



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

From left: Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, County Executive Edward Long Jr, Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck, Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander Col. Michelle Mitchell and Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) prepare to speak at the 28th annual Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting on Jan. 31.

## Geer Documents Made Public

FCPD report confirms John Geer was shot while unarmed, hands raised.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION



John Geer

PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF STEWART

Of the seven eyewitness accounts of the shooting death of John Geer, only one describes Geer quickly bringing his hands down to his waist. That was the perspective of PFC Adam Torres, the officer who shot Geer in the chest, killing him in the doorway of his home on Aug. 29, 2013.

Torres' account appears in several of the approximately 11,000 pages of discovery from the Fairfax County Police Department investigation released to the public by Fairfax County on Jan. 30, about 17 months after the shooting. The release also contains more than 50 audio files and five videos related to the incident.

The six other eyewitnesses included four different police officers, John Geer's father Don Geer and friend Jeff Stewart. Their stories in the investigation documents all describe a similar scene: Geer had been standing in his doorway, hands resting on the frame, speaking calmly with officer Rodney Barnes for about 40 minutes before he was shot.

"I'm comforted the officers at the scene support what I saw," said Stewart.

The detective who interviewed Barnes noted him referencing Geer as saying "he did not want to get shot and did not want anyone else to get shot." Barnes also said that before he arrived, he was told Geer had threatened the officers, but he himself "did not hear any verbal threats while he was on the scene."

Barnes described Geer as periodically asking permission to lower his hands to scratch his nose, as well as Geer asking for Torres to lower his gun. Each of the other officers had guns down and in cover position, while Torres held his raised and pointed at Geer.

Torres recounts seeing Geer quickly lower his hands to waist level, a threat provoking him to fire. The other accounts describe Geer's hands at either shoulder or ear level.

"Finally shooting him for scratching his nose," said Stewart. "Four other officers support that testimony, support that John was not a threat."

Stewart and Michael Lieberman, the lawyer representing the Geer family and Geer's longtime partner Maura Harrington in a civil suit against the county, have keyed into additional commentary in the reports that describe Torres as having just finished an argument with his wife before arriving at Geer's house.

Further pages reference an incident on March 5, 2013, in which officer Torres had a "meltdown" and outburst with Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Charles Peters in a courtroom. That incident became the subject of an In

SEE GEER, PAGE 7

## Hyland To Retire at End of Year

Announcement made at his 28th annual Town Hall Meeting.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), suffering from the effects of the flu, attended his annual Town Hall Meeting against doctor's recommendation and announced his retirement plans. He detailed several chronic and other medical problems which he said will prevent him from giving his full attention to his supervisor's duties. In

an emotional farewell to Mount Vernon and a heartfelt thank you for the privilege of representing the Mount Vernon and Lorton area citizens, he closed with: "I love Mount Vernon."

Despite a bitter cold morning, the annual meeting attracted a crowd that nearly filled the Mount Vernon High School theater. Most attendees stayed until the very end to find out if Hyland would run for reelection for his eighth term or retire. After all of the speakers were finished and his state of Mount Vernon Virtual Bus Tour was completed, he announced his retirement. The 78-year-old Massachusetts native who first began his elected supervisor career in 1987, attracted a large gathering of political and appointed officials, community activists and citizens. Among

SEE HYLAND, PAGE 6



TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) answers questions during the 28th annual Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting on Jan. 31.

## Surprising Yet Expected

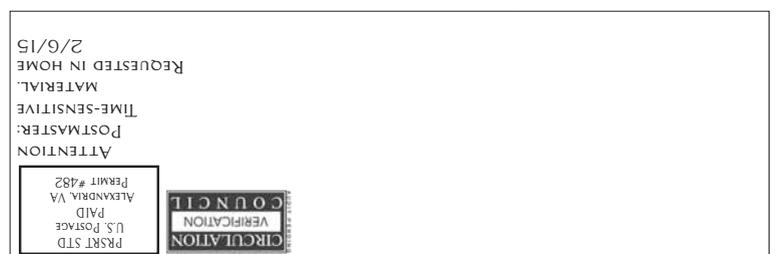
Community and colleagues praise Hyland's tenure.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

At the conclusion of Supervisor Gerry Hyland's farewell speech, he received a standing ovation from his constituents. Rubbing his eyes and apologizing for reading his statement,

with his daughter GiGi Hyland in the audience, his departure was emotional as his friends would say later that they were "surprised that he announced his retirement." John Ribble, a friend of Hyland and member of the Board of Zon

SEE TENURE, PAGE 20





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# Political Jockeying Intensifies with Announcement

## Three seats open: State senator, state delegate and now supervisor.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**T**hree Democratic candidates have formally announced for the supervisor seat being vacated by Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) with others considering throwing their hat in the ring.

According to Democratic committee spokesman Bruce Neilson, the following three individuals have formally announced for the seat: Jack Dobbyn, small businessman and Fairfax Human Rights Council member; Mount Vernon School Board member Daniel Storck; and Candace Bennett, owner, Candace Bennett & Assoc., a market research firm located in Lorton.

