



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

## Fall Festival

Colin Elsinger walks a puppet through the parking lot at St. Luke's on Saturday morning, Sept. 13, at the annual fair. More photos, page 3.

## Former Mount Vernon President James Rees Dies

Visionary helped raise more than a quarter billion dollars for projects.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

Former Mount Vernon president James "Jim" Rees used to ask Director of Horticulture Dean Norton for historic greenery to offer as gifts to groups supporting George Washington's estate.

"I never got it big enough," said Norton. "I would come in with a dogwood or a magnolia, and he'd say, 'You can't get any bigger than that?' Why did I always buy so small?"

Rees' vision for Washington's Mount Vernon was always pointed skyward. He wanted the estate to stay current in the international community as a premiere historic and educational institution.

On Sept. 9, Rees died after a long bout with multiple system atrophy. He was 62 years old.

In his 18-year term as president, Rees lead fundraising ventures that brought in more than a quarter of a billion dollars to develop the impact of the Mount Vernon experience and draw national attention to the estate.

Most notable are the \$60 mil-

lion, 66,700 square-foot Ford Orientation Center and Donald W. Reynolds Museum & Education Center buildings, the restoration of Washington's Distillery and Gristmill, and the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. The library opened in September 2013, and Rees had secured \$83 million out of the \$100 million needed for the library before his June 2012 retirement.

"He really led a renaissance of Mount Vernon," said Susan Magill, Mount Vernon vice president for advancement.

"Before Jim Rees," said Norton, "here we were, the most visited historic site in the country, and still didn't have a visitors center."

"The library has his imprint on it," said Julia Mosley, Mount Vernon director of retail for more than 27 years. "I'm looking out right now at the education and orientation center. That was him. The pioneer farm, that was him."

Rees was the one who hired Mosley, saying he wanted her to expand the retail operation and make it better. He first came to

SEE JAMES REES, PAGE 3

## Cougar Seen Near School

Despite search, no confirming evidence.

The cat may not be out of the bag. Police received two reports last week of early morning sightings of a large cat — possibly a cougar — near Riverside Elementary School on Old Mount Vernon Road.

However, after setting up surveillance cameras and posting

Animal Control and Services personnel in the area, the police haven't seen a trace of the alleged animal.

According to Lucy Caldwell, a spokesperson for Fairfax County Police, the trail cameras only turned up images of "deer, foxes, dogs, etc. Nothing suspicious or unusual."

Caldwell said the cameras will stay up a little longer and that animal services will keep monitoring the situation.

SEE SIGHTINGS, PAGE 4

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Dozens of vendors set up tents in the parking lot offering goods to residents and visitors of the community.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Friends of Eleanor and Amelia Fortsch gather in the laden craft tent. Pictured are: Eleanor, Lily and Amelia Fortsch, Jenna Mulvihill, Grace Tringali, Diana Kleiman and Natalie Johnson.

## At St. Luke's Fall Festival

The farmer's market at St. Luke's at the intersection of Wellington and Fort Hunt Road set up early on Saturday, Sept. 13, as vendor tents rose up over the parking lot for

the annual fall festival at the church. Puppets, toys, handcrafted household goods, jewelry, knitted and crocheted goods along with dozens of other items for on sale throughout the day.



Gary Matthews displays a selection of his "Book-Tail" creations.



Michael Huber of Woodbridge demonstrates how to manipulate the small bird puppets at the fair.



Eleanor Fortsch works on a piece of crochet work at the fall fair.



Helen and Phil Lewis visit the vendor booths.

## James Rees Left Legacy of Education and Excellence

FROM PAGE 1

Mount Vernon in 1983 as director of development and associate director.

"Nothing ever stood still," she said. "There was always something new happening on the horizon. It just was him — you just kind of held on, tried to up your game. He had a high standard, energy and focus for what he wanted to get done."

Today Mosley oversees a four-shop, \$8 million operation.

Members of Rees' staff at Mount Vernon said he was a tough but inspiring leader, fun and entertaining to be around, but above all committed to keeping the nation's first president relevant in today's society.

"You wonder what someone's angle is, where is their heart?" said Norton. "It became evident it was truly Washington first to him."

"Preserving the estate and promoting the enduring legacy of George Washington comprised the centerpiece of Jim's

life," Barbara Lucas, Regent for the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, said in a statement. "The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association benefited beyond measure from his vision, energy and leadership."

Promoting Washington, for Rees, meant things like bolstering the estate staff, which nearly doubled over his 29-year tenure, and ballooning Mount Vernon's endowment from \$4 million to more than \$100 million. That helps accomplish things like leadership programs based on Washington's traits and fund research fellowships at the new library.

The two fellowships focus on Washington's leadership and entrepreneurship, and are named for Rees. "It's a very appropriate tribute to him," said Magill.

"He wanted this library to be a place to show that we really were the scholarly center for Washington," she added.

Sharing Washington's legacy also meant treasuring each visitor to Mount Vernon, a characteristic Magill, Mosley and Norton said Rees impressed on the entire staff.

"We're open 365 days a year," said Magill.

"Even if the Queen is coming, other guests can come too. He taught all of us that spirit of invitation and importance of every visitor."

Whether a head of state or a housewife with her family, Rees knew they were all seeds to be sown with Washington's grand image."

"Near the end, within the last year or two, there was an event," Norton recalled. "[Rees] asked me to get a magnolia for the Purple Heart plaque, down near main gate. I got a 15-foot one and his jaw just dropped: 'I can't believe you got a decent-sized tree.'"

Rees is survived by his husband Kirk Blandford; brother George and George's wife Cindy of Atlanta; and nieces Cameron Rees and Courtney Rees.

Rees's family plans to hold memorial services at a future date. Contributions in Rees' memory may be made to the Multiple System Atrophy Coalition at [www.multiplesystematrophy.org](http://www.multiplesystematrophy.org), as well as the James C. Rees Memorial Fund, care of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, PO Box 110, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

In October 2006, (from left) Jim Rees; then-regent of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association Gay Hart Gaines; then-president of the Ford Motor Company Fund Sandy Ulsh; and historian and author David McCullough cut the ribbon on the Ford Orientation Center at the Mount Vernon Estate.





PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

A high density of deer is seen as an ongoing threat to biodiversity and road safety throughout the Fairfax County.

# Deer Archery Program Enters Sixth Season

Continued overabundance brings bow-hunters back to parks.

By TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

Even at 72, the animated Disney classic “Bambi” can still soften the hardest hearts when it comes to appreciating the innocence and natural beauty of deer. But the reality in Fairfax County is that an unnaturally high density of Bambis and mothers of Bambi is an ongoing threat to biodiversity and road safety.

To cope with that reality, Fairfax County Police manage a robust population control program: an archery-hunting season now in its sixth year.

There are simply too many deer in wooded areas around the county —

throughout parks, private residences and roadways. Ongoing population density surveys conducted by the Park Authority offer data from aerial infrared imaging as well as vegetation monitoring. And according to the police department’s Animal Wildlife Specialist Dr Katherine Edwards, the most recent surveys “still indicate an overabundance of deer in the parks.”

The effects of this overcrowding are multifold, with the most immediately dangerous being increased vehicle collisions. Each year, the police estimate between 4,000 and 5,000 deer-vehicle strikes take place.

At the state level, Virginia ranked eighth in the country for collisions between 2007 and 2008.

It doesn’t help that the times of day deer are characteristically most active are morning and evening twilight — coinciding with northern Virginia rush hours.

Aside from the roadside threat, the over-

population also increases potential human exposure to diseases carried by deer-riding pests such as Lyme disease. Then on an ecological level, deer crowding results in “overbrowsing”, or decimation of understory plant life that would otherwise offer food and shelter to other forest-dwelling animals, not to mention help regenerate the forest itself.

And many homeowners are familiar with the scourge of azaleas, daylilies and hostas.

In an attempt to put the deer population in check, the Board of Supervisors first approved archery as a preferred method in October 2000. It took several years for the program to fully develop, but by the end of fiscal year 2014 — the sixth year of the program’s current form — nearly 800 hunters were responsible for bringing in 848 deer across 27 park sites.

And though not popular with “Bambi” lovers, controlled hunting is the only population control method approved by the state.

“It’s the toolbox we have now,” said

Edwards.

The archery is safe to park patrons and bystanders — only five non-hunter injuries have occurred statewide in the last five decades — and despite the vegetation being slow to rebound, Edwards said the deer population is reducing.

By exactly how much is uncertain. And Edwards said her department is open to different methods that would be more effective, or as effective and more humane.

Such as the current study by White Buffalo Inc, which is operating under a special permit from the state to experiment with sterilizing deer rather than killing them.

“We hear both sides,” said Edwards. “It’s pretty balanced between the viewpoints. If there’s a new method, it gets a lot of attention — looking into these humane options in the future. That’s perfectly reasonable to question the methods we’re using and discuss the options.”

But for now, the police will continue to manage the archery program, because they believe it’s the best option at their disposal.

