of those. ... I turned to the girls on the bench and I'm like, 'I would hate for her to have to guard me.' And they were like, 'it's awful.'"

Amber Bryson (Lee) scored 10 points for the East all-stars. Michelle Noel (Wakefield) and Tatianna Torres (Edison) each had eight. Caitlyn Mandela (Lake Braddock) had four points for the East.

For the West all-stars, Centreville's Green finished with 13 points and earned team MVP honors. Arnelle Collins (Freedom) scored 12 points and Alexia Johnson (Broad Run) had nine. Kayla Hix (Stonewall Jackson) and Bailey Dufrene (Osbourn) each had one point. Freedom's Nicole Lubovich also competed for the West team. Centreville's Katie Blumer was a member of the West all-stars but sat out due to injury.

Lewis, who coached Edison to its second consecutive region championship this season, said allowing players to have fun was a priority, but she takes pride in winning.

"Absolutely," she said. "I hate to lose."

SCHOOLS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Seeing is Believing Division III Team members include: Andrew Hurd, Moises Romero, Nina Shute, Annelieske Sanders, Maddie Finn, Maura Finn and Bersabeh Yirdaw.

On to State Competition

The Odyssey of the Mind Regional Competition was held at West Potomac on Saturday, March 15. West Potomac was well represented by two teams, both of which qualified to compete at the state competition. The state competition will be held Saturday, April 26, at Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount, Va.



The Not-So-Haunted House Division III Team members include: Maria Jensen, Janae Brown, Beth Kanarek, Sam Zuber, Kelsey O'Hern, Wadia Mahzabeen and Steffi Dineros.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Moving On

The Odyssey of the Mind team from Fort Hunt Elementary School was one of the winning teams from the regional tournament on Saturday, March 15 and will go on to the state tournament in April. The team is comprised of 4th grade girls in the Spanish immersion program at Fort Hunt. For their challenge, they created a not-so-haunted house in an evil scientist's lab in Antarctica where they were creating devices to try to scare Santa. The team includes: Bottom row, Carlye Olson and Clara Marshall; seated on chair, Sophia Rees-Hoofnagle; top row, Isabella Gattuso, Evelyn Dunne, Elizabeth Rees (coach), Emily Leahy and Erin Althouse.



PHOTO BY BRYAN LANE

First place

Carl Sandburg Middle School's Odyssey of the Mind team was one of 167 competing in five categories and three age groups. The Sandburg team won first place for their category on Saturday, March 15. They and the other winning teams will go on to compete at the State level in Rocky Mount, Va., on Saturday April 26. Members of the Sandburg team are Coach Debra Lane (center), Sonya Richard, Abbie Weissman, Celia Lane, Magnolia Totaro, Seth Lewis, Muhammed Ali and David Zahniser.

Three To Participate in State Science Fair

West Potomac High School will be represented at the State Science Fair in Lexington, Va., on Saturday, March 29, by Lindsay Kibben, Chris Jones and Lucas Makinen.

Lindsay, a Junior, is sponsored by Garrett Hubbard, physics teacher. She took First Prize in Physics and Astronomy for an experiment she's been developing over multiple years of science fairs that tested truss design and bridge strength.

Chris, a Freshman, is sponsored by Ed Chapman, biology teacher.

Chris received First Prize in Physics and Astronomy for testing the effect of shape and surface area on the initial thrust of solid fuel rocket engines.

Lucas, a Sophomore, is sponsored by

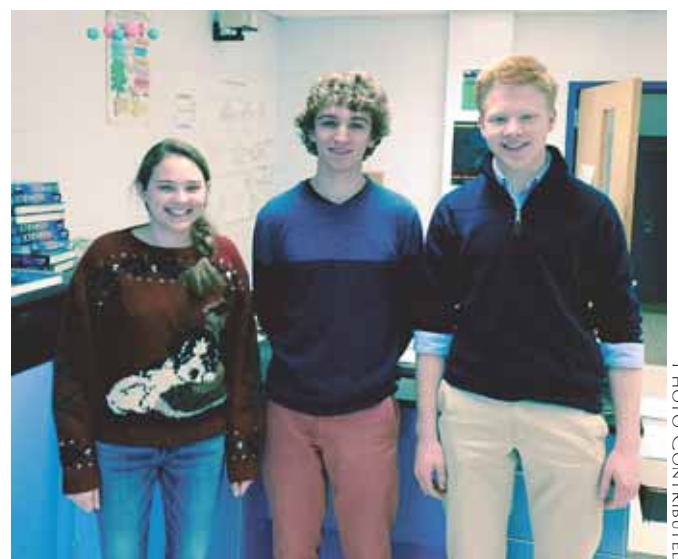


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

West Potomac High school students Lindsay Kibben, Chris Jones and Lucas Makinen are participating in the State Science Fair in Lexington, Va., on Saturday, March 29.

Brian Kerns, chemistry teacher. He earned a First Prize in Earth and Planetary Sciences. Lucas explored simulated variables that affect albedo — the reflection of solar energy off light-colored areas like snowpack and sea ice.

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Healthcare

FROM PAGE 11

Medicaid to the eligible uninsured is political malpractice. Here's why.

Virginia taxpayers are losing \$5 million every day and \$2 billion every year that we do not expand our program. This has cost the state \$400 million as of Sunday and counting.

Expansion would provide insurance to at least 5,000 adults, create 400 jobs, and return about \$24 million to the 44th District alone.

Expanding Medicaid coverage could create 30,000 Virginia jobs.

