



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUOGLES/THE GAZETTE

Opening Day

Families and friends filled the West Potomac High School baseball field to cheer on 664 Fort Hunt Little League players during the Opening Day ceremony on Saturday, April 5.



Fort Hunt Little League President Barry Meuse served as emcee. The league gave Del. Scott Surovell, a former league member, a new ball cap when he finished speaking to the players.



Emily Carbone, a West Potomac High School student, sang the National Anthem at the ceremony. Also, joining the event was the school's baseball team, many of whom once played for Fort Hunt Little League.



Paul Murphy, joined by his family (right), was presented with the Massey Award as Volunteer of the Year.

Summit Examines Economic Outlook

Federal government jobs down, lower-wage jobs up.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Experts on the local economy and housing discussed the economic forecast for the Route 1 area and beyond at this year's Economic Outlook Summit, hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

David Versel of the George Mason Center for Regional Analysis said that in the wake of the recession, there has been a continuing decrease in federal jobs.

"Federal government cutbacks that began in 2010 with the end of the economic stimulus have continued," Versel said.

The area is now facing 22,000 fewer federal jobs than existed three and a half years ago, Versel says. Since its peak in 2010, federal employment has dropped by five percent. However, this is not because of mass layoffs, but be-

cause of attrition.

"Jobs get vacated, people retire, and they aren't being backfilled," Versel said.

Federal procurement, which Versel described as the driver of the area's economy, has decreased as well.

"We are now down about \$11 billion in federal contracting activity in 2013 from where we were in 2010," Versel said. "14 percent of our federal procurement economy has evaporated in the last three years."

According to Versel, the private side has not responded very well to the wake of the recession.

"As a February of this year, we've actually only added back 170,000 jobs from the end of the recession. We lost 178,000 jobs during the recession," Versel said. "On a net basis, we are down 8,000 jobs from where we were six years ago in 2008 when the recession began. That is not good news."

SEE ECONOMIC, PAGE 26

Commission Approves EnviroSolutions Application

Application will be reviewed by Board of Supervisors.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

An application to extend the operation of the EnviroSolutions owned landfill in Lorton has been approved by the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

Commissioners voted 6-4 on April 3 to approve the application to continue the landfill's operation. The application includes a

green energy park proposal in exchange for the landfill remaining open until 2040.

"The vote last night on the amended application is an important step forward for this transformational opportunity for renewable energy in Fairfax County," said Conrad Mehan, EnviroSolutions' director of government relations, in a press release. "The commission's vote vali-

SEE LANDFILL, PAGE 14

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At their 2014 Generation to Generation Gala, SSA honored Patty Moran and her daughter Kate; Lonnie Rich and Marcia Call, and his daughter Sarah, who lives in Belgium.



Pictured left to right: Kate Moran, Mary Lee Anderson (Director, SSA), Patty Moran, Mayor Bill Euille (guest), Gregg Murphy (Chair, SSA BOD), Lonnie Rich, Mattie Rich, Marcia Call, Meg Rich (guest). Photographer: Wayne Hulehan.



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News



Students pose in heritage costumes during International Night at Hybla Valley Elementary. The evening celebrated many cultures of the school community.



Two sisters came out to the event in traditional Japanese wear to support their brother, who attends the school.



Two students represent the nation of Ghana at their table which displayed heritage items from the country. In the background was their mother. Flags from several nations also lined the walls.

International Night at Hybla Valley

Hybla Valley Elementary held an International Night on Thursday, April 3. Student-made decorations were used by the physical education, art and music teachers to transform the hallways into several Halls of Nations. Even the ceiling was lined with kites inspired by international cultures.

School parents built an archway leading to the gymnasium of blue balloons

with flags from nations around the world. The international influence was everywhere: flags covered the walls of the cafeteria and tables were lined up along the room with cultural showcases that included clothes, décor, jewelry, reference books and more from around the world. Many of the parents brought the artifacts directly from home. Among the nations represented were Japan, Sierra Leon, Greece, Ethiopia, the Honduras, El Salvador, Mexico and China.

A Chinese dragon led the parade of nations through the school hallways.

Festivities included games, dances, mud prints, a labyrinth, pottery making and music from various cultures. Tinikling, a dance from the Philippines done with bamboo poles, was a particular highlight. Everything displayed and showcased was a product of the students and parents.

— VERONICA BRUNO



A table display for Pakistan included reference books on the culture, a World Cup jersey, brightly colored jewelry and other collectibles and decorations. Clothing and the flag of Pakistan adorned the wall behind.

Longtime Mount Vernon Resident Sally Kiefer Remembered

Kiefer described as “enormously dedicated.”

Sally Kiefer, an active citizen in the Mount Vernon District, died on Wednesday, March 26 of metastatic colon cancer.

Kiefer was remembered as a dedicated community member and inspiring person. She served on the board of directors for her building, River Towers, and from 1995 to 1997 served as the board president. At the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, she represented Rivers Towers. She remained on the board of directors for her building until only two weeks before her death.

Ron Fitzsimmons, co-chair of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, described Kiefer as a “tenacious advocate for Democratic values” who was always handing out literature in the community.

“She certainly will be sorely missed,” Fitzsimmons said.

She was a dedicated member of the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee, and put a great deal of time volunteering for candidates in the area.

“Sally was a reliable and faithful Democrat, a worker who would do whatever was needed,” said Del. Scott Surovell.

She also served as a precinct captain for the Belle Haven polling place.

“Sally was very sincere, hard-working, and worked for a variety of different causes. She was a reliable and committed person,” said Mary Paden, a friend from the Mount Vernon Democratic Committee. “She never got upset or angry about things.”

According to those who knew

her, she loved to garden. She was also a member of the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

“Sally Kiefer was an enormously dedicated member of the Mount Vernon Democratic Committee. She was always the first person to volunteer and did whatever was asked of her with great good cheer and dedication,” said state Sen. Toddy Puller. “Even through her illness she stepped up to do what she could. She kept herself extremely well informed and greatly enjoyed good political discourse. Mt. Vernon Democrats will miss her very much, and so will I.”

A memorial service for Kiefer was held on Saturday, April 5 at Dahlgren Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Georgetown University, where she had been a member for 40 years.



U.S. Rep. Jim Moran and Michael Arnold with Sally Kiefer. Kiefer was described as an active and dedicated person who always helped others.

“I really liked Sally and was always glad to see her. She was engaging and always a bit outraged about something or other, and I liked that about her; she was a fighter,” said Michael Arnold, the

former precinct captain at Belle Haven.

Kiefer is survived by loving family, including her goddaughter Nancy Piness.

— JANELLE GERMANOS

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PEOPLE

Have Harmonica, Will Mentor

94-year-old Jack Hopkins hosts weekly gathering.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE GAZETTE

There are harmonicas that fit into pant pockets and there are harmonicas two feet long. There are harmonicas for guitar accompaniment and harmonicas designed for orchestras. Alexandria resident Jack Hopkins, co-founder of the 23-year-old Capitol Harmonica Club, has at least 16 different types and has been playing since he was six years old. The instrument has taken him to a variety of places and brought him a number of opportunities.

Hopkins hopes to spread his love of the harmonica beyond current club members. The Capitol Harmonica Club is open to new members and meets every Tuesday evening at Wesley Methodist Church. Hopkins looks forward to the day when the harmonica is the next big thing in modern music.

"I hope it will come back," Hopkins said. "All it takes is one or two people who are top notch players, repeated over the radio or seen on television."

Hopkins, who will be 94 this month, still recalls the plastic toy he mastered when he was a small child.

"It was a little plastic harmonica, like a toy," Hopkins said. "I found that I could get a scale on it, and figured that I should be able to play a tune. So I just fiddled around with it until I could, which rather astonished my unmusical father, so he did buy me a better one, one with sharps and flats."

Thus began Hopkins' lifelong relationship with the harmonica. He took piano lessons and played the flute and piccolo as a child, but the harmonica is the instrument he could never really put down.

EVEN AFTER World War II, when harmonicas were scarce due to the U.S. boycotting German goods like Hohner harmonicas, Hopkins picked the instrument back up when he once again had the time and access.

Although he resumed harmonica playing post World War II, he said he did not pursue formal training until he settled in the Washington D.C. area in 1964. While he could find no local teachers at the time, he did find an opportunity to launch himself into a world of fellow harmonica enthusiasts.

"I was having a harmonica in for repair and it came back with an announcement for a conference in New York City," Hopkins said. "All it cost was \$50 plus

Details

The Capitol Harmonica Club meets every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall of Wesley Methodist Church, 8412 Richmond Ave.

room and board which I thought was pretty remarkable."

While surrounded by experts at the New York City conference, Hopkins learned that he taught himself well and had developed proficient skill. With some help from musicians he met in New York City, he went back to the Washington D.C. metropolitan area armed with the skills and techniques to offer lessons locally. He wanted to offer the services he hadn't been able to find as a harmonica student.

"I came back and offered to start teaching," Hopkins said. "For a while I taught with Fairfax County recreation programs, and then in Arlington

County, and then at Northern Virginia Community College. I was teaching the reading of notes as well as the instrument."

IN THE EARLY 1990S, Hopkins started the Capitol Harmonica Club with two other enthusiasts. The club is one of three harmonica clubs in Virginia that supports the annual Virginia HarmonicaFest, the state's event for harmonica mu-

sicians and fans.

"There were no harmonica clubs around here, and I was fortunate enough to find another gentleman who played the chromatic harmonica," he said. "Then we found a third and the three of us got together and found the Capitol Harmonica Club. That was 23 years ago. Unfortunately many members have become ill, some have died, and others have otherwise left."

The club is now two members strong, meeting weekly to jam, and they are eager to mentor anyone with interest.

What people don't necessarily realize, Hopkins explained, is the harmonica is a versatile instrument. Where most people start out with a diatonic one, with an eight-note scale and no sharps and flats, there are harmonicas made to play classical music, to play blues music, and the list goes

on. He, for example, is partial to classical music.

"People who play the standard harmonica enjoy playing alone or with guitar complement," he said. "I enjoy playing orchestration. I like playing classical music on the chromatic harmonica."

The toy that Hopkins' parents tucked into his stocking more than 80 years ago has become a passion, a door to opportunities and a way to meet and entertain people everywhere he has lived. He used to play the harmonica during baptisms at Wesley United Methodist Church and he now entertains fellow residents of Westminster at Lake Ridge, a retirement community where he has now settled. Perhaps it has even kept him young.

"I don't feel 94 years old," Hopkins said. "I have more vitality. People ask me if I have been playing harmonica all of my life, and I say, 'not yet.'"



Jack Hopkins

"People ask me if I have been playing harmonica all of my life, and I say, 'not yet.'"