## To the Point Archery program quick hits

❖ This deer-hunting seasons lasts from Sept. 6 until Feb. 21, 2015. But don’t expect things to pick up until the weather gets cooler: “As hot as it’s been, I doubt there’s been any hunters in the woods,” said Master Animal Control Officer Cook. “Around the beginning of October more hunters will be active.”

❖ Virginia hunting hours are Monday through Saturday, 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Most hunters follow deer off the beaten path, but if you encounter one, they should have identification: “Some people get a

little bit shocked by the sight of the bow,” said Lake Accotink Park manager on duty Carlos Cruz, “but the flash of a badge brings them back to ease. Most people are pretty aware of it.”

❖ All archers must have applied for the program by July 6 2014, possess a valid Virginia hunting license and have passed a proficiency and safety test.

❖ Archers work in groups and are assigned and limited to hunt only in specific sites. The complete list of program locations is online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/archery/archery-program.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/archery/archery-program.htm).

❖ Feeding deer is illegal between Sept. 1 and the first Saturday in January.

❖ The police encourage people to report deer damage they see in neighborhoods and parks, contacting the non-emergency number 703-691-2131 or program manager Sergeant Earit Powell at 703-324-0280.

❖ Some recommended deer-detering plant life include common boxwood, Colorado Blue Spruce, Red Osier Dogwoods and Scots Pine. Or a motion-activated sprinkler may also do the trick.

## Sightings Reported

FROM PAGE 1

The two reports to police described the cat as closer in size to a large dog, having sand- or orange-colored fur, and sporting a tail as long as its body.

While recess and outdoor activities were cancelled immediately following the reported sightings, Fairfax County Public Schools spokesperson John Torre said Monday, “They are having outdoor recess at the school today.”

Animal Services reminds people if they do see an animal matching the description: don’t approach it,

find a safe location and call police at the non-emergency number: 703-691-2131.

Dr. Katherine Edwards, Fairfax County Police Wildlife Management Specialist, said, “It’s not unheard that it could be a possible cougar. That someone had it as an exotic pet and released it.”

But that’s rare and unlikely, she said. The animal control efforts are just a standard safety practice. “We haven’t had a reproducing population within the state since the late 1800s,” Edwards added.

— TIM PETERSON





PHOTO BY TREVOR WRAYTON/VDOT

Looking north on the new ramp to the Fort Belvoir north area, the flyover bridge will be linked to the existing HOV ramp to allow commuters from the NGA building to access the southbound 95 Express Lanes in the afternoon, as well as the northbound I-95 general purpose lanes. This ramp will be open when the 95 Express Lanes open in early 2015.

## Nearing Completion

### Construction nearly done on 95 Express Lanes.

The construction on the 95 Express Lanes is 90 percent complete and on schedule to open in early January 2015.

While the project is in its final months of construction, motorists should still expect lane closures and periodic stoppages on I-95/395 for sign erection and utility work associated with the express lanes project.

Motorists travelling in the 29-mile corridor between Duke Street (Route 236) and Garrisonville Road (Route 610) can expect to see crews paving, placing guardrails, grading and seeding, and ITS (fi-

ber optic technology for operations) work in preparation for the lanes opening in early 2015. In late fall, there will be test vehicles riding on the new lanes, testing the gantries and E-ZPass detectors in various places.

All vehicles, except motorcycles and registered buses, need an E-ZPass or an E-ZPass Flex to use the express lanes. E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex can be obtained at most Division of Motor Vehicles locations, selected Giant Foods or Wegmans, online, and AAA stores. For a complete listing and additional E-ZPass info, go to 95ExpressLanes.com. When the 95 Express Lanes open, hybrid drivers will no longer be able to access the HOV lanes for free, they will be required to pay a toll or have three people in the car.

For more information on the E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex, visit [www.ezpassva.com/Default.aspx](http://www.ezpassva.com/Default.aspx)

### MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos are welcome.

Army Pfc. **Tre Hughes** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Hughes is the son of Kristen Hughes and step-son of Patrick Hyman and a 2010 graduate of Mount Vernon High School.

**Raquese L. Harris**, an Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet at Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va., has graduated from the Leader Development and Assessment Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Cadets usually attend this course between their junior and senior years of college, and they must complete the course to qualify for commissioning. Harris is the father of Adrien Harris of Alexandria and a 2011 graduate of Mount Vernon High School.

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**Alex./Riverwood \$699,700**

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OPEN SUNDAY



**Alex./Yacht Haven \$859,900**

**4505 Dolphin Lane**

4,000 sq ft of renovated luxury in this 5 BR/4 BA Split - Updates: Kitchen, all 4 baths, spectacular cherry hwd floors - Great rm opens to beautiful sun rm addition which opens to spectacular 35K deck which overlooks unbelievable custom landscaped back yard. House designed for independent

living on either level. Two updated HVAC systems plus tankless HWH - the list goes on and on. Nothing better in all of Mt. Vernon!

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**Alex./Yacht Haven \$634,900**

**4426 Neptune Drive**

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# OPINION

## Protecting Against Domestic Violence

### September marks 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Violence Against Women Act.

BY GERRY CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-II)

**T**his month marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) – landmark legislation in which our nation committed new prevention and response resources so that our mothers, daughters, sisters, and friends would no longer have to suffer in silence through domestic abuse.

Though meaningful progress has been realized, domestic violence continues to be a real and troubling challenge in our communities. Far too many of us have been touched by domestic violence in one way or another. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims each year, and one in every four women will experience such violence in their lifetime.

#### COMMENTARY

Just last year, Turning Points, the only domestic violence intervention program in Prince William County, served 6,000 clients. In Fairfax County there were more than 8,000 incidents reported, and we have seen a 40 percent increase in homelessness due to domestic violence.

This is why I was so disappointed when the House Republican majority blocked a bipartisan modernization of VAWA for 18 months before relenting last year. The Senate passed the bill in a strong and bipartisan 78-22 vote, but some House Republicans objected because they did not want to extend protections to Native Americans, LGBT Americans, and immigrants. Thankfully, House leadership finally put aside this obstructionism and ultimately allowed the House to pass the improved VAWA bill, which I and an overwhelming number of Democrats supported.

Thanks to VAWA, we have strengthened and expanded critical protections for all victims of domestic violence and enhanced our nation's criminal justice response. Specifically, VAWA has instituted stricter sentencing guidelines for repeat federal sex crime offenders and provided resources to tribal, local, and state law

enforcement communities to address violent crimes against women. In addition, VAWA funds specialized training for 500,000 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, and other personnel every year. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, which responds to more than 22,000 urgent calls for help every month, also was created under VAWA.

The updated VAWA is renewing our successful partnerships with local nonprofits and law enforcement agencies. It is improving protections for underserved communities, particularly immigrants and victims of human trafficking. And of particular importance for helping victims through the recovery process, the new bill is expanding housing assistance and providing support regardless of sexual orientation.

Sadly, recent events in the news demonstrate that although we have made great progress, as a community we must remain vigilant in protecting those threatened by domestic violence. Please know that I will continue to push Congress to maintain and expand the investments needed to support these critical programs in our community and continue to be a voice of support to those who might otherwise not speak up for themselves.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Don't Discount Hybla Valley PTO

To the Editor:

Recently, I read an article in your paper by Del. Scott Surovell entitled "Children's Issues Dominate Hispanic Town Hall" (Aug. 21-27, 2014). Delegate Surovell mentions that parents in the Hybla Valley community raised concerns about the fact that Hybla Valley Elementary School does not have a PTA.

Mr. Surovell is correct that the school does not have a Parent Teacher Association. However, Hybla Valley does have a PTO, or Parent Teacher Organization. Basically this means that we have an organization that brings parent and teachers together without the expense of paying dues to a national association.

As a recent leader of the organization at Hybla Valley, I assure you that the organization at Hybla Valley is alive and well. Every year, we have several fundraisers in which our parents and teachers collaborate to raise money for this wonderful school. One of our biggest events is the Fall Festival that we hold every October. The event provides a safe evening of fun for our families and staff members' families to enjoy games, face-painting and dance contests to celebrate the fall season. Teachers, parents and students not only participate in the activities at the

event; they also help with the set-up before and clean-up after the event.

Throughout the year, we have additional activities such as Hispanic Bingo Night, Movie Night and spirit wear sales to raise money for the school. I was disappointed to read that our hard work for our school was falsely discounted in your recent article. I hope that this letter will clear up any confusion or doubt that Hybla Valley is actively engaging the families and staff members of the school.

**Kelly Matthews**

Hybla Valley Parent and Teacher Organization Member  
Hybla Valley Special Education Instructional Assistant

### Record-Breaking Generosity

To The Editor:

*The following open letter is addressed to all area residents*

This wonderful community overwhelmed us with its support on Saturday. Our West Potomac performing arts students (254 of them) knocked on your doors, and you answered with smiles and checks. The result? A record-breaking donation total of more than \$27,000 that will have a tremendous effect on our programs.