Closing the gap actually saves Virginia taxpayers over \$1 billion over the next decade because the federal government would be paying for services currently covered by the state General Fund, like uncompensated care at university hospitals, prison healthcare and other programs. Expansion could save \$280 million in this budget cycle alone.

On Monday, Gov. Terry McAuliffe proposed a budget to expand Virginia's Medicaid program and reapply the savings to other programs. He has proposed a 2 percent pay increase for teachers, more money for pre-kindergarten education, mental health, land conservation, and to fully fund our contribution to the Virginia Retirement System.

Virginians are currently sending money to the federal government to fund Medicaid expansion in other states like California, Massachusetts, Ohio and Arizona while leaving Virginians' federal tax dollars on the table.

Expansion will help rein in out-of-control health insurance costs by making preventive care available to people before their illnesses and conditions become exacerbated and more expensive when they cannot pay for care. Today, expenses like uninsured or uncompensated care in hospital emergency rooms are passed along to private insurance payors, thus raising costs for all of us.

Expanding Medicaid is supported by most of the health care industry, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and a bipartisan group of state senators. The only obstruction to making it happen is the Republican Caucus of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Every member of our community deserves the dignity of health care coverage. No one should have to live in fear that an illness will cost them their home or their livelihood.

If you have any feedback, please send me as an email at scottsuovell@gmail.com. It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must include writer's full name. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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21 Announcements

26 Antiques

101 Computers

101 Computers



Gertrude W. Andrews (Trudy)

Gertrude Elizabeth Whitaker Andrews, lovingly known as "Trudy" passed away peacefully on March 19, 2014 in Chicago, Illinois at Sunrise Senior Living of Lincoln Park attended by her son, daughter and grandsons Daniel and Michael. Trudy was born in Norton, VA on October 28, 1923, the youngest child of Joe and Effie Whitaker. She graduated from J.I. Burton High, received an associates degree from Clinch Valley College and worked for First National Bank of Norton. She lived in Kansas briefly, working for the Eisenhower Library before returning to Virginia to work for the Social Security Administration, rising to Disability Adjudicator. After retiring she attained a license and sold real estate until the age of 85. Trudy had a loving and generous spirit and will always be remembered as one who looked for opportunities to serve others. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

She is survived by her loving husband, John Marshall Andrews, of Alexandria, VA; her daughter, Diana S. Phillips of Chicago, IL and son, Robert N. Shell (B.J.) of Houston, TX; sister and best friend, Ethel B. Burton of Big Stone Gap, VA; her grandchildren, A. Daniel Phillips III, (Cary), Michael M. Phillips (Leah); Jon Shell (Janice); Rob Shell (Nadine); Jeff Shell (Harry); Elisabeth Shell; Allison Shell-van Koolwijk (Martijn); Christopher Shell (Crystal); her great-grandchildren, Maddie and Taylor Shell, Halla van Koolwijk, Emily and Nathan Phillips, Jack (Phillips) Brown as well as many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life service will be held at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314 on May 3, 2014 at 11 AM. www.demainefuneralhomes.com The family requests any memorial gifts be made in her name to: Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, DC, 20090 or at www.alz.org

Legal Notices

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

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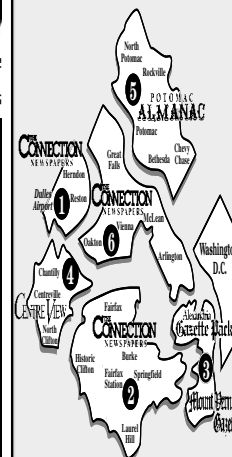
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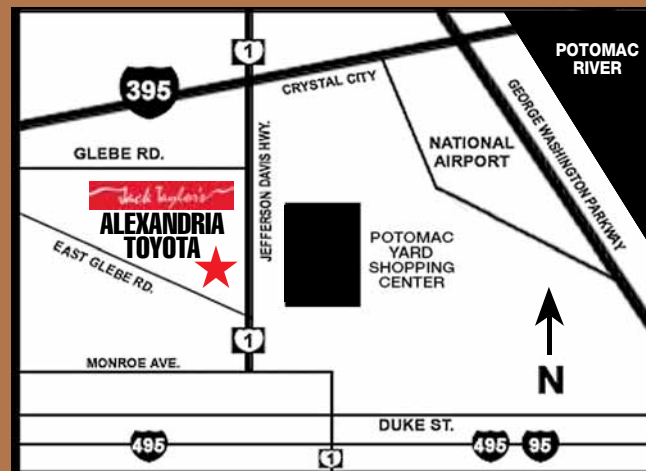
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OPEN
SUNDAY 1-4

Sunroom/Breakfast Room at Rear Elevation • New Hardwood Floors in Formal Living and Dining Rooms • Light-filled Recreation Room with Raised Hearth Fireplace • Four Spacious Bedrooms – Three Full Baths • Brick and Block Construction – Full Masonry Fireplaces • Beautiful in-ground Pool – Manicured Grounds



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**7418
Park Terrace
Drive
\$825,000**

- Almost 1/2 Acre lot with mature and private landscaping
- Solid brick and block construction
- Two masonry fireplaces • Three full ceramic tiled

baths • Upgraded eat-in kitchen features Hickory Cabinetry • Large Formal Rooms • A sunroom addition • Upper level features three generous bedrooms, two with double closets and two ceramic tiled baths • Bright walk-out lower level with large expanses of windows • Enormous family room with corner raised hearth fireplace • Oversized 2-car garage provides space for a workshop.



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Mount Vernon Gazette

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Painting by Torpedo Factory Art Center artist Anna Shakeeva