Former co-chair of the Mount Vernon Democratic committee Mark Cannady is considering a run for the seat but has not made a final decision yet, according to Neilson. No formal statement was available by the Gazette's press deadline from Bennett. Elections will be held for all local and state government seats in Mount Vernon and other county and state seats throughout the Commonwealth this coming November. According to Neilson, the Democratic Committee has until Feb. 24 to notify the Board of Elections if the selection of a Democratic nominee will be chosen by caucus or primary election. GOP information on candidates was not available by press deadline. Mount Vernon Republican Committee chair Doug Long said at the Hyland Town Hall meeting that he had no

new information to pass on.

Background on newly declared candidates for the supervisor seat include:

❖ Daniel Storck: A veteran of the Fairfax County School Board since 2003, he announced his decision on Feb. 2 to seek the Democratic nomination for the Mount Vernon supervisor seat. His campaign literature said that he served three consecutive terms as chairman of the School Board, and currently co-chairs the joint Board of Supervisors-School Board Joint Budget Development Committee.

His achievements include reinstatement of high school honors classes and a 2000 percent increase in career technical certifications. Storck is a small businessman working in the health care field. He is married with three adult children. He earned an MBA at University of Miami, Ohio. He also is a former West Potomac PTA president and long-time volunteer for the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association's boys and girls basketball programs. If elected as supervisor his priorities are: education, public safety, transportation, environment, and economic development.

❖ Jack Dobbyn: A small businessman and Board of Supervisors' appointee to the Fairfax County Human Rights Council, he announced his candidacy this on Saturday at the end of the Hyland Town Hall meeting. He was handing out literature and campaigning at the Town Hall meeting. Dobbyn is owner of Dobbyn Holdings, LLC, a data analytics consulting firm. He is also the current president of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis

Club. A long-standing youth league coach, and former co-chair of the Mount Vernon Democratic party. He earned a law degree from Penn State University.

In his announcement statement he listed three main priorities that he would pursue if elected: Economic revitalization of the Route 1 corridor, improving the quality of education of Mount Vernon schools, and improving Route One transportation, including working to extend the Yellow Line along Route 1. Dobbyn is a parishioner of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

The three open elective seats in Mount Vernon at the same time is unprecedented in recent history. Candidates declaring that they are running for one of the three open seats may likely continue to expand according to political party activists and Hyland.

State Sen. Linda T "Toddy" Puller announced her retirement on the opening day session of the Virginia General Assembly in January. In December 2014 the Mayor of Dumfries Jerry Foreman, Republican, already announced he was going to seek the nomination in order to challenge her. Immediately after Puller's announcement, Del. Scott Surovell issued a formal statement that he would vacate his delegate seat to run for Puller's 36<sup>th</sup> District Senate seat. Paul Krizek, a lawyer for the Christian Relief Services non-profit for the past 15 years announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination for Surovell's seat and pursue the same political agenda as Surovell's if elected. Surovell must vacate his seat in order to run for the State Senate seat.

**WITH HYLAND ANNOUNCING** his retirement this past weekend it has quickly led to at least three Democratic candidates

throwing their hat in the ring, and three other prospects considering a run for the supervisor seat or one of the two state legislative seats.

Asked if he would consider running for Hyland's seat, Jay McConville, former GOP Fairfax County chair and unsuccessful candidate for the state delegate seat now held by Surovell, said, "I am not ready to comment at this time ... I do thank Supervisor Hyland for his dedicated service to our community."

McConville, a decorated former U.S. Army Intelligence officer, has been a volunteer participant in Fort Hunt youth league sports. He works as a business executive in the defense industry.

Tim Sargeant, former president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, and current At-large member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, said, "I am seriously considering running for the Democratic nomination for the supervisor seat; I will have a formal announcement of my decision next week."

Hyland believes that Sargeant will run for his seat. Sargeant was co-chair of the Task Force that recommended the comprehensive plan for the 3,000-acre Laurel Hill site in southern Fairfax County. His current employment is state and local affairs manager for Dominion Virginia Power. He is married with two children.

The 36<sup>th</sup> Senate District seat stretches from north in Mount Vernon district south to Prince William County and north Stafford County. This means the method of selection of candidates, by caucus or primary election, will require agreement by the respective political parties in all three counties. The open supervisor and state delegate seats are entirely in Fairfax County.