On behalf of all of the West Potomac kids in band, choir, gui-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Tag Day collected more than \$27,000 in donations to the West Potomac performing arts programs.**

tar, orchestra and theatre ... thank you for your extraordinary show of community spirit. We'll be able to afford instruments, costumes, uniforms, props, travel expenses ... all of the things we need to give these students a truly enriching experience.

We hope you've got your tag up on the refrigerator, and that you'll come enjoy some of our concerts, plays, shows and competitions. Our students are eager to show you all what they're learning.

**The West Potomac Performing Arts Directors**

P.S. If we missed you on Saturday, it's not too late! You can click the "Donations" button at [www.wolverineband.org](http://www.wolverineband.org) to give to

the Tag Day fund, which is split between the five performing arts groups. Or you can mail in a check made out to WPBPO to West Potomac at 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307.

### Freedom Requires Vigilance

To the Editor:

John Glaser is at it again in commenting on my letter to the editor regarding freedoms ["Freedom of Speech," Mount Vernon Gazette, Sept. 11]. He states that the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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## TTR SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY IS PROUD TO WELCOME NICKY MCDONNELL TO OUR FIRM

Nicky joins TTR Sotheby's International Realty after 13 years as a top producing Realtor® in historic Old Town Alexandria. Nicky's great success comes from her dedication to her clients and to her outstanding ability to use emerging technologies to her clients' advantage. Nicky brought to real estate all the necessary tools to ensure success. Her previous experience as an entrepreneur in the emerging "green" market taught Nicky that combining exceptional service, an innovative approach to markets, and using the latest technology was the foundation to achieve great results.

The other key component was being able to listen to clients. In every case, Nicky spends the time to ensure that a seller or buyer's need are creatively incorporated into a search for the perfect home, or to have a home sold for the best results. +1 703 201 3318 | nmcdonnell@ttrsir.com



### OLD TOWN \$3,495,000

414 Franklin Street

George Washington dined here! Built in 1790 and first used as a tavern, our first President was honored at a dinner here in 1798. Today it is steeped in history, totally updated, offering spacious rooms, heart pine floors, lovely moldings, four bedrooms four and one half baths, and a large brick patio overlooking a beautifully landscaped lot and a swimming pool.

JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106



### OLD TOWN \$1,650,000

709 Prince Street

This beautifully renovated and meticulously maintained four-level historic Doctors Row residence offers the perfect balance of modern luxuries and historic charm. Special features include a private lower guest suite, original HW floors, and a large roof-top terrace.

JOY DEEVY +1 703 930 5198



### ROSEMONT \$1,495,000

29 West Glendale Avenue

Gorgeous home with 4 spacious bedrooms, 3.5 baths, open kitchen with commercial appliances and a welcoming back porch overlooking the large private yard with pool, patio and pool house.

PHYLLIS PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201

BRITT PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201



### HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE \$969,000

8046 Washington Road

This beautiful new construction home features 6 bedrooms, 5 baths, stunning gourmet kitchen, grand two-story dining room, hardwood floors, custom built-ins and a carport.

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BRITT PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201



### ROSEMONT PARK \$699,000

104 East Braddock Road

Just a short walk to Del Ray and Old Town shops and restaurants, this home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, hardwood floors and a charming fireplace.

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BRITT PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201



### BELLE HAVEN \$695,000

2109 Windsor Road

Enjoy one level living in this charming Belle Haven rambler offering 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, sunlit kitchen, spacious living and dining rooms and hardwood floors throughout.

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BRITT PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201

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# School Board Ready to Tackle Fiscal Challenges

BY TAMARA DERENAK KAUFAX  
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the chairman of Fairfax County School Board for the 2014-15 school year. My colleagues on the board and I – working closely with our superintendent, Dr. Karen Garza – have an ambitious agenda for the year ahead. Our top priority remains adequate funding for our schools at both the state and county levels. State support for education remains at unacceptable levels and we will continue to work with our county Board of Supervisors to provide our schools with an adequate level of financial support when the state fails to do its job. As a consensus builder, I will continue to urge the School Board to work in partnership with the Board of Supervisors to find solutions to our budget dilemma. We have already taken steps to build a stronger relationship with the Board of Supervisors. This past year, Dr. Garza provided a new level of transparency in the budget process by meeting with the Board of Supervisors and other community leaders, conducting listening tours in each of the magisterial districts, and developing the Citizens

## COMMENTARY

Guide to Understanding the Budget, all of which were well received by the supervisors and the community. Our boards have already met jointly in September to outline our fiscal forecasts. In addition, we have established the Joint Budget Development Committee composed of three supervisors and three School Board members. The committee will review budget factors impacting Fiscal Year 2016 and provide guidance to both boards. The committee will deliver a report to both boards before the County Executive presents his Advertised Budget and before the superintendent presents her Proposed Budget in early 2015. Last year, the county and School Board created the joint Infrastructure Financing Committee to review the facilities needs of both FCPS and the county. The committee report released earlier this year resulted in an additional \$13 million that will be invested each year beginning in FY 2016 for school infrastructure upgrades. I will continue to encourage this kind of collaboration to build trust and realistic expectations for the supervisors, the school board, and the community. In the next few weeks we plan to make a final decision regarding school start times for the 2015-16 school year. Superintendent Garza made her recommendation to the

board at a meeting in early September. We will provide the community with sufficient time to comment on the proposal before we take final action at our Oct. 23 meeting. As you may recall, the School Board adopted a resolution in April 2012 with the stated goal to start high schools after 8 a.m. The board subsequently hired Children's National Medical Center to serve as consultants to develop a plan to achieve that goal. CNMC developed four options. Those options were taken to the community in a series of eight public meetings held in May and June. After analyzing the feedback from parents and the community, CNMC made their recommendation and, based on school board direction, Option 3 is the framework being used to develop a final recommendation for school board consideration. I invite you to learn more at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu). Other new initiatives include the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate, which will serve as a foundation on which to build a long-range strategic plan for FCPS. Once a strategic plan is in place with a direct and clear vision for our schools, our work will be very focused and the outcome will be improved student achievement for every student. We have had great success with our launch of full day Mondays for our elementary students. The community is very sup-

portive of the change which will increase instructional time for students and dedicated planning time for teachers. Beginning this school year, we also have a new standard school calendar in place that eliminates the need to make up inclement weather days at the end of the school year, if fewer than 13 days are missed. The Bailey's Upper Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences opened Sept. 2 with a community ribbon-cutting celebration scheduled for Oct. 15. This new school was converted from a five-story office building on Leesburg Pike and will solve the overcrowding problems that have plagued Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. Under the leadership of one principal, the new campus houses grades 3-5 while the existing campus remains home to preschoolers through second graders. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for students, parents and teachers. As chairman, I pledge to maintain and build upon the excellence for which our schools are known. Working with our state elected officials, supervisors, superintendent and other stakeholders, I am confident that we can solve our most pressing problems while continuing to offer a world-class education for our families. Have a safe and productive school year.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

tion has exceptions to it such as someone yelling fire in a theater and causing panic and I shouldn't rely too much on the constitutional amendment protecting free speech and freedom of religion. If John Glaser is correct about the First Amendment as he describes, why are there lawsuits filed as violations of the U.S. Constitution, for example, against the Obamacare mandate for organizations to provide free contraception to employees regardless to their religious beliefs that was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional, other lawsuits to stop IRS from targeting selected

groups or organizations that disagree with the current administration and more lawsuits will follow if IRS continues its effort to impose speech code on churches. The U.S. Constitution is a fixed document, unless amended, that has been in effect for over 200 years and has been an excellent protector of free speech, freedom of religion among the mandated protected rights. Senator Harry Reid, during the week beginning Sept. 8, pushed to pass a constitutional amendment so Congress could tell people what is acceptable political speech. But, the attempt to pass it that failed. If passed the amendment would have overturned the First Amendment protection of free speech as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court according to one news report.

That failure shows that despite exceptions here and there to the First Amendment by court action, mandated free speech and religion constitutional amendment still stands as the supreme law of the land for the benefit of all Americans. Without freedoms we have nothing. So let's be vigilant and do whatever we can to preserve these precious freedoms provided in the U.S. Constitution.

**Frank Medico**  
Mount Vernon

## Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:  
  
Letters to the Editor  
The Gazette  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**Prayer Vigil for Hannah Graham.** 7 p.m. at Aldersgate UMC, 1301 Collingwood Road. There will be a brief prayer vigil for missing UVA student and West Potomac High School grad, Hannah Elizabeth Graham, at Aldersgate. All in the community are invited to participate.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

**Long Term Care, A Social and Family Challenge.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2511 Sherwood Hall Lane. Presented by AARP, sponsored by Mount Vernon At Home. RSVP at 703-303-4060 or [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org).