— Jack Hopkins



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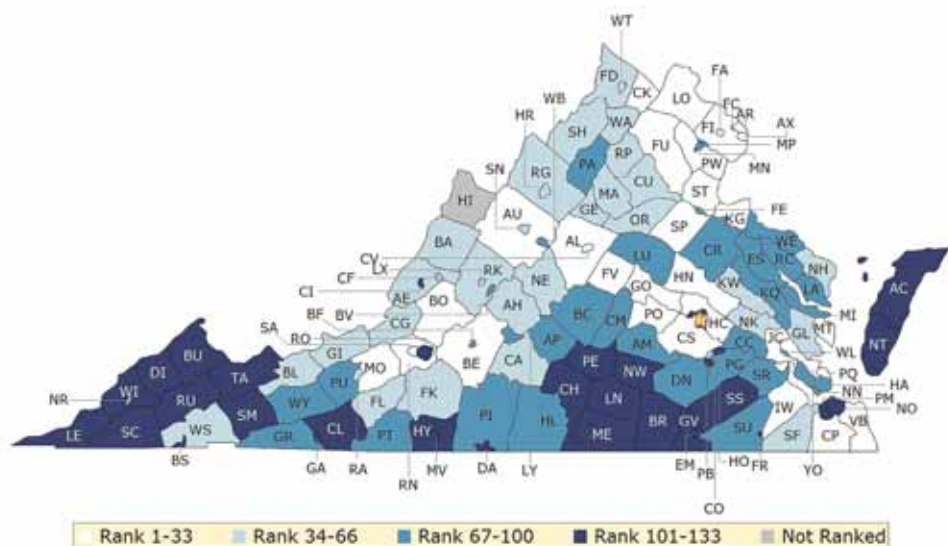
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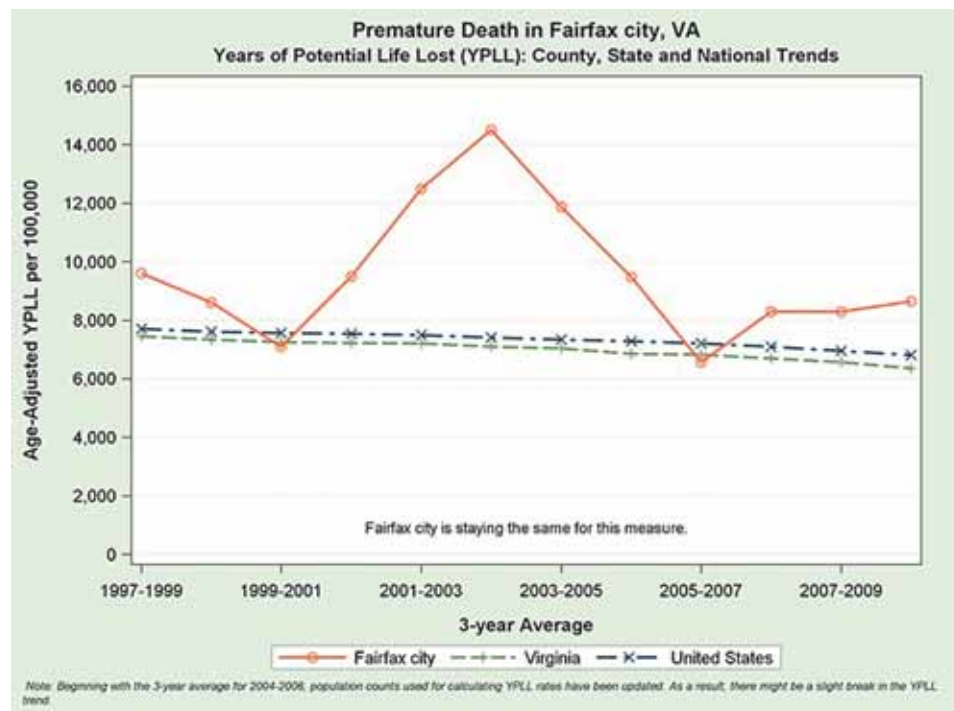
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COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

A map of Virginia rates health factors, including everything from high-school graduation rates and obesity to smoking and unemployment.



COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

Premature death in Fairfax City is calculated by looking at years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people, but health officials in Fairfax City say the data is flawed.

How Healthy Is This Neighborhood?

New study reveals some parts of Northern Virginia are healthier than others.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Alexandria has the lowest rates of smoking in Northern Virginia, but it also has the highest rates of excessive drinking. Fairfax City has the highest rates of physical inactivity, although Fairfax County enjoys one of the lowest rates of premature death. Manassas City has the highest rates of sexually transmitted diseases in Northern Virginia. Arlington County has the highest rates of physical activity and therefore the lowest rates of obesity.

Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin. "It's a way to think about what we can do collectively to improve these areas."

The annual rankings measure everything from high-school graduation rates and obesity to smoking and unemployment. The goal is to reveal a snapshot of how health is influenced by where people live. Organizers say the point is to help communities have a discussion about how they can use the data to make changes. Even when the numbers are good — low obesity rates in Arlington and Alexandria, for example — that doesn't mean a community should become complacent.

"That's still one out of five people who are obese," said Van Dijk. "So while it's encouraging, I don't think we have a lot to celebrate there."

SOME OF THE STATISTICS are controversial, especially in Fairfax City. For example, one of the data points in the report measures premature death. That's a figures calculated by looking at years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people. According to the report, Fairfax City has the highest rate of premature death in Northern Virginia at 8,652 years lost.

That's the highest rate in Northern Virginia, and one of the highest rates in Virginia. But is it accurate?

"The data on which the rankings are based is inaccurate for several reasons," said Louise Armitage, human services coordinator for Fairfax City in an email. "The main reason for the erroneous data is that the state health department continues to uti-

lize ZIP code to assign jurisdiction of residency even though ZIP codes are not discrete to the city or to the county."

Armitage says an audit of deaths in Fairfax City deaths shows serious irregularities. In 2008, for example, one audit showed 276 out of 417 recorded deaths in Fairfax City over a four-year period were actually city residents. As a result, only 34 percent of deaths that are reported to have taken place in Fairfax City actually happened in Fairfax County. Because of the small size of Fairfax City and the frequent confusion with Fairfax County, many of the statistics can be problematic. Armitage says she has raised these concerns with the researchers who compiled the report, who say they are hoping to refine the data in the future to make it better.

"I don't have any problems with her assessment," said Amanda Jovaag, an associate researcher with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. "That seems perfectly reasonable to me."

NORTHERN VIRGINIA fares well overall when compared to the rest of the commonwealth. The top three healthiest jurisdictions are in Northern Virginia: Loudoun County, Fairfax County and Arlington County. The top 10 includes Alexandria and Manassas Park City. Health officials warn that the statistics can be misleading, though, and that people should not become complacent.

"Many of us who work in human services get concerned when we sort of pat ourselves on the back and say, 'Oh look, our percentages are so low. Isn't that wonderful?'" said Marlene Blum, a member of the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board. "We are an affluent community, and we're a highly educated community. But not everybody is doing well."

Some of the health concerns in Northern Virginia are emblematic of the kinds of problems in other communities in America that have well-educated people. For example, Alexandria has the second-lowest number of people who smoke cigarettes in Virginia overall and the lowest number of smokers for Northern Virginia. But it has the sixth highest rate of excessive drinking in Virginia and the highest rate of excessive drinking in Northern Virginia.

"Better educated people often drink but don't smoke. Cocktails are more acceptable than cigarettes."

— Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin

"Better educated people often drink but don't smoke," said Van Dijk. "Cocktails are more acceptable than cigarettes."

SOMETIMES THE NUMBERS show trends in combination. For example, Manassas City has the highest rate of children who live in poverty in Northern Virginia. It also has the highest teen birth rate per 1,000 female population. Researchers say these two data points speak to each other.

There's probably some linkage there," said Van Dijk. "We know that if mom has a baby as a teenager, the likelihood that child will be raised in poverty will be much higher."

"This is an annual checkup of your community's health. It's a way to think about what we can do collectively to improve these areas."

— Julie Willems Van Dijk, deputy director of County Health Roadmaps at the University of Wisconsin

These are some of the findings of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, a collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute.

"This is an annual checkup of your community's health," said Julie



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Sunday, April 20

7:00 a.m....Sunrise Worship at Mt. Comfort Cemetery (6600 S. Kings Highway)
Our 60th year!
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The Rev. Karl K. Schmidt
8:24 and 10:54 a.m...Music of the Resurrection
8:30 and 11:00 a.m...Festival Worship

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The Mount Vernon Gazette,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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 started 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. Bring Government-issued picture IDs, and social security cards for all persons that will be included in your tax return. Also bring a printed copy of last year's tax return, if you itemized. Located at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Mondays-Saturdays from 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m. and Mondays-Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. Walk-ins welcome. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide for additional information.

THURSDAY/APRIL 10

Legislative Wrap Up. 6:30-8 p.m. at the Huntington Community Center, 5751 Liberty Drive. Del. Rob Krupicka will discuss this legislative session and the ongoing budget process. Visit <http://krupicka.ngpvanhost.com> for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 11

Business Financing & Microlending. 8:30-10 a.m. at SpringHill Suites, 6065 Richmond Highway. Learn the best ways to juggle risk, loans and investments from experts who have dedicated their careers to helping small (or rather, "significant") businesses get started and expand. Panelists include Rodney Loges of One Degree Capital and Karlene Sinclair-Robinson of the Business Finance Center of Community Business Partnership. Coffee and light breakfast will be served. Free. RSVP at info@sfdc.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 12

Easter Egg Hunt. 10 a.m. Bucknell Manor Park on Beacon Hill Road. 10:00 AM. For boys and girls up to grade 4. Children will be divided into four age group categories. Rain date April 19. Sponsored by Groveton Baptist Church. Visit grovetonbaptistchurch.org.

Community Office Hours. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, in Conference Room 3. Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District School Board Member, invites members of the community to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant, Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu.

Native Plants Gardening. 1 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Green Springs Master Gardeners discuss Virginia native plants and the benefits to planting them. Call 703-768-6700.

Candidate Forum. 4-6 p.m. at the Mount Vernon High School Little Theater, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. The first public forum for Democratic primary candidates in the 8th Congressional District hoping to replace U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, who is retiring, is sponsored by the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee. Free, open to the public. Voters can meet the candidates in a brief reception following the forum. Visit <http://mvdemocrats.com>.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Antiques Event. 9:30-11 a.m. at

Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Sharon Frazier and Linwood Smith will display and discuss their collection of miniature wooden buildings, including old Alexandria businesses. Call Ann Connell at 703-360-4979.

TUESDAY/APRIL 18

Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, room 112, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon Genealogical Society meeting will feature a presentation entitled "Experiences of a Young Waist Gunner in WW II" by Ray Bailey. What was it like for an 18-year-old high school graduate from a small Ohio town to go off to war, fight the Germans and survive his plane "going down?" Visit www.MVGenealogy.org. Questions about the program should be directed to Karen Jenkins at 703-866-2478 or publicity@mvgenealogy.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Boater Education Course. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary offers a course that meets the boating education requirements of all states. Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia require completion of an approved course to legally operate a motor boat. Contact Rich Miller at eaglesailor75@cox.net or 703-780-3765.

TUESDAY/APRIL 22

Community Information Session. 10:30 a.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Overview of Mount Vernon, including membership and volunteer opportunities. RSVP to 703-303-4060 or info@mountvernonathome.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 23

Chamber of Commerce

Anniversary. 6:30-9 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber will recognize 60 years of contributions to the community, with speaker Supervisor Jeff McKay. \$40. Visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Candidate Forum. 7-9 p.m. at Antioch Church of Christ, 1120 Queen St. Candidate forum for 8th Congressional District sponsored by Alexandria NAACP. Visit www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Garden Art Presentation. 2 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will present about garden art, ornaments and kitsch. Call 703-765-3645.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27

Park Cleanup. 12:30 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Removal of invasive species and cleanup of debris from the four historic artillery batteries. Adult volunteers will also be performing similar tasks, as well as registering volunteers and handling overall logistics. Registration will begin at 12:30 p.m.; the cleanup will conclude at 4 p.m. with a closing ceremony. To volunteer, contact Owen Hammett at owenhammett@cox.net or 703-339-6539.

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Mount Vernon Gazette

Thank you to the hundreds of caring community members & supporters who joined us to celebrate our anniversary! You helped raise over \$170,000 to provide a brighter future for families struggling to achieve success!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

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The Decades Dance was held in the school gym, decorated for celebrating Stratford Landing's 50th Anniversary. Students, many dressed for the theme, enjoyed dances like the "Cha Cha Slide" and the "Chicken Dance."

Spring Fling at Stratford Landing



Stratford Landing Principal Dr. Maureen Marshall, dressed for the Decades Dance, greeted families as they arrived for the annual Spring Fling on Friday, April 4.



Root beer floats were a big hit with everyone, including Caroline.

PHOTOS BY
RENÉE RUGGLES
THE GAZETTE



A photo booth inspired fun and creativity.

This notification is to inform
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Maundy Thursday, April 17 –
7:30 p.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church
Good Friday, April 18 – 7:30 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church

EASTER SUNDAY • April 20

Sunrise Service – 6 a.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church
Easter Service (Traditional) – 10 a.m. at Nativity Lutheran Church
Easter Service (Family) – 10 a.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church

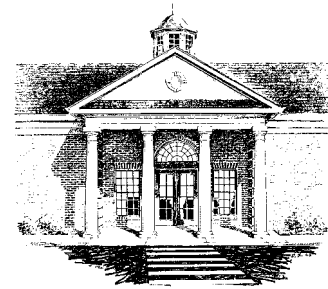
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OPINION

Connection Papers Win Awards

Reporting, photography, design and editorial cartoons commended at annual Virginia Press Association meeting.

“Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.”

That was what the judge said when awarding first place for In-depth or investigative reporting to Michael Lee Pope in the Arlington Connection.

The Virginia Press Association announced its press awards for 2013 at the annual meeting on Saturday, April 5, in Richmond.

Pope also won first place for education writing, for business and financial writing, and awards for health, science and environmental writing and for government writing. Stories appeared in the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Connection papers.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for general news writing for her coverage of the proposed roundabout in Centreville. “Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong,” wrote judges.