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

**Teens Invited to Explore Police Careers.** 6 p.m. West Potomac High School Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Informational meeting for teens who have considered a career in law enforcement and their parents. Explorers serve police departments and their communities, practice skills and gain experience in fingerprinting, processing crime scenes, staffing special events and helping officers spread the word about safety and crime prevention. No need to RSVP. Visit [fcpsnews.wordpress.com/2014/08/26/teens-invited-to-explore-police-careers/](http://fcpsnews.wordpress.com/2014/08/26/teens-invited-to-explore-police-careers/) for more.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 11

**Office Hours.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3. Dan Storck,

Mount Vernon District School Board Member for Fairfax County Public Schools, will host Saturday community office hours. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at [Dan.Storck@fcps.edu](mailto:Dan.Storck@fcps.edu) for more.

### TUESDAY/OCT. 14

**NOVA Registration Closes.** Registration for Northern Virginia Community College's second 8-week term closes. Classes begin Oct. 15. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) or visit campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge. Call 703-323-3000 for more.

### THURSDAY-FRIDAY/OCT. 16-17

**Mental Health First Aid.** 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the South County Center, 8350 Richmond Hwy. Public education program from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Wellness and Health Promotion. Over a two-day course, certified instructors help people learn to assist someone developing or experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. \$25. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/ereg/Registration.aspx?groupID=47](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/ereg/Registration.aspx?groupID=47).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Mount Vernon At Home** is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman

chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) to learn more. Visit [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org) for more.

### Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents

needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/), email or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

The **Adult Day Health Centers** need marketing assistants. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**On-Call IT Specialists** to help older adults and adults with disabilities with basic computer issues. Schedule is flexible. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs **volunteers to drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and link to Volunteer Solutions or e-mail [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov).



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**Rosemont** \$1,795,000  
204 Walnut Street West, Alexandria, VA 22301  
Only several blocks to the King Street Metro, this gracious 5BR + 3.5BA 1920 Rosemont colonial boasts a entrance hall, updated eat-in kitchen, 2 fps, 1st FL FR + 3 car garage!  
Donnan C. Wintermute 703-608-6868



OPEN SUN 1-4PM

**Ivy Hill** \$1,125,000  
502 Ivy Circle, Alexandria, VA 22302  
Gracious entertaining home on cul-de-sac enjoys spacious additions, updated open kitchen, master suite, rec rm, storage, & large, lush yard. Walk to MacArthur & Metro. Mins to DC.  
Nancy Perkins 703-402-5599



OPEN SUN 1-4PM

**Potomac Greens** \$1,049,000  
705 Miller Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Spectacular home between Del Ray & Old Town! Luxury finishes abound in this very large 3,700 sf home. Walk to coffee, restaurants, shops, & metro. 4BR + 3.55BA + 2 car garage.  
Nancy Perkins 703-402-5599



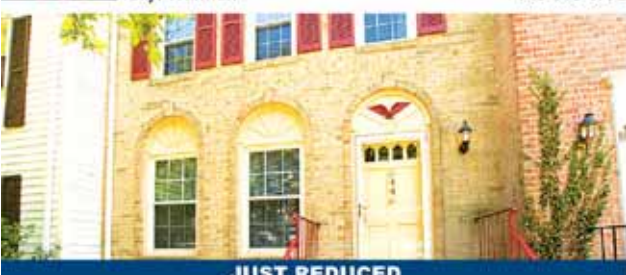
OPEN SUN 2-4PM

**Quaker Ridge** \$779,000  
3541 Goddard Way, Alexandria City, VA 22304  
Tons of space in this 4BR, 2.55BA end townhome w/2 car garage. Gourmet kitchen, Trex deck, patio and more. Great location near everything!  
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788



NEW LISTING

**Kingstowne** \$639,000  
5400 Castle Bar Lane, Alexandria, VA 22315  
This home has 4 bedrooms, 2 and half baths. This gracious residence offers fireplace. This elegant home will delight you. Superb styling and beautiful features.  
Gayl Warman 703-309-8792



JUST REDUCED

**Mt Vernon Square Townhou** \$326,900  
2446 Windbreak Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306  
Renovated, 3 lvl brick TH, walk out bsmt. New HVAC, energy star windows, hwd floor, carpet. Fully renov. Kit-counter, sink, cabinets, pantry, floor, SS appl.  
Fred Marcellus 703-629-0297



NEW LISTING

**Alexandria** \$309,500  
4951 Brenman Park Drive 303, Alexandria, VA 22304  
Stunning condo in sought after Cameron Station. Pristine, hardwoods, SS appliances, granite, gas FP, balcony & gar parking. Walk to shops, restaurants and park.  
The York Group 703-409-3377



**Harbor Terrace** \$190,000  
1315 Abingdon Drive East 3, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Welcome home to this beautifully maintained condo at Harbor Terrace. Kitchen remodeled in 2010 w/white soft close cbnts, w/ glass inserts, custom built Murphy bed.  
Jane King 703-498-1034

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**Glenn Lewis**  
Branch Vice President

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for all of your real estate needs.



NEW LISTING

**Timber Branch Park** \$699,000  
806 Parkway Terrace, Alexandria, VA 22302  
Fabulous kitchen! Charming 3 bedroom, 2 bath home also has two remodeled baths, sunny family room, hardwood on both floors, screened porch, 2 fireplaces, garage and so much more!  
Jane Cole 703-598-6198



NEW LISTING

**River Club 1 at Belmont** \$525,000  
820 Belmont Bay Drive 405, Woodbridge, VA 22191  
Stunning 2LVL condo on the 8th hole of Osprey Country Club and overlooking Belmont Bay, 2387 sq.ft. with 3BR/3Full BA, great rm, fam rm, all new kit, refrn flrs and new carpet.  
Dan Crumbaugh 703-362-9231



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91118 Volunteer Dr  
\$485,000

**Everyone Loves A Bargain!**

Rare Unique opportunity to acquire a spacious 4BR, 3BA home in prime Mt. Vernon location for exceptionally attractive price! Many features include open floor plan, large glass walls, updated roof & HVAC. Masonry patio overlooks approx 20,000 sq ft grounds. Give away price provides huge potential to transform this into your true dream home in one of area's premier neighborhoods!



3810 Westgate Dr  
\$689,900

**Westgate Stunner!**

Remarkably attractive price for totally updated spacious Colonial in wonderful Westgate, one of area's premier communities. Fabulous features include: open floor plan, sun room, amazing custom kitchen, 4 BRs, 3.5 updated baths, 4FP, finished lower level and side load two car garage. Magnificent grounds with patio and large level open spaces. Impossible to duplicate this incredible property at even close to this price!



**SOLD!**

8903 McNair Ct



**CONTRACT!**

3448 Sun Up Way



**SOLD!**

8402 Riverside Rd



**SOLD!**

9014 Buckner Rd



Val Klotz 703.303.9744  
STAFFORD \$775,000 OPEN SUNDAY 12 - 3

Amazing opportunity to own this unique home on a secluded private 4+ acre lot. 4BR/3.5BA on 3 levels featuring an open floor plan, a main level master suite, kitchen, dining room, sun room, family room with fireplace. Living room and balcony on UL. Huge LL. Back porch.



D'Antonio-Kohler Realty Group 202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633  
ALEXANDRIA \$579,000

Large move-in ready center hall Colonial in popular Stratford-on-the-Potomac! Great floor plan, 4BR/2.5BA, formal living/dining rooms, basement rec room/storage. Freshly painted interior. Newly refinished hardwoods. Fenced yard has brick patio/hot tub.



Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562  
ARLINGTON \$900,000

2BR/2BA unit with gleaming hardwoods. Gourmet kitchen with Sub-Zero, Viking, Wolf & Miele appliances. 2013 upgrades: granite, glass backsplash, designer fixtures, new carpet in BR, fresh paint. 2 balconies. Walk to Courthouse Metro.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739  
ALEXANDRIA / Montebello \$439,000

Rarely Available! Resort style living with fabulous views from this 15th floor Montebello "J" unit, featuring 3BR/2BA with 1,695 sq ft of living space. Every onsite amenity available and pet friendly! Minutes to Metro, Old Town, DC and Pentagon. Garage parking included.



D'Antonio-Kohler Realty Group 202.460.1809 or 703.967.7633  
ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$329,000 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

6522 10th St Charming townhouse freshly painted, new carpet, refinished wood floors, crown moldings, W/D, large master, LL, family room with storage, front/back porches and front to back windows. Walk to pool, tennis, library, rec center, restaurants, shopping & more.



Val Klotz 703.303.9744  
STAFFORD \$435,000 OPEN SUNDAY 12 - 3

28 PINEHURST LN Over 4500 sq ft, 5BR/3.5BA, cul-de-sac, 2-car garage, open kitchen, family room walks out to deck. Sun roof off kitchen. Finished lower level walks out to patio. Formal living and dining room.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739  
ALEXANDRIA \$303,000

**Price Adjustment!** Updated 2BR/1.5BA townhouse in convenient Woodstone. Contemporary kitchen with granite and SSA, open living / dining room with access to deck and woodlands. Newer roof, windows, furnace, gutters and paint. Just minutes to Old Town, Metro.