Jeanne Theismann won first place for public safety writing and for public service writing in the Alexandria Gazette Packet.

Connection Newspapers won first place for information graphics for the 2013 Insiders Guide to Fairfax County Parks, designed by Jean Card with photos by Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel.

First place for special sections went to the Connection’s HomeLifeStyle pullout.

Victoria Ross won for feature series/continuing coverage for coverage of foster care. Judges note: “Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.”

Ross also won for personal service writing for her coverage of “digital legacy,” and control of one’s online content after death.

Cartoonist Steve Artley began cartooning for

the Alexandria Gazette Packet in December 2013, with only three cartoons in the year, but two of them won awards. His cartoon on the threatened use of eminent domain in the City of Alexandria drew this comment from the judge: “One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher.”

Alex McVeigh won an award for investigative or in-depth reporting in Great Falls. Donna Manz won for her feature stories in Vienna.

The annual Insiders/Newcomers edition of the Alexandria Gazette Packet won third place for special edition, including work by Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner and Jean Card.

Editorials written by Mary Kimm won second and third place awards.

For a complete list, see www.connectionnewspapers.com

Winners

FIRST PLACE

First Place for Investigative Reporting, Uncovering Secret Government. Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection — Judge’s comment: Great work exposing serious challenges and obstacles in the way of the public’s access to public information. The articles are well written and well researched, providing concrete and compelling examples of the flaws in the systems.

First Place for Education writing. Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Alexandria Education Dollars. Judge’s comment: This is by far the best entry in the contest. Michael Lee Pope wrote several strong articles on the cost of administration in his market. He did a very nice job of making a numbers story interesting.

First Place for Business and Financial writing. Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette

— Judge’s comment: The story about car title loans offers an interesting look at this industry, which is proliferating due to a change in state law. Kudos for looking at how much the industry contributes to state legislators’ political campaigns. Business taxes — is it fair to charge higher rates for certain professions? Pope provides a balanced look at the pros and cons. The story on a transit study covers the debate over urban vs. rural development in Mount Vernon. Pope combines thorough reporting with competent writing.

First Place for Public Safety Writing, Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Creative, compelling ledes.



Michael Lee Pope



Steve Artley



Bonnie Hobbs



Victoria Ross



Jean Card



Mary Kimm

First Place for General News Writing, Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View — Judge’s comment: The creative lede pushed this one over the top. Good work getting all viewpoints of the issue without assigning judgment to who is right and who is wrong.

First Place for Personal Service Writing. Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge’s comment: Each story is an interesting and vivid snapshot of the deceased with good use of quotes and anecdote to bring the subject’s personality to life and also convey why he or she was valued in the community. It is hard to write about someone who has died in a way that is upbeat and positive, but this writer has achieved this.

First Place for Informational Graphics for Insiders Guide to the Parks, Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel, Mount Vernon Gazette — Informational graphics: Fairfax County parks.

First Place for HomeLifeStyle, Mary Kimm, Laurence Foong, Geovani Flores, Marilyn Campbell, John Byrd, Tim Peterson and Jean Card, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Specialty pages or sections: Judge’s comment: Clean design and easy to read. Choice of fonts work well together.

SEE VIRGINIA, PAGE 11

Mother’s Day Photos

Mother’s Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother’s Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.)

Send photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Readers can also submit poetry, poetry about mothers and photos celebrating mothers directly through our website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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A Connection Newspaper



Virginia Press Association Awards

FROM PAGE 6

OTHER AWARDS:

Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations — Eminent Domain. Judge's comment: One of the best examples of editorial cartooning I have seen in years and reminiscent of editorial cartoons poignant and relevant enough to still be included in history texts today. Wonderful use of the paper boat as the flagship of eminent domain with tons of little touches which push the entry even higher. In-depth, investigative reporting, Alex McVeigh, Great Falls Connection — Judge's comment: Great work continuing to follow an important environmental story that had the potential for far-reaching impacts. These articles also do a good job explaining the nature of the underground contamination and, in understandable terms, the geology behind the way they spread.

Alexandria Gazette Packet, Insiders/Newcomers Guide. Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner, Jean Card, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: A good package of information for newcomers. A good array of photos of community members.

Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Good solid stories on interesting subjects. A lot of good historical background adds significantly to the sterilization story. The lead on the chicken story was very good.

Government Writing, Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Judge's comment: We preach to our reporters to follow the money. Michael Lee Pope does great job of following the money trail to great news stories. Continue to keep them honest.

Feature Series/Continuing Story, Victoria Ross, The Burke Connection — Feature series or continuing story. Judge's comment: Fantastic blend of fact and narrative, and it packs an emotional punch. The stories are very well-researched, tightly written and highly effective.

Personal Service Writing, Victoria Ross, The Fairfax Connection. Judge's comment: Good job using the individual story and relating it to the wider issue. Would have liked more follow-up details about whether the social media companies are complying with the law and what the parents found on the son's social media sites.

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria

Gazette Packet — Column writing. Judge's comment: These columns were well written and informative as well as entertaining.

Editorial writing. Mary Kimm, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Editorial writing. Judge's comment: Very well done. Writer does an outstanding job presenting the paper's stance on the issues of the day. Editorial writing. Mary Kimm,

The Fairfax Connection — Judge's comment: These editorials were articulate and to the point.

Education writing: Michael Lee Pope, The Arlington Connection — Judge's comment: Concise, well put thoughts.

Page Design, Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette — Judge's comment: Good job taking something that can be boring and hard to fol-

low and making it interesting and easy to navigate.

Cartoon, Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Illustrations. Judge's comment: The shackles of the tea party! Ol' Ebenezer Elephant will be surely listening for the chimes of the hour after this ghost appeared before the foot of his bed. Fantastic work all the way around.

Feature photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Summer Fun. Judge's comment: Sweet found moment.

Feature writing portfolio Donna Manz, Vienna/Oakton Connection — Feature writing portfolio. Judge's comment: Powerful ledes (and a great one for the 'puppies' story) and captivating narratives. Well-informed and well-written.

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PALM SUNDAY | APRIL 13

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6:30pm (Spanish)

7:30, 9:00, 10:30am, 12:00pm, 6:30pm
2:00pm* (Spanish)

HOLY THURSDAY | APRIL 17

7:30pm Evening Mass of the
Lord's Supper (bilingual)

GOOD FRIDAY | APRIL 18

12:00pm Stations of the Cross
12:30 - 1:30 Confessions

3:00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
6:00pm Live Via Crucis (Stations of the Cross)
(bilingual)

7:30pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
(Spanish)

HOLY SATURDAY | APRIL 19

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:30 - 10:30am Confessions

8:30pm Easter Vigil Mass (bilingual)

EASTER SUNDAY | APRIL 20

7:30, 9:00*, 10:30am*, 12:00noon

2:00pm* (Spanish)

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY LIZ SCHROEDER AND ROSEY CARMICHAEL

The kindergarten class of St. Aidan's Day School held its annual circus for the 10th year on Friday, April 4. There were tightrope walkers, strongmen, elephant, lions, tigers, a lion tamer and clowns. Matt Schroeder, a parent of student Evan Schroeder, was the Ringmaster and Sandy Boden was the head clown.



Lion Tamer Rachel Jurta and her lions and tigers



Strongman, Nicolas Reis, was able to lift 200 pounds with one hand.

Storck To Host Office Hours

Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District School Board member for Fairfax County Public Schools, will host Community Office Hours at the Lorton Library in the Conference Room on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. to noon and at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3, on Saturday, April 12, from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment is necessary.

Democrats Host Forum for 8th District

The first opportunity for voters to question the 10 candidates on the ballot in the 8th Congressional District Democratic primary will be at a forum Saturday, April 12 sponsored by the Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee. The primary is June 10.

George Burke, the Virginia Democratic Party's 11th Congressional District chair, will moderate the forum.

The forum is free and open to the public, from 4-6 p.m., April 12, at the Mount Vernon High School Little Theater, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road.

The format will include questions concerning 8th District, national, and international issues, as well as on candidate interests and

effectiveness. Some questions will be in a "rapid-fire" format while others will allow up to one-minute answers. Questions will also be taken from the audience.

The seat is open because longtime U.S. Rep. James Moran (D) announced his retirement.

Candidates include former Virginia lieutenant governor Don Beyer; former Northern Virginia Urban League president Lavern Chatman; state Sen. Adam Ebbin; Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille; state Del. Charniele Herring; state Del. Patrick Hope; Satish Korpe, director of the Democratic Business Council of Northern Virginia; radio talk-show host Mark Levine; Virginia Tech professor Derek Hyra, and former Navy pilot Bruce Shuttleworth.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Junior ROTC Supports UCM

Each month this school year, the Army Junior ROTC students at West Potomac High School volunteered their time on a Friday afternoon at the UCM Food Pantry to organize and bag the USDA commodities for UCM's clients. Here helping at UCM (from left) are Junior ROTC students freshmen Brenda Escalona and Roger Fast, with sophomores Alex-Zan Claiborne and Eliezer Chicas. To find out how to help by volunteering with UCM or by hosting a food drive or children's book collection drive, visit www.ucmagency.org.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Improvement Is Needed

To the Editor:

The on-going debate on the re-striping of Sherwood Hall Lane is characterized by a signal lack of data on all sides; its permanent re-striping should hold off until we've got some hard data to make an informed decision. I assert that those, on either side of the bike lane divide, who advocate a final solution right now are nervous that the data wouldn't support their preferred position.

Temporary striping should not cost all that much.

The only "data" presented at the public meeting two or three weeks ago were mentioned by the planners, who cited prevalent speeding (no figures), passing on the right (over 300 tickets issued in a particular month, with no context on trends or prevalence), and a reduction in accidents (80 percent reduction on a street in western Fairfax re-striped from four lanes to two lanes, a left turn lane, and bike lanes.)

What is common behavior on a street with wide pavement, one travel lane in each direction, a left-turn lane, and a bike lane on each side?

Don't tell me that no one has ever looked at this. How often do drivers violate the bike lane or the turning lane to pass cars in front of them? How dangerous is it to back out of a driveway into a narrow parking lane plus bike lane? We've got people on Ft. Hunt Road departing their driveways directly onto the travel lane. What are the accident statistics there? If it's a problem there should be significantly more accidents per vehicle mile on that road — which must

have similar drivers to Sherwood Hall given that they are exactly the same people in significant degree. Just how dangerous is it to bicyclists and pedestrians on a two-lane plus left-turn lane street with 35 mph speed limit? Somebody must have those stats. Just how inconvenient is it to have no place for visitors or service people to park on the street?

There are a number of people living on Ft. Hunt Road in this exact situation. Doesn't anyone have even anecdotal evidence of their problems?

What we do know is that virtually everyone dislikes Sherwood Hall Lane's traffic as it is. The fact that one cannot imagine any configuration improving it — short of ripping up the extra pavement to take it down to two narrow lanes and giving all the property owners their front yards back—is no rationale for opposing any efforts to improve things. A little experimentation is in order, and that's one of the things that cities ought to do best. And we do live in a city, people.

Larry D. Huffman
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Include home address and home and business numbers. Send to:

By e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



JUST REDUCED

Old Town \$1,095,000

610 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
Circa 1810, this lovely 4BR/2.5BA free-standing home offers easy 2-level living in the heart of Old Town. Original floors, fireplace, 26 windows & a fabulous walled courtyard.
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-518-6156



NEW LISTING

Manors at Mt Vernon \$899,000

2408 Lakeshire Drive, Alexandria, VA 22308
Immaculate 4BR/3.5BA center hall colonial in Stratford Landing district. Tons of upgrades, gourmet kitchen, cul de sac.
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



NEW LISTING

Old Town Gateway \$749,000

956 Washington Street N, Alexandria, VA 22314
Perfect location in OT! Almost 2000 sq.ft. 3BR/3.5BA, 2 osp, gas fp, and more! Walk to Trader Joe's, new Harris Teeter, restaurants, Giant, metro. Move in ready, just for you!
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



NEW LISTING

Mt. Vernon Grove \$825,000

9300 Maybrook Place, Alexandria, VA 22309
Stunning 5BR/3.5BA Colonial in Mount Vernon. With beautiful upgrades throughout, you must see this beautiful, expanded colonial with 2CG, sauna, gourmet kitchen & more!
Rachel Carter 703-851-4207



NEW LISTING

Belle Haven On The Green \$515,000

1918 Duffield Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307
Absolutely lovely 2BR/2.5BA, 2 hl brick TH w/GAR, den, formal LR, DN, wood burn FP, HDWDs, inviting deck overlooking flowering garden. Mins to metro, Old Town Alex & 195/495.
Edward Pagett 703-518-6161



NEW LISTING

Grove At Huntley Meadows \$464,950

7694 Audubon Meadow Way, Alexandria, VA 22306
Under Contract! Welcome to this 3BR/3BA, 3 level town home. A 2CG with 2 entrances. A gourmet kitchen, 6 burner stove, and a finished basement with a fireplace. Move in ready!
The York Group 703-409-3377



OPEN SUN 2-4PM

Belle View \$239,000

6516 Potomac Avenue B-2, Alexandria, VA 22307
Immaculately maintained 2BR/1BA sun-filled condo. Beautiful hardwoods, newer windows, updates to kitchen and bath. Conveniently located just south of Old Town. Open 4/13 (2-4p).
Heidi Burkhardt 703-217-6009



NEW LISTING

Pointe At Park Center \$225,000

3313 Wyndham Circle 1211, Alexandria, VA 22302
Gorgeous condo shows like a model b/c it was a model 1 bed/bath, granite, sun/dining room, in unit laundry & storage, garage parking, pet friendly, rush hour free shuttle to metro.
Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562

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News



PHOTO BY JANELLE CERMENOS/THE GAZETTE

The Planning Commission has approved the EnviroSolutions application to extend the life of the Lorton landfill, pictured here.

Landfill Proposal Advances

FROM PAGE 1

dates the county's staff's January recommendation for approval and makes it clear that the Green Energy Park supports a range of the county's environmental and economic objectives in a manner that is consistent with its land use plans."

The application attracted over 50 people to a public hearing on Feb. 27, which lasted until 3 a.m.

"I think we should all take note of the fact that this is a significant turnout by any community in Fairfax County," Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan said at the Planning Commission meeting on April 3. "Their testimony presented new information, new viewpoints and was supported with facts, facts which have been the basis for much post-hearing additional testimony and some changes to the application."

After the public hearing on Feb. 27, a compromise group between community members and EnviroSolutions met several times. South County Federation, which is opposed to the application, put forth some proposals of its own.

According to a letter written by Nick Firth, president of the South County Federation, to Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, this included certain closure of the landfill by 2022.

"Our hope was that these significant concessions, and willingness to be flexible,

would also lead to substantial concessions from ESI so as to resolve our differences. Unfortunately, this did not happen," Firth wrote. "Although ESI was appreciative of our good faith offer and thanked us for our considerable efforts at compromise, ESI stated that it was committed to the existing application."

On March 28, EnviroSolutions announced that it made changes to its application, reducing the requested extension of the landfill from 2040 to 2032, and also reducing the height of the landfill by 36 percent of 412 feet that had been approved.

When the application was voted on at the April 3 meeting, commissioners added on a list of issues they believe the Board of Supervisors should look at before approving the application.

Flanagan voted against the application, citing a number of concerns and saying the landfill did not serve as the proper gateway to Fairfax County and

that wind turbines could negatively affect the bald eagle population at nearby Mason Neck State Park.

"There are more benefits to the county by denying than approving this application," Flanagan said.

Although Flanagan submitted a motion to deny the application, that motion failed and the application was approved. The Board of Supervisors will soon consider the application.

**"There are more
benefits to the
county by
denying than
approving this
application."**

**— Mount Vernon
Planning Commissioner
Earl Flanagan**



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3704 Washington Woods Dr
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\$900,000 - \$ 800,000
9844 Lynhall Pl
4721 Tarpon Ln
3704 Riverwood Ct
9443 Mt Vernon Cir
3708 Carriage House Ct

\$800,000 - \$ 700,000
716 N. Columbus St
3709 Carrige House Ct
2305 Creek Dr

\$ 700,000 - \$ 600,000
8313 Mt Vernon Hwy
4605 Dolphin Ln
2208 Basset St*
(Listed and Sold)
9124 Volunteer Dr
5629 Old Mill Rd

9110 Congressional Ct*
(Listed and Sold)
9226 Craig Ave
8418 Boulevard Dr
1124 Westmoreland Dr
9416 Mt Vernon Cir*
(Listed and Sold)

\$600,000 - \$500,000
4401 Neptune Dr
4326 Adrienne Dr
4209 Pickering Pl
3006 Doeg Indian Ct
9109 Chickawane Ct
9115 Buckner Rd
1250 S. Washington St
4213 Sonia Ct
2429 Huntington Park Dr
525 Triadelphia Way

9216 Allwood Dr
8707 Parry Ln
4409 Tarpon Ln
9102 Old Mt Vernon Rd
1049 Dalebrook Dr
8614 Camden St

\$500,000 - \$400,000
4505 Mt Vernon Hwy
4131 Fairfax Center Creek Dr
7720 Schellhorn Rd
8704 Greystone Pl
4026 Historic Virginia
4830 Stillwell Ave

Under \$400,000
7907 Bayberry Dr
6101 Edsall Rd
5911 Edsall Rd

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appliances, 6BR, 4.5BA, finished lower level, 3 car garage. Screen porch overlooks professionally landscaped grounds. Extensive custom stonework. Remarkable opportunity! **OPEN SUN 4/13 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Brambly.**



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4713 Dolphin Lane

\$1,150,000

* Soaring cathedral ceilings * Main level master suite * Glass walls capture nautical views * Bulkhead, private dock with power lift
 * Set sail for Potomac, Chesapeake Bay & beyond from your dock * 4000 Sq ft Contemporary home * Extensive exterior decking
 * Spacious contemporary home with private pier for price of waterfront lot alone
OPEN SUN 4/13, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd; R-Forest Haven; R-Dolphin Ln.



9409 Ludgate Dr
\$1,980,000
Just Down River from Mount Vernon Estate!
 Classic Colonial Estate in the Virginia plantation tradition! Breathtaking River view setting on high bluff overlooking Potomac! Walls of windows capture magnificent river views!



Home is truly spectacular with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 4BRs, each with private bath and breathtaking river view master suite. The ambience of Tidewater Virginia just minutes from Old Town. **OPEN SUN 4/13, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Washington Woods; R-Ludgate.**



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



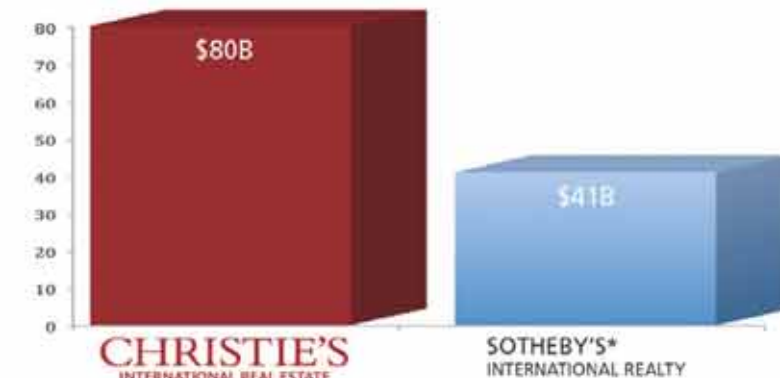
many windows provides bright, airy atmosphere. Other features: 3 luxuriously finished levels, 5 full baths, hardwood floors and stunning master suite! Gorgeous setting on level 1/2 acre lot. **OPEN SUN 4/13 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Patton; L-service road.**

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\$1,170,000

Alexandria / Belle Haven
1904 BELLE HAVEN ROAD

Luxurious Georgian Colonial in Belle Haven features 4-5BR, 3.5BA in an upscale community and close-in location! Easy access to George Washington Parkway, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, DC plus Belle Haven Country Club / Golf Course. Live the good life. Gorgeous Master suite with sauna / spa. 9+ foot ceilings, classic hardwood floors and the dining room, living room and family room layout is great for entertaining. Basement features wet bar, full bath and fireplace. Private rear patio and landscaped backyard yields a beautiful garden escape.

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244



SOLD!
\$995,000

Alexandria / Washington Woods
3704 WASHINGTON WOODS DRIVE

This home is located in a sought after area, bordering on the Mt Vernon Estate. There are 4-5BR / 4.5BA, large kitchen with breakfast room and family room. The main level also has a den/library and a Florida room. A game/exercise room is on the lower level. There is a private treed landscaped rear yard with 2 level slate patio. This all brick Colonial home has hardwood on first level with 9 foot ceilings. Over 5,000 square feet.

Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441



\$875,000
Alexandria / Stratford Landing
2314 CREEK DRIVE

- 3 finished levels with huge room sizes + extra large finished basement
- 4BR / 2.55BA
- Dazzling refinished floors and freshly painted rooms
- Kitchen has granite counters and stainless steel appliances
- High beamed ceiling in stunning addition
- Master suite with sunroom
- Wood-burning fireplace in family room
- Wrap-around screened porch / BBQ deck
- Water sprinkler system

Paula Powers & Sheryl Powers Vermont
703.472.6925 Owner/Agent



\$919,500
Alexandria / Clermont
4705 UPLAND DRIVE

Spacious 5-6BR, 4.5BA, open floor plan home. Work, play and enjoy the large tree-lined, landscaped lot backing to Mark Twain Park. Kitchen with granite counters GE Profile stainless steel appliances, den/office/6th bedroom with view of back yard and park. 2 Master bedroom suites. Hardwood on main level and common area of 2nd with carpet in bedrooms. 2-zoned HVAC, central sound, shed, invisible fence, underground sprinkler system and more. Large fully finished basement. Trex deck with gas line for grilling. 2-car garage.

Jim Crowe 703.856.8244



\$995,000
Alexandria / Mason Hill
2014 WINDMILL LANE

Comfort and luxury combine in this sunny 900+ square foot family room with double fireplace, wet bar, and beamed ceilings. Large kitchen with granite counters and maple cabinets, spacious dining and living rooms, library with fireplace, and mud room are on the main level. Hardwood extends to 4 sizable bedrooms upstairs with renovated hall and master baths. The lower level boasts and au-pair suite with full bath. This superb value includes a wrap-around deck, 2 car garage and cul-de-sac location. 3 levels / 4-5BR / 3.5BA

Catherine Foltz@longandfooster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



SOLD!
\$880,000
Alexandria / Florence Overlook
6204 FLORENCE LANE

Impeccable 3 level brick Colonial just minutes from 2 Metros, the Pentagon and beltway. Approximate 4,000 square feet of living space on a perfect quarter acre lot. Full chef's kitchen renovation and stunning owner's bath. Walk-out lower level with bonus room, full bath, rec room and tons of storage. Perfect for either au-pair, in-laws or guests! Hardwoods on main level, elegant formal rooms, side-loading garage, fabulous deck. Newer roof, windows, HVAC, HWH and more! Nothing to do but move-in! 4BR / 3.5BA.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



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- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, *Centre View* – General news writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting: •Uncovering Secret Government
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Education writing: •Alexandria Education Dollars
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and financial writing: •Car Title Loans
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public safety writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, **Laurence Foong**, **Geovani Flores**, **Marilyn Campbell**, **John Byrd**, **Tim Peterson** and **Jean Card**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Specialty pages or sections: •HomeLifeStyle
- ❖ **Jean Card**, **Laurence Foong**, **Renee Ruggles** and **Craig Sterbutzel**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational graphics: •Fairfax County parks



Second Place Winners

- ❖ **Steven Mauren**, **Jeanne Theismann**, **John Bordner**, **Jean Card**, **Geovani Flores** and **Laurence Foong**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Special sections or special editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.
- ❖ **Jean Card**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Page design.



Michael Lee Pope



Bonnie Hobbs



Jeanne Theismann



Jean Card



Steven Mauren



Laurence Foong



Geovani Flores



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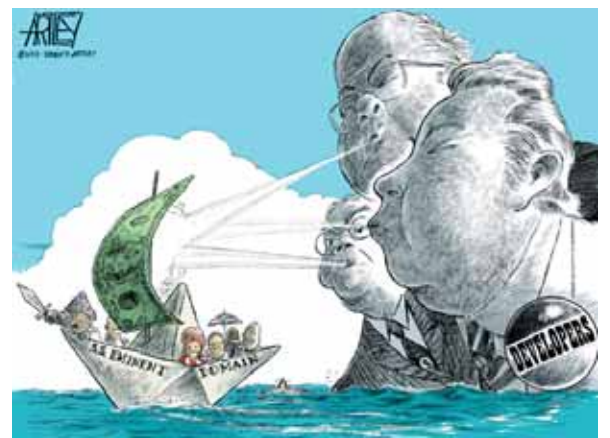


Craig Sterbutzel

- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Alex McVeigh**, *Great Falls Connection* – In-depth or investigative reporting.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Health, science and environmental writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Government writing.