Cindy Nelson 703.965.7562  
ALEXANDRIA \$339,900

Largest unit (corner) in building offering 3BR/2BA. Rarely available 2 garage spaces. Updated kitchen with SSA, Silestone, double oven/convection, wine cooler, full-size W/D. Large balcony. Bus stop at front door - Shuttle to Pentagon Metro M - F.



Martha Martin 703.298.9364  
ALEXANDRIA \$550,000

Lovingly maintained home with lots of upgrades on partially wooded .5 acre. Beautiful wood floors. Main level suite use as in-law / FR or office. Fantastic MBR/BA. Unfinished basement and floored attic provide storage. Large deck. Commuter friendly - close to 2 metros.



Franki Roberts 703.898.0840  
ALEXANDRIA / Hollin Hills \$729,000 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

7424 REBECCA DR Expanded Goodman home has customized architectural features - 2 wood-burning fireplaces, skylights, vaulted ceilings. Hardwoods. Eat-in kitchen with ceramic, artistic backsplash. LL family room, private patio, beautiful landscaping, and storage.



Mary Bourke 703.906.5825  
FALLS CHURCH \$949,000

Traditional Colonial featuring 4BR plus bonus room, 3.5BA and 2-car garage. 9' ft ceilings on first floor and cathedral ceiling in foyer. Main level bedroom. Handicapped accessible bath. Large eat-in kitchen and much more.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739  
ALEXANDRIA / Wilton Woods \$549,000

Move right into this fabulous 4BR/2.5BA Colonial, minutes to schools, Metro, Pentagon and Old Town. Newly refinished hardwoods thru-out, updated eat-in kitchen with granite and SSA, formal living/dining, 1-car garage, sun porch and rear deck.



Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764  
ALEXANDRIA \$675,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

2710 KING ST 3BR/2BA brick single family home with great bones ready for your modern upgrades. Excellent location! Lovely landscaped front and back yards. Drive way with off-street parking. www.brianandjerry.com



Poole / Braun Team 703.960.3100  
ALEXANDRIA \$858,000 OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4

1103 BELLE VISTA DR Beautiful home in Villamay. This home has 3BR/3BA with master suite on main level. Updated kitchen, roof, HVAC & HW/H systems and whole house generator. LL family room with walk-out + 2-car garage, extensive landscaping and gardens.



Anya Macklin 703.518.8720  
ALEXANDRIA \$250,000 OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4

2702 DARTMOUTH RD #3 Features of this 2BR home include beautiful hardwoods thru-out, new blinds, updated heating and appliances - new appliances. Delightful deck. Pet-friendly community with renovated gym. Low condo fees. Extra storage. Near Metro.

## RENTALS

- 4426 Pembroke Village Dr #131 \$1,450  
Pembroke Village Townhouse 2BR / 2BA 1 Fireplace 1 Assigned Pkg  
Randy Bender 703.906.1749
- 5544 Woodlawn Manor Ct \$1,900  
Woodlawn Manor Townhouse 3BR / 3.5BA 2 Assigned Pkg  
Katherine Ward 703.627.8782
- 6507 Cavalier Dr \$2,300  
Bucknell Manor Cape Cod 3BR / 2BA  
Poole/Braun Team 703.623.0301
- 3701 Huntley Meadows Ln \$2,400  
Huntley Meadows Townhouse 2BR / 3.5BA 1 Fireplace 2 Assigned  
Catherine Parker 703.627.5688
- 1132 Anesbury Ln \$2,800  
Collingwood Estates Rambler 3BR / 3BR 2 Fireplaces  
John Randolph 703.307.4182

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## ONGOING

**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-hour.html](http://www.Monaco-Alexandria.com/alexandria-hotel/doggy-happy-hour.html).

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sept. 21 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street. "Influence and Inspiration: The Art League Faculty Celebrates 60 Years." Exhibit showcases Washington Color School Artists to present League faculty. Reception Sunday, Sept. 7 from 4-6 p.m. Exhibit open Thursdays and Fridays noon-4 p.m., Saturdays 1-4 p.m., Sundays noon-4 p.m., and closed Mondays-Wednesdays. Visit [www.theartleague.org/content/influence\\_inspiration](http://www.theartleague.org/content/influence_inspiration) or call 703-683-1780 for more.

**Influence and Inspiration in Alexandria Exhibition.** Open through Sept. 21. Thursday, Friday and Sunday noon-4 p.m. Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Influence and Inspiration in Alexandria: Highlights from Art League's Finest Teaching Faculty Over 60 Years. Call 703 548 0035 or visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

**Alexandra Banned Books Week.** Through Saturday, Sept. 27 at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Banned Books Quiz and Giveaway. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) for more.

**"Metamorphosis" Juried Art Exhibit.** Runs Friday, Oct. 3 through Sunday, Nov. 2, Thursday noon-6 p.m., Friday and Saturday noon-9 p.m., Sunday noon-6 p.m. Reception Friday, Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. Del Ray Artisans Gallery. Transformative art embodying 'change'. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

**Art Display.** Through Oct. 5 at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, Northern Virginia Community College. Electronic Aesthetics by sculptor Eric Celarier and painter Glen Kessler will be on display, and viewing is free and open to the public. Open Friday-Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Exhibition of New York.** Through Oct. 12 at 105 N Union St. studio 312. View work by French impressionist Danny Conant and Shadow Series by E. E. McCollum. Open daily 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Thursdays 2-9 p.m. Call 703-683-2205 for more.

**Hacking Objects of Desire.** Through Oct. 19 in the Target Gallery. Norwegian Sámi artists Joar Nango, Silje Figenschou Thoresen, and Sigbjørn Skåden examine pertinent questions about commercialism and globalism.

**Saving Mount Vernon.** Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 26. 3:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit the rarely seen basement and wander the historic area to learn the heroics of the estates caretakers. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Through My Eyes.** Saturdays and Sundays through Oct. 26. 1:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Join people from

Washington's world as they go about their daily activities, making several stops along the way. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Oct. 26 at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 101 Eisenhower Ave. "All Creatures Great and Small" is an animal themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofit organizations receive a percentage of each sale. Monday-Thursday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Visit [TheDelRayArtisans.org/AWLA](http://TheDelRayArtisans.org/AWLA) for more.

**National Treasure Tour.** Through Oct. 31. 1-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A tour dedicated to the behind the scenes filming of "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets." \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Oct. 31 at Prudential PenFed Realty, 300 N Washington St., Suite 100 The artwork of Wendy Band, Sharon Frey and Linda Lowery in the small group show: "Three Artists, Three Visions" will be displayed. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [TheDelRayArtisans.org/PrudentialPenFed](http://TheDelRayArtisans.org/PrudentialPenFed) for more.

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

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**Art Exhibition.** through Jan 2. at 1717 King St. and 300 S. Washington St. BB&T Bank is proud to host an exhibition of portraits of African American and women Living Legends of Alexandria at its Old Town branches. Monday- Thursday 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Visit [www.AlexandriaLegends.com](http://www.AlexandriaLegends.com).

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Creating and Portraying a Living History Character.** This four-part



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY MICHAEL DEBLOIS

## Port City Playhouse Presents "Black Hole"

**"Black Hole," Port City Playhouse's drama about family relationships, written by local playwright Jean Koppen, continues its run at the Convergence Lab theatre, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA, 22302. Performances are at 8 p.m., Friday-Saturday, September 19-20 and 26-27, and Tuesday, September 23; and 2 p.m., Saturday, September 20 and 27. Reservations at [www.portcityplayhouse.org](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org).**

workshop taught by an experienced first-person interpreter will demonstrate how to research and develop a first-person character, select appropriate period clothes, offer practice sessions in character, and provide an opportunity (and goal) to step out onto the "stage" during Gadsby's Tavern Museum's 2014 Candlelight Tour Program. Meant for beginners, participation in all four classes is recommended. Classes are held at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street 2-4 p.m. on Sundays, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7. Cost is \$40 for the series, \$12 per class as space allows; tickets must be purchased in advance either through the online shop at <http://shop.alexandriava.gov> or by calling 703-746-4242. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

**Sewing Classes.** Introduction to Machine Sewing for Kids — Thursday, Sept. 25, 4:15-5:45 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 27, 10-11:30 a.m.; Sewn Collage for Kids — Thursdays through Oct. 23, 4:15-5:45 p.m. or Saturdays through Oct. 25, 10-11:30 a.m.; Sewn 3-D Creations for Kids — Thursdays, Nov. 6-20 or Saturdays, Nov. 8-22, 10-11:30 a.m. Visit [www.artatthecenter.org/registration-fall2014.htm](http://www.artatthecenter.org/registration-fall2014.htm) to register.