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Steve Artley, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.

- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Burke Connection* – Feature series or continuing story.
- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column writing.



Louise Krafft, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.

Third Place Winners

- ❖ **Steve Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Illustrations.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, *Fairfax Connection* – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Louise Krafft**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Feature photo: Summer Fun.
- ❖ **Donna Manz**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Feature writing portfolio.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, *Arlington Connection* – Education writing.



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

MVCCT Spring Break Camp

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold a Spring Break Camp April 14-18. The theatre program will focus on education and development in five general areas: physical development/kinesthetic skills; artistic development /drama and theater skills; mental development/thinking skills; personal development/intra-personal skills; and social development/interpersonal skills. A final showcase will be performed on the last day of camp. Theatre camp is a great way to develop many skills while having fun and making friends. For more information or to sign up for Spring Break Camp, visit <http://mvcct.org/camps.php>.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

Sculpture Exhibit. Through 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. May 2-June 8 at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Meditations on the Boundless, an exhibit of acrylic paintings on yupo paper by Arlington artist Kimberly DiNatale. Opening reception Saturday, May 3, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

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

Art Exhibit. "Sound of Butterfly," a solo exhibition of new work by

Soomin Ham, a photographer and multimedia artist. Through May 11 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Studio 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except Thursdays, 1-9 p.m. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

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

Theatre One-Man Shows. Through May 25, two shows will be performed in repertory at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. The Thousandth Night by Carol Wolf and starring Marcus Kyd, and Underneath the Lintel by Glen Berger starring Paul Morella will be performed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 or 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 (students \$25) at 800-494-8497 or www.boxofficetickets.com. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

Children's Theater. Arts on the Horizon presents "Sunny and Licorice" at The Lab at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Show is 30 minutes and best for ages 2-5. Performances are 10:30 a.m. May 30, June 4-6 and June 11-13; and 10 and 11:30 a.m. May 31, June 7 and June 14. \$8 tickets, purchase online or at the door. At each show the group will collect non-perishable food and canned good for Community Lodgings. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org/sunny-and-licorice or call 703-967-0437.

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

MetroStage Presents 'The Thousandth Night'

One-man show about an actor defending his life in Nazi-occupied France.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

MetroStage is presenting the one-man show, "The Thousandth Night" now through May 18. The play stars Marcus Kyd as a quick-thinking comic actor in a traveling company of players who are stuck in Paris during the occupation of France. He is facing his deportation for "propagating subversive material," so in his last effort to save his life, he performs his show for the last people (the audience) who may have his fate in their hands.

"Guy tells the gendarmes a series of stories, to be sure, but his own story is the backbone of the entire play," said Kyd who plays 36 different characters using various hats and scarves from his trunk.

John Vreeke, the director, said Guy's company of actors perform a specific 1942 ironic satiric slant to the language of the "Arabian Nights" stories in order to entertain their audiences at a cafe. "Guy attempts to demonstrate how these stories really are innocent and not subversive as the SS accuses," he said.

"As he pleads for his life, he describes his own complicit behavior and finally evolves his own moral center," said Vreeke.

Playwright Carol Wolf, who wrote the play in 1992, has written 40 plays in 30 productions on five continents. She said after several years of research on the Nazi occupation of Europe for an earlier play, the experience left her fascinated by how people responded to being under occupation by a foreign army.

"In a play, the playwright subjects the characters to extraordinary pressures over a period of time, to see what happens to them," she said. "It is like designing an alchemical experiment, where the play dictates the vessel, the heat, and the pressure. The audience follows along on that ride through their empathy with the characters."

Kyd said the biggest challenge for an actor is to make the bigger story clear: "There are little plays within the play, which also must be clear."

Vreeke said since the audience has a large role in this play as the French police who do not have the means or the will to help Guy escape, "the audience will get a stronger sense of what it meant to live in that horrible time and place."



PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

Marcus Kyd stars in "The Thousandth Night" at Metro Stage through May 18.

When the unsolicited script arrived on her desk 20 years ago, producer Carolyn Griffin knew it was the perfect play for MetroStage. "It involves the audience as characters in the play, which works so well in an intimate space, fully engaging them with humor, increasingly with a hint of sarcasm and ultimately shocking them out of their reverie when the reality of the situation asserts itself," said Griffin.

She added that "The Thousandth Night" is everything you want a theatrical event to accomplish: to engage, entertain, and finally, touch the audience on an emotional, unforgettable level — "that is the potential of The Thousandth Night."

Kyd hopes the audience will leave more curious about the world and about themselves: "There are many questions in here about how we choose to live our lives, about love and loss, and anger, and forgiveness. It is a marvelous microcosm for human souls."

❖ MetroStage is presenting "The Thousandth Night" now through May 18. Tickets are \$50. Show times are Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m. "Underneath the Lintel" is currently showing on the same stage on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. MetroStage is at 1201 N. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call 703-548-9044. Visit www.metrostage.org.

required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Spy Program at Mount Vernon. 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through June 1. Learn about spying during the Revolutionary War, including concealment codes, invisible ink and double agents. Self-guided programs with map provided. Free with admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/spy.

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 through June 27. Hours are Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit

www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Doggy Happy Hours. 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Thursdays during the summer. Free, drinks sold separately. Treats and water for dogs, with pet boutique and service vendors. Portions of proceeds benefit People. Animals. Love. Visit www.Monaco-Alexandria.com/alexandria-hotel/doggy-happy.

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NEW SHOWS Being Added Daily!

ENTERTAINMENT

hour.html.
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.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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.

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.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Children's Theatre Camp. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre spring break camp April 14-18. Visit <http://mvcct.org/camps.php> for more.

Art at the Center spring classes are now open for registration. The spring session runs April 21-May 30. Visit www.artatthecenter.org or call 703-201-1250.

Pre-School Studio. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. June 9-19, Mondays-Thursdays children ages 4-6 attend for explorations of clay, collage, drawing and painting as well as creativity, problem solving, collaboration and fun. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Youth Summer Classes. Beginning Monday, July 7, Metropolitan School of the Arts offers pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps, as well as a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts. Visit, www.metropolitanarts.org.

Metro Club After-School Program. Through June, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs will focus on the arts,

including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

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

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. 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.

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.mvcct.org.

CHERRY BLOSSOM FUN

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

cherry_blossom_food_tour.html for more.

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

Cherry Blossom Boat Tour. Departing Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. at Cameron and Union Streets. Take a boat cruise and view the blossoms along the river. Runs March 29-April 13. \$26/adult; \$14/child age 2-11. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/blossoms2014.php to register.

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.symbolologyclothing.com, or call 703-684-1435.

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School auditorium, 3330 King St. "Autism: The Musical" screening to mark Autism Awareness and Acceptance Month. The film follows five children with autism who create and perform a live musical. Light refreshments available 6:30-7 p.m. For information or to RSVP call 703-820-4997.

Second Thursday Music. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Glimpses, a local band featuring

singer/songwriter Mercedes Mill and multi-instrumentalist and producer Matthew Leonard, accompanied by percussionist Jim Gormley. \$10 admission. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Nature Presentation. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society hosts the presentation, "Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve: Restoring a Primeval Wilderness in the DC Area." Call 703-642-5173.

Concert. 8 p.m., at The Lyceum 201 S. Washington St. 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.

Animal Presentation. 11 a.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. "Under the Sea," presentations by marine biologists. Visit

www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

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. For people age 10 and older. \$6/adults; \$4/age 10-17. Reservations required, www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse or 703-746-4994.

Book Signing. 1-5 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Alexandria Fort Belvoir, 6055 Richmond Highway. Author Wendy Marie Withers signs copies of her book "Adventures of My Brother's Keeper."

Blues Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. The Nighthawks, WSG Fatty Lumpkin & The Love Hogs and Ron Holloway. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 12-13

Historic Ship Tour. Noon-5 p.m. at the pier at Alexandria Marina, 201 N. Union St. The Schooner Virginia, a tall ship recreation of the Virginia Pilot Association's last pure sailing vessel, on the first stop of its 2014 tour. Deck tours. Visit www.SchoonerVirginia.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 13

Easter Egg Hunt. 1 p.m. at Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living, 3709 Shannons Green Way. Bring a basket to collect eggs. There will also be arts and crafts and photos with the Easter Bunny. Refreshments provided for all guests. Free, reservations requested. Call 703-780-7100 or visit www.springhillsmountvernon.com.



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

MVCCT Spring Break Camp

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold a Spring Break Camp April 14-18. The theatre program will focus on education and development in five general areas: physical development/kinesthetic skills; artistic development/drama and theater skills; mental development/thinking skills; personal development/intra-personal skills; and social development/interpersonal skills. A final showcase will be performed on the last day of camp. Theatre camp is a great way to develop many skills while having fun and making friends. For more information or to sign up for Spring Break Camp, visit <http://mvcct.org/camps.php>.

Easter Sunday: April 20, 2014

Sunday Breakfast Buffet/Brunch 7 A.M.-12 P.M.

Adults \$13.00 • Children under 12 \$4.25

Easter Lunch Buffet 12 P.M.-Last seating 3 P.M.

Adults \$14.99 • Children under 12 \$7.95

Featuring

*Roast Leg of Lamb • Herb Roasted Chicken
Baked Virginia Ham • Chilean Sea Bass or Salmon*

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.thomasgunnn.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.

TUESDAY/APRIL 15

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Pendleton Hall, Episcopal High School, 3800 W Braddock Road. The National Chamber Players, with special guest artist Nurit Bar-Josef, will perform Paganini's Duet for violin and bassoon, Igor Frolov's Divertimento for two violins and piano, and Mozart's Quintet in A Major for clarinet and strings. Free. Call 703-933-4135 or visit www.episcopalhighschool.org.

Music and Poetry Performance. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Joan Osborne in support of her eighth studio album, Love and Hate. Visit birchmere.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Civil War Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Dr. Charles P. Poland, Jr. presents "The Endless Debate over What Caused the Civil War." Free, no reservations required. Visit www.historicalexandria.org or call 703-746-4554.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Model Railroad Club. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The club presents

"Island Railroad Operations in Hawaii, Bermuda and Ireland" with film clips and light refreshments. Free.

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

Band Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The U.S. Air Force Band plays A Quartet Celebration; Clarinet Quartet vs. Tuba Quartet. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Easter Egg Hunt. 3:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. 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.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Third Friday with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Refreshments provided. \$4. Visit www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/eventsprograms.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Civil War Sesquicentennial Event. 8 a.m. in the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Grant Takes Command of the Union Army, Battles Lee at The Wilderness, Spotsylvania. Contact dhakenson@cox.net or call 703-971-4984.

Easter Egg Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 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 other activities. \$12 for children aged 0-12, and \$5 for all others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association hosts lessons 6:30-7:30 p.m., dancing 7:30-10 p.m. with DJ. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Liz Longley will open for Johnnyswim. Visit birchmere.com.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Cleve

Francis and his large band perform country, folk, blues, light rock and jazz. \$42. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com or 800-745-3000. Visit www.clevefrancis.com.

Swing Concert. 8 p.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. The Natty Beaux. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Spring Book Sale. 4-8:30 p.m. at the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. \$1 for paperbacks, \$3 for hardbacks, kids books for less. Members only preview, membership at door \$10. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Film Screening. 6:30 p.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815-1/2 King St. Screening of "Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World," with cocktail reception, exhibition of clothing worn on the film set and a pre-screening film discussion. Tickets \$45+, benefiting American Wounded Warriors and British Help for Heroes. Cisit <https://shop.alexandriava.gov> or www.theoldtowntheater.com, or call 703-746-4242 or 703-549-1025.

String Quartet Concert. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The U.S. Air Force Band chamber players present an evening of music for string quartet, featuring music by Olivier Messiaen. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., at the Charles E. Beatley Library, 5005 Duke Street, Alexandria. \$1 for paperbacks, \$3 for hardbacks, kids books for less. Open to general public. Visit alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

Middle School Play. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Middle School Auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre." Tickets \$5, cash and check only. Concessions available. Call 703-706-4500.

Magic Show. 7:30 p.m., Bishop Ireton High School theater, 201 Cambridge Road, Alexandria. Visit <http://magi-whirl.org>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Herb and Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. 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.