**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.

**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](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

## THROUGH NOV. 21

**Young at Art.** Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. An exhibit for artists who are 55 or older. Free. Call 703-836-4414 or 703-824-1345 for more.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 2-SUNDAY/OCT. 12

**Photography Exhibit.** Opening Reception on Sunday, Sept. 7, 2-4 p.m. Gallery Hours 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily and 2-9 p.m. on Thursdays at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St. E.E. McCollum will be showing images from his "Shadow Series" and Danny Conant will be showing "French Impressions." Visit [www.dannycconant.com](http://www.dannycconant.com) or [www.eemccollum.com](http://www.eemccollum.com) for more.

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 4-27

**Banned Books Exchange.** At the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Drop off a book that has been banned or challenged. Let's keep banned books circulating — it's a great way to fight censorship. Take a book — read what they don't want you to read. Not sure what books have been banned? Visit [www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek](http://www.ala.org/bbooks/bannedbooksweek). free and open to the public. Call 703-548-0035 or visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 5-OCT. 5

**Electronic Athletics.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Opening reception is Sept. 6, 4-6 p.m. Schlesinger Center, Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 4915 East Campus Lane. Exhibit of artwork by Eric Celarier and Glen Kessler. Free. Visit <https://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/calendar.html>.

**Live Music.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Euge Groove performs live. \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or [www.eugegroove.com](http://www.eugegroove.com).

## SEPT. 9-OCT. 14

**Art Gallery.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. In "Architectural Interpretation," artists create fiber art inspired by architecture. Free. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

## SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13-24

**Senior Olympics.** 19 locations. Participants must be 50 years old by Dec. 30, 2014. Deadline to register is Aug. 29 by mail, and Sept. 5 online. Registration is \$12, additional fees may apply. To find a location and register, visit a local senior center, or visit [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 18-20

**Scavenger Hunt.** Visit all of the Old Town Boutique District stores and get your passport stamped to receive your goodies and a chance to win big prizes. Visit [www.oldtownboutique-district.com](http://www.oldtownboutique-district.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**Patriot Day Golf Classic.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Proceeds benefit Fort Belvoir Wounded Warrior Program and Camp Freedom Ranch. Contact 703-329-1448 for more.

**Ford Evening Book Talks.** 7 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Ave. A book talk that features authors and historians discussing their latest books about George Washington and the nation's founding era. Space is limited and registration is required. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.

**Live Music.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Gary Puckett & the Union Gap performs live. \$35. Visit

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## ENTERTAINMENT

# The Sistahs Are Back on Stage

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN  
METROSTAGE, PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**T**hirty years and counting and the Bradshaw sistahs are returning to our stage to help us celebrate with our production of "Three Sistahs. Three powerhouse singers—two are Helen Hayes Award-winning actors, the third a newcomer just off a national tour. Original music that covers many genres, portraying beautiful harmonies and emotions showcase the music of the very original Helen Hayes Award-winning composer William Hubbard.

### NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

"Three Sistahs" features Bernardine Mitchell, who won the Helen Hayes Award when she channeled Mahalia Jackson on our stage; Roz White, with a Helen Hayes Award and multiple nominations, who has been seen at MetroStage in many acclaimed productions, including "Gee's Bend" where she was nominated for a Helen Hayes Award for Lead Actress; and the very gifted Ashley Ware Jenkins, who has joined the ranks of the professional actor, earning her Equity card with this production. It is a musical written and directed by Atlanta based Thomas W. Jones II, an Artistic Associate here at MetroStage, who has brought so many of his original pieces to our stage over the past 12 years. And, as always, William Knowles, composer, arranger, pianist, conductor will be leading our musicians as they fill the house with Hubbard's music.

"Three Sistahs," which takes place in Washington, D.C., in 1969, addresses universal issues confronting family, parent and sibling relationships and continues to be remarkably timely. The sistahs have re-



PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

**Roz White, Bernardine Mitchell and Ashley Ware Jenkins star in MetroStage's "Three Sistahs."**

turned to the family home for the funeral of their brother, a casualty of the Vietnam War. Sadly today we are still dealing with war casualties and cities burning in response to racial issues. And the inevitable challenges of growing up and navigating the dangerous waters of life continue.

MetroStage was founded in 1984 as American Showcase Theatre Company by Jill Kamp and has been "trading as" MetroStage since the early '90s, "showcasing" artists, original work and music, the foundation of what we do. We are committed to bringing work to our audiences that will enrich their lives, touch their hearts and entertain their souls. For 30 years our mission has been to bring the most gifted artists to our stage and give patrons an experience that will make them think, feel, and contemplate life and its many challenges. As long as they are still talking about the production the next morning, we have done our job.



## Rising Hope Fundraiser GALA

It is time again for The Hope Grows Gala! Our fundraising dinner, dance, and auction will be held at the Waterford at Springfield on Friday, October 3rd!

We will be enjoying an evening of spirited silent and live auctions, fantastic hors d'oeuvres and entrées, and live entertainment from an up-and-coming local band! Please join us in this unique and exciting opportunity to support Rising Hope in their mission to reach out to *the Least, the Lost, and the Lonely* along the Route 1 Corridor!

To learn more about the event, purchase tickets or sponsorship packages (including group admission, program ads, event recognition, and more), or make a financial donation, visit us at [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org).

**OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 7:00 PM**  
**WATERFORD AT SPRINGFIELD**  
6715 COMMERCE STREET, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22150

Donations of goods and services for the auction are gratefully accepted.

For details or to learn other ways you can help, email [stemory@aol.com](mailto:stemory@aol.com) or call (703)360-1976.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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[www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or  
[www.garypuckettmusic.com](http://www.garypuckettmusic.com).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

**Outdoor Movie Night.** 8 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Free screening of the Lego Movie. Free popcorn and water will be available and guests may bring a picnic dinner. Bring blankets or low beach chairs to sit on. Contact 703-746-5592 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation) for more.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 19-20

The Miracle League Games. Friday 6 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. at the Kelley Cares Miracle Baseball Field located at the Lee Center. This league provides any young or adult with mental or physical challenges with the opportunity to play at their own pace. Call 703-746-5402 or visit [www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com](http://www.miracleleagueofalexandria.com).

**Live Music.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Wailin' Jennys. \$39.50. Visit [www.thewailinjennys.com](http://www.thewailinjennys.com) or [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

**Art and Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church of Mount Vernon, 5614 Old Mill Road. The Art and Craft Fair offers a wide variety of art and crafts from a variety of local and regional artists and vendors, plus food and fun for the whole family. Visit [www.stjamesmv.org](http://www.stjamesmv.org) or call 703-780-3081.

**Historical Discussion.** 10 a.m.-noon. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum,

105 N. Union St. Jay Roberts will discuss the visit Frederick Douglass made to Alexandria on Sept. 24, 1894. Call 703-746-4399 for more.

**Living Legends Theater Night at MetroStage.** 7 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. play, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., in North Old Town. In observation of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, the occasion will honor those Living Legends of Alexandria who played key roles in fostering civil rights in Alexandria in the '60s. The play, "Three Sistahs" is an elegant, intimate musical which exposes the souls of three strong women as they reflect the promise of the future while revealing the pain of the present and their regrets of the past. \$75 (tickets held at door). Purchase tickets at [llatheatrenight.eventbrite.com](http://llatheatrenight.eventbrite.com).

**Live Music: Slaid Cleaves.** 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, between Fort Hunt Road and Route 1. Focus Music in Mount Vernon presents Americana/folk singer-songwriter Slaid Cleaves, with Mary Gordon Hall. Tickets are \$20 general, \$18 in advance at [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 20-21

**Mount Vernon Marketplace.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Visit a recreation of an early American marketplace with crafts, entertainment and more. Try your hand at 18th century cricket and enjoy evening programs. Children \$9, adults \$18. Call 703-780-2000; 703-799-8697 or visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

**Jazz Concert.** 4 p.m. at Meade

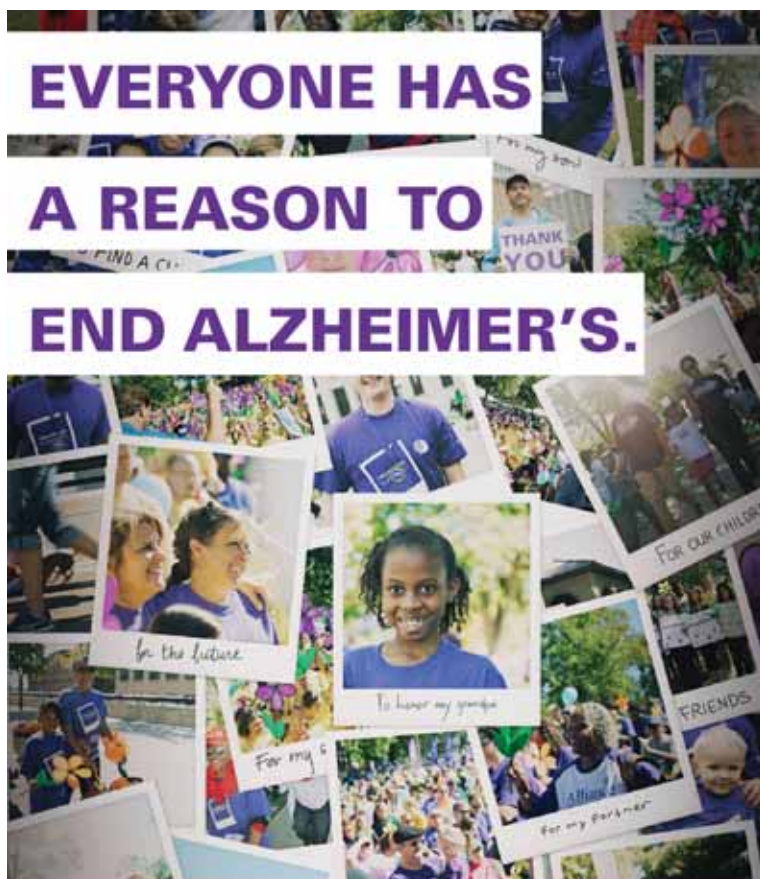
Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alford St. Yvonne Johnson will be perform for the Jazz at Meade Concert Series. Johnson, local artist, pianist, songwriter, was composing music for local theatres by the age of fifteen. Johnson will soon be releasing her new project, "Malcolm's Set." \$15. Call 703-549-1334, email [jazzatmeade@meadechurch.org](mailto:jazzatmeade@meadechurch.org) or visit [www.meadechurch.org](http://www.meadechurch.org) for more.

**Bellydance Evolution.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt Vernon Ave. Step into the world of Alice in Wonderland as Bellydance Evolution brings this classic tale to life through world fusion and Middle Eastern dance. Tickets are \$29.50 at [www.Ticketmaster.com](http://www.Ticketmaster.com) or 800-745-3000. Visit [www.BellydanceEvolution.com](http://www.BellydanceEvolution.com) or call 818-754-1760.

**Alexandria Banned Books Week.** 2 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dance in the Gallery: Abigail Wallace Dance. ACW Dances will perform dances that use selections of banned books as the audio source. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) for more.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 22

**Agenda: Alexandria at the Hermitage.** 6:30 p.m. The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave. "Arts in Alexandria: The Torpedo Factory and Beyond" with Randy Cohen, Vice President, Americans for the Arts; Matthew Stensrud, Chair, Alexandria Commission for the Arts; and Eric Wallner, Chief Executive Officer, The Torpedo Factory Arts Center. Reception, 6:30; dinner, 6:45 p.m. Members \$37, nonmembers \$42. Program only 7:15, free to members; \$5 for nonmembers. Reservations required, call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email



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**FREE Admission**

# Saturday, September 27

11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

agendaalexandria@aol.com.

**Burned and Buried: The Sordid History of Books.** Alexandria Banned Books Week. 7 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince Street, Alexandria. Learn about the origins of the written word and how far back it goes. Lecture by historian A. M. Lauren Hammersen. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

**Stop, Drop & Roll.** 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. A performance project for two groups in an opposing structure of athletic-inspired movement. Free. Email [janefranklindance@gmail.com](mailto:janefranklindance@gmail.com).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

**Live Music.** 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tower of Power. \$55. Visit [www.towerofpower.com](http://www.towerofpower.com) or [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

**Banned Book Read-Out.** 7 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The public is invited to read 5-7 minute selections from banned or challenged books. A discussion will follow. Email [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org) to reserve a spot to read. Free. [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us)

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT.25-OCT.5

**Arts on the Horizon.** 10:30 a.m. The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Imagine a theatrical world designed especially for babies and young toddlers to enjoy, inspired by the wonders of the rainforest. Whistling flowers, a clacking caterpillar, and brightly colored umbrella birds await. Under the Canopy is a 20-minute, interactive, nonverbal show geared for children 0-2 (and their 3-4 year

old pals). Performances are Sept. 25-26, 28, and Oct. 1-3, 5. Tickets are \$5 for children and adults and can be purchased online at [www.artsonthehorizon.org](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org) or at the door on the day of the performance. Call the box office at 703-967-0437.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 27

**Community Health Fair.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St. Free Health screenings available. Call 703-683-2222 for more.

**Costume Symposium.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Speakers will explore the influences on fashion in 1814, the cut and construction of 1812 military uniforms, the creation of race based fashions in the new nation, and a detailed look at one fashionable wardrobe. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Historic Alexandria Homes Tour.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The public can step inside and get a glimpse of six gorgeous homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Contact 703-746-3301 or visit [www.thetwig.org/homes-tour](http://www.thetwig.org/homes-tour) for more.

**Community Festival.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. A community festival, will showcase the best schools, businesses and community groups. Visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).

**Historical Tour.** 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Tour this unfurnished villa built in 1825 for Thomas Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.historichuntley.org](http://www.historichuntley.org) for more.

**Library Survivor.** 2-3:30 p.m. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Part of

Banned Book week, a game in which to pretend the library is on fire and the public has to decide which book gets the last spot on the rescue truck. Free. [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us)

**Live Music.** 7:30 at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Maysa performs. \$55.00. Visit [www.maysa.com](http://www.maysa.com) or [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

**Musical Performance.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall. "Dare to Embrace the World" conducted by Kim Allen Kluge will feature several symphony performances. Call 703-548-0885.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 28

**Beginner Christmas Cookie Decorating.** 10 a.m. at La Cuisine, 323 Cameron St. Learn how to decorate, bake and ice cookies from Katrina Tines. The cost of the class and materials is \$120. Visit [www.lacuisineus.com](http://www.lacuisineus.com) for more.

**Autumn Open House.** 1-4 p.m. at Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, 400 East Monroe Ave. Visitors are invited to drop by and tour the demonstration gardens. Native plants and plants for pollinators will be featured, along with light snacks and drinks flavored with herbs from the scented garden. Visit [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu) for more.

**Crave Returns.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105.N Union St. This dinner will connect innovators with enthusiasts and supporters to fund new creative community projects. Visit [torpedofactory.org/crave](http://torpedofactory.org/crave) for more.

**Live Music.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys. \$35. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).



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# A Different Path to a 4-year Degree

**NOVA's Guaranteed Admissions Program gives students opportunities to attend their dream schools.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**N**oor Naveed immigrated to the United States from Pakistan with her family shortly after the 9/11 attacks. The family settled in Northern Virginia and, years later, Naveed graduated from Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. She dreams of becoming the first person in her family to graduate from college.

"My mother was forced to drop out of junior high and at 32 got her GED. I just knew that there wasn't anyone in my immediate family who had graduated from college and was determined to be the first person," said Naveed. "I knew I wanted to [go to] George Mason because I didn't want loans and I knew I could pay for George Mason out of pocket."

Naveed used Northern Virginia Community College's Guaranteed Admissions Program to complete her associate of arts degree and is now finishing a bachelor's degree in criminology, law and society at George Mason University in Fairfax.

"Counselors were great at telling me what classes I should take so they would trans-

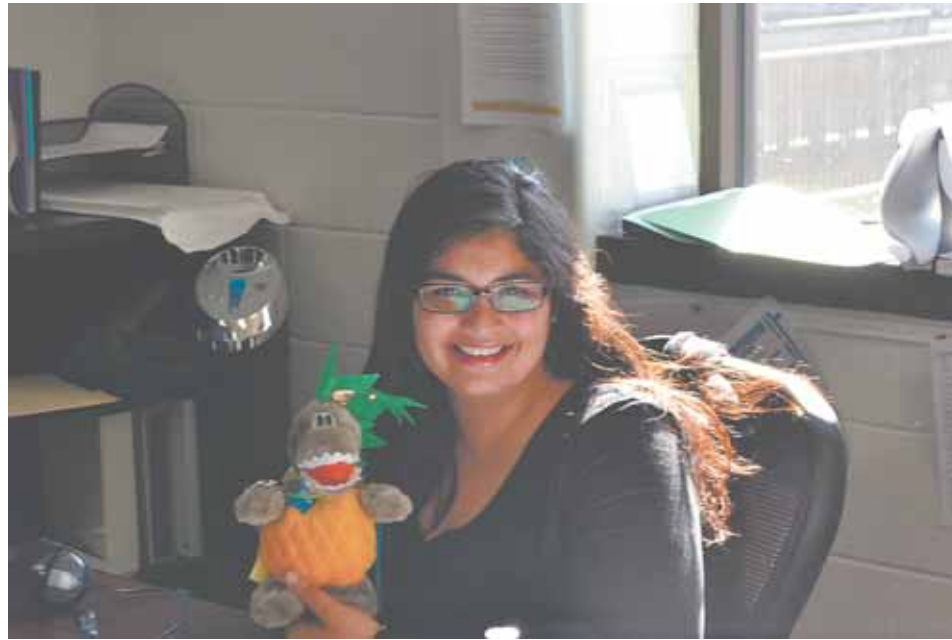


PHOTO COURTESY OF NOOR NAVEED

**Noor Naveed hopes to become the first person in her family to graduate from college. After graduating from NOVA, she transferred to George Mason University.**

fer," she said. "Almost all of my classes transferred."