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Home LifeStyle

Local Designer Honored

Alexandria tastemaker blends a variety of styles.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Old Town Alexandria-based interior designer Anna Kucera has a knack for helping her clients turn their fanciful ideas in to concrete realities.

“Getting to know my clients and looking for areas where I can create solutions for them is the first place I begin,” said Kucera, who lives in the Belle Haven section of Alexandria. “I purposely don’t ascribe to a signature style because my design philosophy is to interpret a client’s aesthetic preferences and help them bring their style to life. By guiding them to experience their surroundings in a new way, what they love about their home is enhanced.”

Kucera was honored for that talent recently when she received a 2014 Best of Houzz award for customer satisfaction. Clients who know her say

“I purposely don’t ascribe to a signature style because my design philosophy is to interpret a client’s aesthetic preferences and help them bring their style to life.”

— Anna Kucera



When designing this living room for an Mount Vernon family, designer Anna Kucera used whimsical accessories and pops of unexpected color.



PHOTOS BY LORA MOTE

Alexandria-based interior designer Anna Kucera received a 2014 Best of Houzz award for customer satisfaction.

the award is well deserved.

Kucera designed several rooms in the Alexandria home of Susan McLeod. “Anna’s integrity is evident in everything she does, from her family, faith friends and most importantly her works. Her ethics seem to be the foundation from where everything else is built,” said McLeod. “It is nice as a homeowner to be able to trust a designer. She’s easy to communicate with and listens very well. If she doesn’t understand a vision that I’m trying to get across to her, she asks the right questions to be able to get out of you what you like and what you don’t like. Anna designed window treatments, selected paint colors, wall paper, helped with fabrics for upholstery and made carpet selections.”

Kucera, who has a master of fine arts in interior design from The George Washington University, applied her design ideology to the living room of a home in Mount Vernon. “My client grew up in Williamsburg, Va., and had several lovely traditional pieces of furniture given by her mother that she wanted to incorporate into her new home,” said Kucera. “While my client’s aesthetic is steeped in traditional style, she and her husband sought a current look for their young family. We blended the traditional furniture forms with a fresh color palette incorporating a variety of texture and pattern.”

The designer used whimsical accessories, “pops of unexpected color and personal photos” to design a space that reflects the family who lives there.”

In Old Town Alexandria, Kucera redesigned a master bedroom for a client who wanted to create an elegant space without compromising comfort. “My client requested a sophisticated, yet comfortable retreat in her master bedroom. She longed for a space that is soothing and feminine,” said Kucera. “The room has a vaulted ceiling and lovely natural light. To accentuate the high ceilings and beautiful windows, I designed a bed canopy and corresponding drapery panels.”



Interior designer Anna Kucera helped a client blend traditional furniture from her mother with a fresh color palette that incorporated a variety of texture and pattern in her Mount Vernon home.

Kucera used window treatments to help create ambiance. “Beneath the drapery panels are translucent natural woven shades, which diffuse the intensity of sunlight while still allowing light to flood the room during the day,” she said. “The drapery panels may be closed for both privacy and light control.”

Chic accessories make the room a comfortable retreat. “Swing-arm lamps are mounted above the bed for bedtime reading. In the corner of the room is an upholstered rocker with an ottoman, which offers an additional cozy spot for reading and relaxation.”

Julie Duke, of Alexandria, is another satisfied customer. She met Kucera shortly after the 2011 earthquake rocked the Washington, D.C. region. “My house was severely damaged ...including collapsed ceilings and buckling floors,” said Duke. “Anna came in and helped me negotiate not only the reconstruction of my home, but then once the

Spring Home Spruce Up

“A refresh of art and accessories is a great way to welcome spring into your home. Think color and brightness. For example, swap out your sofa pillows for ones with an unexpected color. Place small bud vases throughout your home and as blossoms appear around your yard, simply place one here and there. Display your children or grandchildren’s colorful art in a prominent place. Change the arrangement on your mantel or dining table by adding spring green candles and a bowl of pebbles with moss.”

— ANNA KUCERA

construction aspect was done, we set about redecorating room by room. It was a two-year process. She was so professional, listened so well with regard to my taste and worked with the existing things in my home that were salvageable.”

Kucera may appreciate the award and her clients’ praise, but, she says, “The best compliment to my work is when a client hears ... a friend [say], ‘This is so you!’”



Interior designer Anna Kucera created a master bedroom for a client who wanted to create an elegant space without comprising comfort.

Home LifeStyle

Clean for Spring

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Betsy Fein found herself in the middle of a spring fling in Fairfax recently. She wasn't at a festival or involved in a new romance, but in the midst of organizing a cluttered bedroom that was littered with piles of shirts, pants, shoes and books.

Spring often means renewal and local organizers like Fein are offering suggestions for clearing out winter clutter. From closets that are overstuffed with wool sweaters and down coats to kitchen drawers overflowing with batteries and appliance manuals, they offer suggestions for getting organized without getting overwhelmed.

"Spring is a time when you have all the winter stuff in your closet and you want to change it out for summer, so you're flinging it out," said Fein, of Clutterbusters!! (www.clutterbusters.com) in Rockville, Md.

"Because this child was younger, we suggested that they hang a lot of things," said Fein of her recent project. She also advised the parents to install a second rod in the closet. "They could have shirts on top and pants on bottom."

Fein recommended using photographs to help with organization. "They can take a picture of a pair of socks, for example, and put it on the drawer so the child can see that socks go in that drawer."

She even included an idea for outgrown clothes. "Keep a colorful bin on the bottom of the closet, so when you realize that clothes don't fit any more you can toss them in the bin and donate them."

The idea would work for adults, too. "Pack away all your winter clothing and unpack your spring and summer items," said Susan Unger, of ClutterSOS (www.cluttersos.com) in Vienna. "Be sure to evaluate each item and ask yourself ... 'Does it fit? Do I love it? Is it in good shape? Do I feel good in it?' If all these answers are 'yes' and it is a keeper, then place it in your closet or drawers."

"Be sure to group like items together such as skirts, dresses, t-shirts, [and] shorts. Decide if the discards should be tossed or donated depending on the condition," she said. "Be sure to keep a list of new items to buy."

When you store those bulky winter clothes, make sure you use sealed containers. "Store them in bins and make use of vertical space that is hard to reach or other rooms [like the] basement," said

Jody Al-Saigh of Picture Perfect Organizing (www.pictureperfectorganizing.com) in Arlington. "Before storing clothes for next winter, be sure they are laundered first. A little-known fact [is that] moths don't actually go after the clothing fibers but rather the human perspiration and dander that build on clothes."

An easy place to start spring cleaning is your file (or pile or drawer) of appliance manuals and instruction booklets. "Store them all in an accordion file, by brands, by type of appliance, by room or area," said Al-Saigh. "Or look up the manual online, download and toss the paper one."

Be sure to purge often or when new items are purchased. "Don't toss warranties or receipts for warranties or rebates. Keep those in your file," said Al-Saigh. "Keep the accordion file somewhere handy like the garage shelf [or on] top of fridge."

NOW THAT THE END of the school year is growing closer, piles of children's artwork are growing taller. "We did a family room that had a bookshelf and toys, kids'

Local organization experts offer tips to help with spring cleaning.

artwork and stuff all over the place," said Fein. "We had to help the parents make decisions about what to keep. We used a method called the three Fs: Frame-worthy, flush (or toss) and file. With kids' art, you have to be ruthless and realize that it is not all a Picasso."

For frame-worthy artwork, Fein suggests tape frames or inexpensive acrylic frames. "Tape frames are sticky on the back, but they look like real frames. You can swap out the artwork and reuse them."

For artwork that can be filed, Fein suggests using a keepsake box or creating a photo book. "You can take digital photos of the art work and put together a book on Snapfish or Shutterfly. ... Your child will be proud and you won't have stuff all over the place."

Spring's mild weather also makes it an ideal time to clean out a garage. "It's not too hot and not too cold," said Al-Saigh. "Wait for nice weather, take everything out and sort it in the driveway."

Al-Saigh suggests using sidewalk chalk. "Section off areas for piles for items to keep, donate and trash," she said. "When putting

back the keep stuff, group items together and create zones such as tools, gardening, sports equipment, camping, bicycles. The more you can hang on hooks on the walls or from the ceiling the better. Floor to ceiling shelving is good to maximize the vertical space.

"Get creative. Use old barrels to store hockey sticks upright, hang a mesh bag full of soccer balls," she added. "Remove things that don't belong in your garage like photos, paperwork, fragile memorabilia."

Fein points to a Potomac, Md., garage that she recently helped a client reorganize. "It was a normal looking garage where stuff was everywhere," she said. "Bikes and sports stuff were all over the place, so it was a matter of putting like things together."

It helps, Fein said, to make organizing fun. "Don't think of it as a chore. ... Play music and get the whole family involved."

Start small. "A lot of times people think 'I have to organize my whole basement and I have 40 years of stuff,' said Fein. "If you



COURTESY OF CLUTTERBUSTERS!!

Betsy Fein of Clutterbusters!! organized a child's bedroom in Fairfax by suggesting the parents hang clothes on two rods in the closet.

have decided to spend the whole weekend, three hours in you say this is too much and you quit. Maybe start with a drawer."

Keep it simple. "With filing papers, sometimes a person's filing system is so detailed that it is impossible to organize and maintain," said Fein. "Let's take bills. A simple system may be a file that says bills. It doesn't need to be in alphabetical order. A lot of clients are disorganized because they are perfectionists. If they can't maintain a complicated system perfectly, they'd rather just have it in a pile."

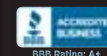


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Economic Outlook Summit Offers Mixed Forecast

FROM PAGE 1

Except for education and health services, Versel said at the summit, every sector of the economy has struggled to reach pre-recession employment levels.

The professional and business services sector, the largest employment sector in the Washington, D.C. region, has had an effect on the high office vacancy rate.

"The last year and a half have been not good for this sector, driven largely by the declines in federal procurement," Versel said. "Government contractors are an enormous piece of the pie in terms of office users in this region, and as there has been a cutback in government contracting employment, there's been a decline in professional and business services jobs in the region."

Fairfax County has an office space vacancy rate of 17 million square feet, said Gerald Gordon, the president and CEO of the Fairfax Economic Development Authority.

Gordon said the EDA focuses on filling office space, as Fairfax County is the second largest suburban office space market in the U.S.

"We have more office space vacant in Fairfax County today than Richmond has office space. We have more office space vacant in Fairfax County today than Loudoun County has office space. We have more office space vacant in Fairfax County today than Prince William by a magnitude of two and a half," Gordon said.

Even though there are high vacancy rates and new construction demand isn't usually present until the space is filled to where there are five percent vacancies, new office space is still being built and prices are steady.

One reason for this is companies' demand for space in Tysons Corner and near the Silver line.

"Despite those high prices for the leases, they want to be there," Gordon said.

The second reason is because of Base Realignment and Closure that has brought more jobs to Fort Belvoir.



Panelists at the 2014 Economic Outlook Summit spoke about the local economy, real estate, building industry, and business development.

Gordon said that because of the contractors who need to be close to the gates of Fort Belvoir, office demand in the corridor is needed.

"There will be new construction here in this corridor as well, even though there is a lot of space available elsewhere," Gordon said.

Versel, however, says that all of the jobs that would come because of BRAC have already moved to Fort Belvoir, and the area has not seen an influx of government contractors that was expected. This is partly because government contracting has not expanded, and because companies want to be in Tysons Corner and the Dulles corridor.

"Being honest with ourselves here, southeast Fairfax has never been a destination for office users. There are few office buildings in the corridor, none of which have been built in the last 20 years," Versel said. "Many of them have struggled to get rents

increase in 352 positions and \$53 million over the next five years.

The county is now more dependent on real estate, which makes up 63.2 percent of the budget.

Fairfax County has witnessed apartment increases, Long said, due to the increase of lower wage jobs in the county.

"There are a lot of lower paying jobs that are coming into the county. It's good we have job growth but that poses different issues for the economy. One is affordable housing. Apartments are becoming the affordable housing for folks who want to live in the county," Long said.

According to Versel, most of the growth that has occurred in Fairfax County following the recession has been in the lower-wage industries, including retail and service employment.

"More than half of the job growth we've seen over the last three years has been those earning basically below \$40,000 a year, the lower third of our pay scale," Versel said.

Louis Genuario of the Virginia Home

Fairfax County Executive Ed Long speaks at the 2014 Economic Outlook Summit, hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.



and attract tenants. There was a sense that BRAC and the expanding of Fort Belvoir would fundamentally change that, and that has not come to pass."

Versel said that office space growth in the southern Fairfax area has occurred in the Franconia Springfield area, because of its proximity to the interstate and transit services.

Fairfax County Executive Ed Long spoke about the importance of a multi-year budget plan, and only including budget items that are sustainable for the long term.

Long said that Fairfax County needs to continue its investment in schools and public safety services that make the county such a great and safe place to live.

"If we don't continue to invest in those areas, those will weaken and folks won't want to come here. We have to make sure we continue to make those investments," Long said.

Long was recently presented with a public safety staffing plan, which includes an

Builders Association spoke about home building growth on a national and regional level. According to Genuario, 17 percent of the national GDP is made up of home building. The government shutdown and bad weather has had an effect on home building.

Jon Wolford, the past chairman of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, said low inventory, which is the result of low equity, results in rising prices, which will correct the low equity and low inventory.

"Inventory is up compared to last year, but it's still not meeting demand," Wolford said.

According to Versel, transit improvement in the Route 1 area will create more opportunities for redevelopment.

He also said that Huntington is an underdeveloped resource.

"This area is very ripe for redeveloping aimed around residential and retail that supports that residential," Versel said.



Gerald Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, speaks at the 2014 Economic Outlook Summit.

Mount Vernon Softball Wins Seventh Straight

Majors haven't lost since dropping season opener.

The Mount Vernon softball team defeated Stuart 22-3 on Tuesday, extending the Majors' winning streak to seven games while improving their record to 7-1. Mount Vernon hasn't lost since dropping its season opener to West Potomac on March 20.

Mount Vernon defeated Westfield 5-3 in the opening game of the Edison spring break tournament on April 5. The Majors came from behind to win in the eighth inning with international tie-breaker rules in effect.

The game was a pitching duel through the first five innings, with pitching aces, Erin Rockwell of the Majors and Melissa Fangio of the Bulldogs, throwing hard and taking care of business for their respective teams. In the bottom of the first inning, Rockwell sent a message to the top of the Bulldogs order that the Majors had come to play by striking out the side. Rockwell held the Bulldogs scoreless through five innings, scattering four hits, striking out eight Bulldogs and not allowing a walk.

The Bulldogs pulled ahead in the bottom of the sixth inning. Their leadoff batter reached first on an error, the only Lady Major error of the game. There was no damage done, however, as the Majors quickly erased that base runner when she was



The Mount Vernon softball team is off to a 7-1 start. Pictured are: (front center) Amber Sable, (middle row) Stormy Zyzyk, Hannah Talbert, Katie Hutchinson, Erin Rockwell (back row) Angelina Benedetti-Flores, Megan Spencer, Emily Miller, Kelly Quigley, Jazmyn McClure, Maggie Heltzel and Brianna Diggs-McLean. Not in photo: Eryn Smith, Corinna Mattison and Tabatha Salcedo.

caught stealing by catcher Hannah Talbert with a throw to shortstop Amber Sable. The next batter earned the only walk Rockwell surrendered in the game. The next Bulldog batter drilled a double to the outfield fence. However, the Majors outfield, having played well all day, returned the ball to the infield quickly, preventing a run from scoring. With

runners at second and third, the next Bulldog batter tripled, driving in the two runs. The side was retired but the damage was done. Westfield had pulled ahead in the game in the bottom of the sixth by a score of 2-0.

With their backs to the wall going into the seventh and final inning, the tenacious

Majors were not about to give up. Kelly Quigley delivered a double to lead off the seventh, Sable, and Eryn Smith both singled, Emily Miller laid down a sacrifice bunt and Corinna Mattison and Maggie Heltzel also hit the ball in play in the inning. When their half inning was over, the scrappy Majors had tied the game 2-all.

In the bottom of the seventh, Majors hurler Rockwell got the leadoff batter to ground out, Smith to Heltzel. Rockwell then struck out the next two batters, sending the game into ITB play.

In the top of the eighth inning, Heltzel, the last out of the prior inning took second base as the Majors' ITB runner. Stormy Zyzyk, 2013 National District Player of the Year, then crushed a clutch double to the fence, driving in Heltzel. Suddenly it was 3-2 Majors. Talbert, Rockwell and Quigley all delivered timely hits and when the half inning was over, the Majors led 5-2.

Reliever Zyzyk came in to close out the game in the bottom of the eighth inning. After walking her first batter, Zyzyk found her zone and got the next two batters to fly out and the final batter to ground out, Mattison to Heltzel, to end the game. The Bulldogs had scored a run in the inning, but the Lady Majors succeeded in "buying" the needed outs and the upset was preserved. Rockwell got the win and Zyzyk got the save.

The Majors are 5-0 against former National District teams.

Mount Vernon will travel to face Edison at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 11.

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Baseball Beats Braddock, South County

The West Potomac baseball team improved to 4-2 with road victories over a pair of perennial powers.

The Wolverines defeated Lake Braddock 12-11 on April 4 in Burke, and beat South County 12-2 on April 8 in Lorton. Lake Braddock won the Northern Region championship last season and captured the AAA state title in 2012. South County won last year's Patriot District title before losing in the region semifinals. The Stallions finished state runner-up in 2011. West Potomac improved to 3-1 against teams from Conference 7, including a 3-1 loss to Woodson on March 24 and a 4-1 win over T.C. Williams on April 1. After the Wolverines defeated T.C. Williams, head coach Jim Sullivan said: "Hate to write [our expectations] down, but we plan to beat Lake Braddock. Our goal is to win the district." The Wolverines will host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11. The Spartans won three of their first five games this season. West Springfield won the 2012 Northern Region title and 2010 AAA state championship.

WP Softball Improves to 5-1

The West Potomac softball team defeated Edison 2-0 on April 5, improving its record to 5-1. The Wolverines have outscored opponents 33-4, with their lone loss coming against 2013 Patriot District champion Lake Braddock, 4-0 on April 4.

West Potomac is scheduled to play its next five games at home. The Wolverines host West Springfield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 11 before facing Oakton (April 12), Robinson (April 12), Annandale (April 14) and Osbourn (April 14) in spring break games.

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Youth Hockey Team Earns Bronze

The Northern Virginia Hockey Club's U16 AA team, based out of the Mt. Vernon Rec Center, captured the Bronze medal at the 2014 USA Hockey National Championships which were held April 2-6 in Ashburn, making history for the local club. This U16 team, coached by Bill Butler and Doug Scott, is the first NVHC team to ever qualify for and compete in the USA Hockey National Championships. Roster: Zak Albers, Drew Butler (C), Troy Chaplin (A), Zeke Cochran, Matthew Derry, Sammy Entabi, Alec Guarnero, Kenny Johnson, Max Kronstadt, Sami Morse, Ryan Scott (A), Jonathan Spadafore, Andrew Stone (C), Caelan Tarbell and Grant Thompson. Coaches: Bill Butler, Doug Scott, Dave Chaplin and Adriaen Morse. More information on the Northern Virginia Hockey Club can be found at www.nova-icedogs.org.

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PEOPLE

Alexandria's Kathy Beynette Debuts Children's Book

“When I’m Not Myself” also offers insight into book production process.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS
THE GAZETTE

Alexandria painter Kathy DeZarn Beynette’s second children’s book, “When I’m Not Myself,” was released worldwide in March.

“When I’m Not Myself” combines Beynette’s colorful illustrations with her creative poetic verses to teach children about the connections between themselves and the Animal Kingdom.

“I hope children are entertained first and foremost, but I also hope they will be able to see themselves in these animals and understand the animal kingdom and themselves a little better. In addition, I hope that they can understand a little of the creative process,” she said.

The book is available at Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, local bookstores, and through the publisher’s website at



www.pomegranate.com.

Because she identifies with animals and feels empathy for them, a lot of her work is inspired by animals including her first children’s book, “When Your Porcupine Feels Prickly.”

What sets “When I’m Not Myself” apart from other children’s books is that it gives children a simplified glimpse into the publication and editing process.

Each of the book’s 48 pages contains Beynette’s original drawing and poem of a particular animal on one page and then a colored painting along with the edited text on the next page.

Educators can use the book to “show their students that the drafting and editing process happens in real life and it is not just something the teacher makes them do.”

In addition, the rhyme schemes are an excellent way for children to learn to read.

“Sometimes it’s easier for children to hear a universal truth if it is spoken about an animal than applying it to themselves. I think that’s why a lot of children’s books incorporate animals,” she said.

After her first children’s book, she wanted to try doing a children’s book with just drawings. Then she began thinking about

whether children would love them. She redid the book with paintings. Her editor decided that it would “would be really helpful and unique for children to see the process of a drawing becoming a painting.”

“Children can see the editing process even at this level,” she said.

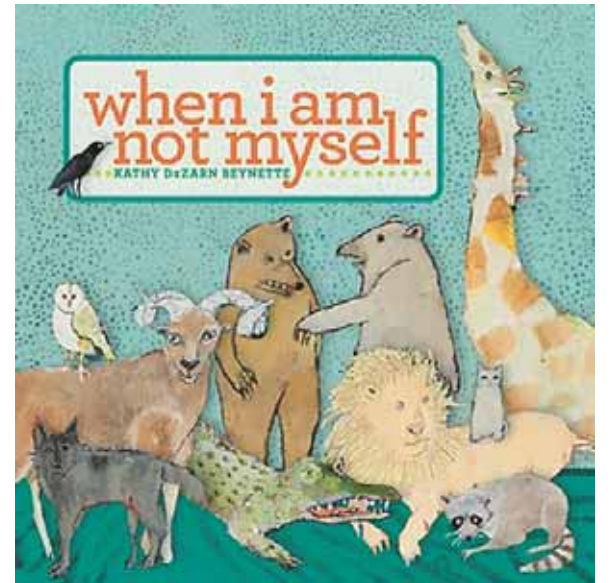
Overall, the creative process to produce “When I’m Not Myself” took her about 2 and a half years.

Beynette has been writing since the age of 7. In the sixth grade, she often wrote “steamy” romantic poems for the girls in her class and was paid .25 cents. One of her first jobs after college was as a theatre reviewer for a local magazine.

Throughout her artistic career, she has flirted with other art forms outside of painting such as calligraphy and embroidery. Beynette also incorporates a lot of everyday material such as window screen mesh, cheese cloths, and sticks into her artwork.

Her favorite children’s books include “Charlotte’s Web” by E. B. White and “Pippi Longstocking” by Astrid Lindgren.

Beynette was raised in and lives in the



Alexandria part of Fairfax County with her husband and two cats Edith and Willie. She is a full time artist and spends a majority of her time in her studio (studio 5) at the Torpedo Factory on Union Street. In her spare time, she also enjoys knitting, Zumba, running and of course reading.

Beynette has a BA in English from American University and a master’s degree in creative writing and literature from George Mason University.



Surrounded by children and joined by mother-in-law, Cindy, Aaron Poldolsky cuts the cake as part of his wife’s 529 Kids Consign Boutique “Shop & See” reception.



529 Opens in Hollin Hall

Megan Poldolsky, owner of the newly opened 529 Kids Consign shop watches as son Ethan scans in the bow tie he selected to wear. His little brother Hayden watches, intrigued.



Katherine Walmsley (left) was one of the first customers, during the special event. With her is owner Megan Poldolsky.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUCCLES/THE GAZETTE

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Teens: Most in Need of Foster Care Homes

Virginia's largest age group in need of homes is between 16 to 18-years-old.

BY SYDNEY KASHIWAGI
THE GAZETTE

At 54 years old, Julie wanted to be an adoptive parent for over a decade. But it wasn't until last year that she finally brought a child home.

Single, she had recently left her federal government position and felt like she was ready. In May, she welcomed her 17-year-old foster son into her McLean home.

"For me I was never a parent before," said Julie. "So I had to run fast and catch up."

Growing up, her foster son had never celebrated a birthday or Christmas, and only could escape the grips of his parents when he went to school. At 17, he decided that he could not live that life anymore and filed a complaint to school authorities. He was soon removed from his home and began living under Julie's care.

"Nobody's perfect, and I think a lot of people think that kids just come with so much stuff they can't overcome," said Julie. "Each kid is different."

According to the Virginia Department of Social Service's most recent data, there are 4,993 children in Virginia's foster care system this year, and about 25 percent of those children come from Northern Virginia. Every year thousands of foster children continue to wait for adoption, oftentimes even aging out of the system with no where to go once they're out.