NOVA's admissions agreements guarantee current and future NOVA students who earn associate degrees admission to more than 40 four-year colleges and universities.

Students have to meet certain academic requirements, such as earning a minimum grade point average, to be accepted into their chosen four-year colleges.

"It's very beneficial to the students because before these agreements, there weren't any parameters as to what it takes to be admitted to universities," said Julia Brown, coordinator for transfer policy at Northern Virginia Community College. "As long as you have a certain GPA, the guaranteed admission agreement takes all of the guess work out of whether you will qualify. It is a huge relief. ... Students don't want to waste money or time by taking a class that isn't needed."

NOVA officials say that popular majors include engineering, nursing, computer science and general studies.

For example, a student can earn an associates degree in engineering from NOVA then transfer to Virginia Tech's College of Engineering or the University of Virginia's School of Engineering and Applied Science. A student who might be unsure of the major he plans to pursue can earn a general studies degree and then transfer to George Mason University.

George Mason University, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech are the top transfer schools for NOVA graduates.

"The [Guaranteed Admission Agreement] program allowed me to complete my associate's degree close to home. The GAA gave me the opportunity to transfer to my dream school, James Madison University, with ease and with no debt," said Amy Zuaso, a first-year advising specialist at NOVA. "At NOVA, I met with a JMU transfer representative that informed me about

a full ride scholarship program, The Centennial Scholars Program, that I applied for and was awarded. Starting at NOVA first and using the GAA helped me graduate from a four-year school and to be the first person in my family to graduate from college."

Zuaso is now completing an online master's degree in counseling at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va.

**THE PROGRAM WAS CREATED** after the release of a workforce trends report prepared by George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis showed professional, scientific, technical and health care fields as the key sources of new net job growth in Northern Virginia from 2010 to 2020.

"The GAA is designed to offer students a seamless transfer process," said Darren Troxler, associate dean of admissions and chief transfer officer at George Mason University. "Students who meet all of the requirements for GAA admission are not only guaranteed transfer admission to Mason, but are considered juniors for class standing, registration and financial aid purposes, and are considered to have completed the Mason Core, our lower-level general education requirement."

Troxler says another advantage to GAA enrollment is the significant cost savings for students and parents. "There is a \$271 per credit hour differential in tuition rates between Mason and NOVA for Virginia residents," he said. "Students will realize a significantly lower debt burden by taking advantage of the Virginia Community College System."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**NOVA Community students can earn admission to more than 40 colleges and universities through the school's guaranteed admission agreements.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY ZUASO

**Amy Zuaso became the first person in her family to graduate from college. She says the guaranteed admission agreements at NOVA allowed her to complete her associate's degree and transfer to her dream school: James Madison University.**



## SPORTS

# Mount Vernon Field Hockey Surpasses 2013 Win Total

**Majors GK Moore makes 3 saves in shootout win over Marshall.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**A**fter 75 minutes of scoreless play, Monday's Mount Vernon-Marshall field hockey game came down to strokes. That's when Mount Vernon goalkeeper McKenzie Moore noticed a trend and made an adjustment.

"They all had been going over to the right," Moore said, "so I assumed that one of them was going to be hitting over on the left."

With strokes tied at 2-all, Moore made her third save of the shootout, setting the stage for senior captain Lindsay Gardiner to end the game. Gardiner converted her stroke, giving the Majors a 0-0 (3-2) victory over Marshall on Sept. 15 at Mount Vernon High School.

Marshall led 2-1 after three rounds of

strokes, but Moore saved the Statesmen's next two attempts, including a diving effort that allowed junior captain Jessica Miller to tie the shootout at 2-all.

How does a goalkeeper approach strokes? "You just have to stay calm," Moore said. "Strokes are not designed for keepers to really save, and if you do save it, it's like you're a hero. [You can't] put a lot of pressure on yourself."

Moore was a three-time hero during the shootout. "McKenzie was pretty beast tonight," head coach Jess Edwards said. "I'm pretty proud of her."

Senior defender Catherine Perryman also converted a stroke for the Majors.

The win improved Mount Vernon's record to 6-1-2, surpassing last season's victory total of five. After winning three district championships in four seasons, the Majors experienced a rare down year in 2013, finishing with a record of 5-13, including a loss to Marshall in the third-place game of the Conference 13 tournament. The Majors had graduated many of their key players from the 2012 district championship team, and the lack of experience led to struggles on the field.

"I talked to the girls about this at practice that ... the way our season went last



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

**Senior captain Maggie Heltzel and the Mount Vernon field hockey team defeated Marshall in strokes, 0-0 (3-2), on Sept. 15.**

year was my fault because I didn't get them enough playing time the year before," Edwards said. "We're really trying to work on that this year looking toward the future because we have a big senior class this year and we don't want that to happen to us again next year."

While Mount Vernon is back to its winning ways in 2014, Edwards said Monday's game shows the Majors have areas that need improvement.

"To me, [the win is] kind of bittersweet

because I strongly feel a good team wins on the field without the strokes," Edwards said. "The win in strokes, I'm absolutely happy that we won, but at the same time, it's not the same to me. ... I feel like there are a lot of things that we need to correct."

Gardiner, Miller, and senior midfielders Maggie Heltzel and Amber Sable are team captains. Mount Vernon faced Centreville on Wednesday, after The Gazette's deadline. The Majors will host Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19.

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## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

#### Route 1 Public Meetings on October 8 and 9

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will host a third round of public meetings for the Route 1 (Richmond Highway) Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis on Wednesday, October 8, from 6-8 pm (presentation at 7) at Belmont Elementary School (751 Norwood Lane, Woodbridge) and Thursday, October 9, from 6-8 pm (presentation at 6:30) at the South County Government Center (8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA). The public is invited to participate and learn the latest on this study to improve transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicular travel along a 15-mile segment of Route 1 from Woodbridge to the Huntington Metro Station. Project partners include Fairfax County, Prince William County, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. For more information, including public transit available to the meeting sites, visit [route1multimodalaa.com](http://route1multimodalaa.com) or call 804-786-4440.

DRPT is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For additional information on DRPT's nondiscrimination policies and procedures or to file a complaint, please visit the website at [www.drpt.virginia.gov](http://www.drpt.virginia.gov) or contact the Title VI Compliance Officer, Linda Balderson, 600 E. Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219.

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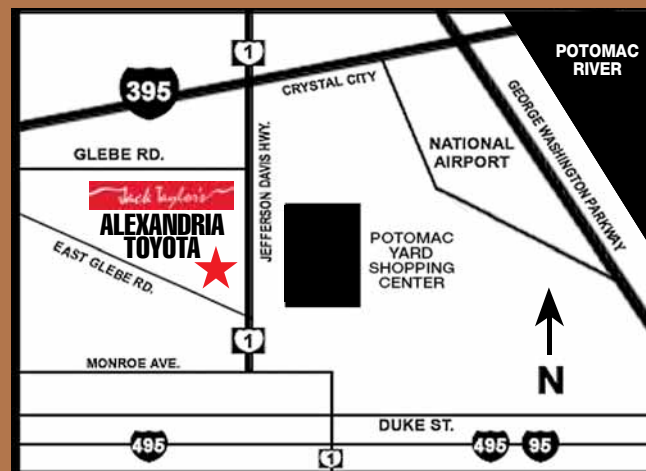
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**Service Department Hours:**  
Monday – Friday, 7:00am to 9:00pm  
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## BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL \$59<sup>95</sup>

**Includes:** Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil\*, inspect windshield wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters

SYNTHETIC OIL \$10.00 MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL \$99<sup>95</sup> PADS

**Includes:** Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

**MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.**

DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES. PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159<sup>99</sup> Synthetic \$10 More

**Includes:** Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE FALL DETAIL SPECIAL \$119<sup>95</sup>

Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior.

**Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.**

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$79<sup>95</sup> PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

**INCLUDES:** Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 10% OFF LABOR ON ANY ONE REPAIR

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

• Apparel • Window visors  
• I-pad adaptors • All weather floor mats  
• Toyota bedliners

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE VARIABLE DISCOUNT

**\$5.00 OFF** with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99  
**\$10.00 OFF** with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99  
**\$15.00 OFF** with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99  
**\$20.00 OFF** with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99  
**\$50.00 OFF** with purchase of \$500.00 or more

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL \$139<sup>95</sup>



**INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION**

**Includes:** 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL \$59<sup>95</sup>

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1.00

**GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.**

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

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## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE DETAIL SPECIALS

**\$39<sup>95</sup>**  
Wash & Vacuum  
**\$139<sup>95</sup>**  
Hand wash, wax  
& interior cleaning  
**\$295<sup>95</sup>**  
Full premium detail

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

## TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

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