About UMFS

Established in 1900, United Methodist Family Services is a nonprofit social service agency that helps children and families throughout Virginia. Services include residential treatment, treatment foster care, school-based services, Project LIFE and adoption services. Visit www.UMFS.org or call 804-353-4461 to learn more.

AT 17, Julie's foster son was among over 24 percent of Virginia's foster children who are between the ages of 16 through 18 — the state's largest age group in need of homes.

A pastor at Julie's Methodist church connected her to the United Methodist Family Services, a local non-profit private child-placement agency that helped match her with her foster son.

UMFS is one of the 300 private child-placing agencies in Virginia, and each month recruits about 16 new potential foster families into its program.

"I think that people within the Commonwealth would be surprised to know that there are children in their own back yards who are in the foster care system" said Mary Miller UMFS' resource parent recruiter.

"Foster care impacts every zip code in Virginia, so no community is immune to child abuse and neglect."

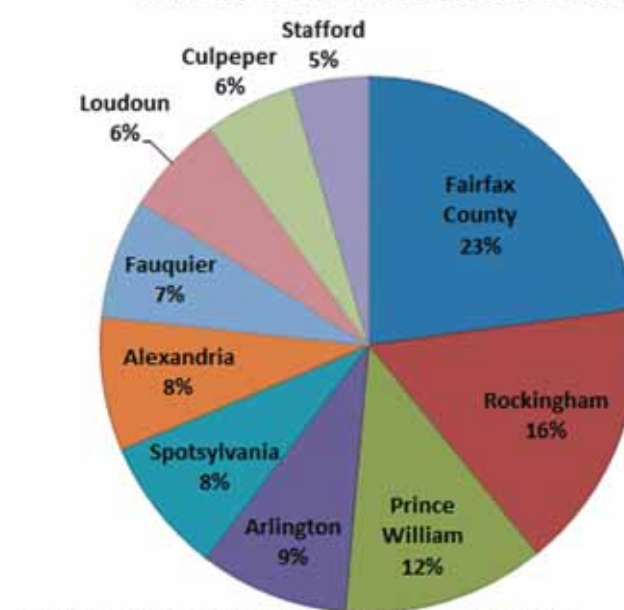
The Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau's most recent statistics between 2003 to 2012 ranked Virginia as the 24th state in the country with the highest number of children in foster care who are waiting to be adopted.

But although Virginia has one of the lowest numbers of children in foster care in the U.S., it is still one of the top states in the country where children age out of the foster care system.

SANDRA BELL, Virginia's Local Department of Social Service's resource family program consultant for Northern Virginia, says that although there are many eligible foster families in the state who are ready to take in children, many of these families only want younger children.

"Very often foster parents come in with their own idea about what foster care is," said Bell. "And they sometimes want the child that they were not able to have on their own, they want a child who is zero to two-years-old who doesn't have any issues, and that's almost impossible."

Top 10 Northern Virginia Areas with Most Non-Exited Foster Children



From Virginia Department of Social Services: Discharges From Foster Care Children's Services System Outcomes Report (02/01/13-01/31/14)

Most children who enter Virginia's foster care system were neglected, have behavioral problems or grew up in environments where their parents used drugs or physically abused them.

"Our job is to find homes for our children, not children for other people's homes and people don't realize that," said Bell.

Gene and Shelley, a Springfield couple who recently fostered the twin brother of their adopted daughter, say that potential foster parents need to have open minds.

In 2006, the couple adopted their daughter at age 12, who had already been in and out of foster homes and had a history of emotional trauma.

Although the couple's daughter had a twin brother, the state suggested that the siblings live separately.

"It's children who are older, siblings groups, children who have special needs ... they need people to step up to the plate for them, and not everyone is as flexible," said Shelley.

For years, Gene and Shelley pressed the state to let them foster their daughter's twin brother. And finally in 2011, the couple was able to bring their daughter's 17-year-old twin brother home.

The couple says that they will continue to devote their lives to their children. Their foster son who had a history of behavioral problems has kept out of trouble and is wrapping up high school then going off to college this fall. While their daughter who once had attachment issues, she has worked through these issues and is now a freshman in college.

BUT Leslie Perez, UMFS' family systems coordinator, says that not all foster children, especially older foster children are as lucky as Julie's, Gene and Shelley's. Many foster children who age out of the system with nowhere to go end up homeless, unemployed, or incarcerated.

"Kids don't maintain those connections always," said Perez. "They don't have a home to go back to."

Julie, Gene and Shelley all agree that even though their foster children are old enough to leave their homes — that the door will always be open.

Last May, then Gov. Bob McDonnell launched the "Virginia Adopts - Campaign 1,000," a statewide initiative to find permanent placement for at least 1,000 children in the foster care system by December 2013.

During the campaign, local DSS offices tried to find permanent homes for the 100 longest waiting children in foster care, many of whom are teenagers.

As of 2014, Necole Simmonds, the director of public affairs at the state's DSS, says that 667 adoptions have been finalized from the 1,041 adoption matches made since the campaign.

"Adoptions can take years to become final," said Simmonds.

"Foster care impacts every zip code in Virginia, so no community is immune to child abuse and neglect."

— **Mary Miller, United Methodist Foundation Services resource parent recruiter**

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Eight Virginia Tech students will present their undergraduate research and scholarship at the eighth annual ACC Meeting of the Minds Conference hosted this year at the University of Pittsburgh. The selected students and projects include **Corinne Mayer**, a senior in University Honors majoring in biological sciences in the College of Science. Her research is titled "Contraction of Mycoplasma gallisepticum negatively affects anti-predator behavior in house finches."

Sherry Mull who works as a Fairfax County Public School crossing guard for Stratford Landing Elementary School, has been recognized by the Virginia Department of Transportation as one of Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guards of 2013. Mull ensures the safety of the 915 Stratford Landing students who arrive via bus, car, and foot each day.

Andrew Van Buren of Mount Vernon High School has received recognition for his video game submissions to the 2014 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Van Buren received a Gold Key for Belong, and Silver Key for Detention.

Mount Vernon High School sent 13 students to the Regional Science Fair held at Robinson Secondary School on March 15. These students have been working since September to research, design, and perform their experiments. Eight of these students either placed and/or won an award from a corporate/professional sponsor.

♦ **Melissa Oberly** - Effect of Malt Agar on Bioluminescence in Fungi, First Place Winner in Microbiology

♦ **Bailey Lustig** - Effect of Egg Yolk Source on Planaria Growth, Second Place Winner in Animal Science

♦ **Meagan Cantwell** - Effect of Monocalcium Phosphate on Dissolved O₂, Second Place Winner in Environ-

mental Analysis

♦ **Samantha Grimes** - Effect of pH on the Rate of Osmosis, Third Place Winner in Biochemistry

♦ **Alena Naff** - Surface Area of Wind Turbines on Energy Produced, Third Place Winner in Energy and Transportation

♦ **Helen Sudhoff** - Effect of Sterilized Environments on Shark Teeth, Honorable Mention in Medicine and Health Science

♦ **Mimi Zhang** - Effect of Octaves on the Harmonic Series, Honorable Mention in Physics and Astronomy

♦ **Mohammed Ali**, Honorable Mention - Certificate of Merit from Northern

Virginia Dental Society

Nena Abernathy, a Mount Vernon High School student, won first place in the Physical Therapy event at the 34th annual HOSA (Future Health Professionals of America) State Leadership Conference held in Roanoke. She was one of 11 Fairfax County Public Schools students competing at the state level. West Potomac High School student **Vaughn Bassett** finished third in the Physical Therapy event. Winners earning first, second, or third place are eligible to participate in the HOSA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, June 25-28.

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OBITUARY

Victoria Guarneros Hernandez (Age 93)
"Mami"

On April 6, 2014 at her home in Alexandria, VA after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Born in Puebla, Mexico, she moved to Alexandria, VA in 1996 to live with her daughter and her family. Mami was known for being very generous; loved music and dancing; was an environmentalist before it was fashionable; and was an excellent fashion designer and tailor, making intricate articles of clothing to include her daughter's wedding dress. She enjoyed gazing at the stars and pointing out constellations to her grandchildren, in fact, she knew the constellations so well that her grandson asked if Mami was an Astrologist. She attended the Alexandria Adult Daycare Center for ten years and will be remembered as being the most cheerful individual there. Mami struggled with Alzheimer's disease for the past 18 years and was one of four families featured in a PBS special on Alzheimer's disease. She was devoted to her faith and extremely faithful to her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Armando Hernandez. Mami is survived by her loving children, Guadalupe Silva-Krause, Teresa, Arturo, and Patricia Hernandez; eleven grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and her siblings, Abraham Guarneros and Raquel Morales; as well as her faithful companion, Perilita. Family and friends may gather on Thursday, April 10, 2014 from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, April 11, 2014 at 11 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association. A guest register may be found at www.everlywheatleyfuneralhome.com

21 Announcements

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OBITUARY

Mable LaVelle Cox Baird, 88,

daughter of the late Roger Prior Cox and Annie Rollings Cox, died Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Riverside Regional Medical Center after a brief illness. Mable was born July 18, 1925 in Sussex Co. and graduated from Newport News High School in June 1943 and Hampton Roads Business College in 1944. A lifelong dedicated Methodist, she was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Newport News where she was a member of the Jane Waters Circle of the United Methodist Women and a beloved member of the chancel choir until her recent illness. Mable began her professional career as a secretary for the Newport News Chamber of Commerce. Then she served as secretary for the District Superintendents of the Alexandria and Peninsula District offices of the United Methodist Church for more than thirty years. Mable loved her participation in the Business and Profession Women's Club for many years, serving in various local and state offices. Her passion for genealogy led to her membership in the United Daughters of the Confederacy for over 45 years. She was most recently a member of the Isle of Wight Chapter #699 in Smithfield, Va., where she held many different offices, including Past President. Mable was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 46 years, Marion Sims Baird, Jr., and a brother, Roger Cox. Survivors include a brother-in-law, Horace Baird, of Colonial Heights; sister-in-law Marjorie Baird of Surrey; two nieces, Alice Baird Curtis and her husband, Barry, of Colonial Heights, June Baird Edwards and her husband, Jerry of Midlothian; a great niece, Kimberly Curtis of Charlottesville; two great nephews, Wesley Edwards of Richmond, and Jeffrey Edwards of Blacksburg; numerous cousins, including Barbara Francis, her husband, Cliff, Dr. Ruth Cox; and a devoted friend, Marilyn Curtin. The family will receive friends from 6-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 7, 2014 at Peninsula Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held at 12 p.m. Tuesday, April 8, at First United Methodist Church, 10246 Warwick Blvd., Newport News. Burial will follow in Peninsula Memorial Park. A reception will be held at the church following interment. Expressions of sympathy may be made to First United Methodist Church of the American Cancer Society. Peninsula Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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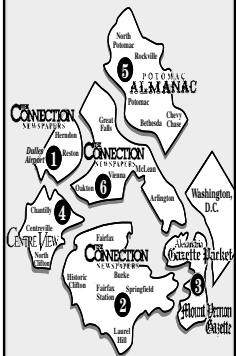
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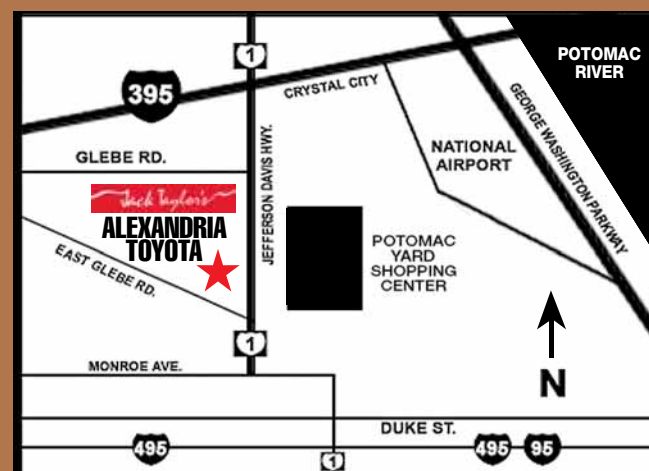
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\$89⁹⁵

Plastic lenses can yellow with age, reducing the vehicle's market value. Headlight brightness & the overall safety during nighttime driving. The headlight lens restoration from us allows you to shine and restore headlights to like-new conditions.



NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS

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COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

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ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL

\$49⁹⁵

Includes: Rotate and balance all 4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.

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