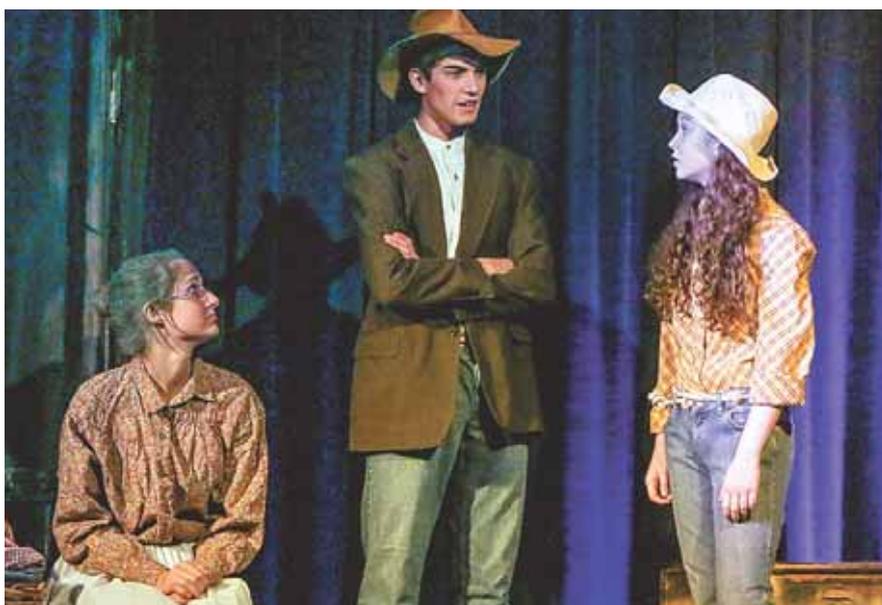


PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

## It's Hillbilly Time

The Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre is presenting "The Beverly Hillbillies." Showtimes are: Feb 7, 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb 8 and 15 at 3 p.m. at the Heritage Presbyterian Church located at 8503 Fort Hunt Road in Alexandria. Tickets are available at [www.mvct.org](http://www.mvct.org) and at the door. Above are Alyssa Denton as Granny, Andrew Schurr as Jed and Emily Roddy as Elly Mae.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

This bridge at Gilbert S McCutcheon Park, 7509 Fort Hunt Road, is similar to the one being built at Woodlawn Park.

## Construction Nearing for New Bridge

Fairfax County expects the contractor Accubid Construction Services, Inc. to be moving forward soon with replacing the pedestrian bridge at Woodlawn Park.

Located at 4800 Manor Drive, off Pole Road, the park's old bridge will be replaced with a new 35-foot fiberglass bridge. The park bond-funded project has a \$64,000 price tag.

The county anticipates a three-week timeline, once construction commences.

During construction, the Park Authority said residents "should expect occasional construction traffic entering the parking lot of Woodlawn Park and along Pole Road," as well as building equipment on the trails near the bridge construction area.

— TIM PETERSON

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Fairfax County Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy participants learn how to put out a fire during a recent class. Registration for the March Academy closes Feb. 16.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

# Citizens to the Rescue

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy accepting applications.

The Fairfax County Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy, a free nine-week program to learn about the work of firefighters and paramedics, will begin its next session March 12, with the deadline for online applications closing on Feb. 16.

“Basically, this is an overview of the fire department,” said Firefighter Capt. Willie Bailey. “It’s a nine-week course and on the last day participants will get to put on gear and fight a fire, or as I like to say, put the wet stuff on the red stuff.”

Applications for the academy will be accepted

through Feb. 16 or until the class of 25 is filled. The academy will begin March 12 and will meet for nine consecutive weeks, from 6 to 9 p.m., at various locations in and outside of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of the department and of its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include: fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment and special operations.

“Citizens of all ages are welcome to apply,” Bailey said. “We had an 80-year-old woman participate in our last academy and she had a blast.”

To sign up for the free program, residents must be 18 years of age and apply online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa)

— JEANNE THEISMANN

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# Hyland Takes Constituents on Annual Virtual Tour

FROM PAGE 1

those in attendance who praised his efforts were the newly elected U.S. Rep. Don Byer (D-8) and former Board of Supervisors chair and current U.S. Rep Gerald Connolly (D-11). Both spoke briefly and praised Hyland for his efforts. They also outlined their priorities and anticipated financial constraints for the upcoming congressional session.

In addition, Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) read a Virginia General Assembly Proclamation which he sponsored honoring the late Warren Cikins, a Mount Vernon supervisor and former Brookings Institution administrator. Cikins, who died in December at the age of 84 due to surgical complications following a fall, was represented by his sons, Dean and Neil Cikins, who accepted the proclamation.

Mount Vernon School Board member

## Storck on Schools

These things Dan Storck knows: Elementary school students are now in class the full day on Monday and older students will start later beginning next school year. The Mount Vernon school board member lead with these recent accomplishments in his presentation at the Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting on Saturday Jan. 31.

He also knows is the strain the 10th largest school system in the country is under, citing the 1,000 seat shortage projected over the next several years and the lack of financial support from the state.

"We're trying to keep the maximum number of teachers working with kids," Storck said, "but it's difficult to do what we've been doing for so many years in Fairfax County. The state has walked away from their commitment to education and that needs to change."

And Storck said he still doesn't know how the FCPS proposed Capital Improvement Program for FY 2016-2020 will move forward. "No decision has been made," he said, "until the community has had multiple meetings to provide feedback."

Rainey Astin, a Hollin Meadows Elementary School parent, met with Storck and other parents in the Mount Vernon High School lobby following his presentation. "We're trying to say look at the effects on existing schools," she said. "Maybe they should build new schools in the neighborhoods — look at long term solutions, not Band-Aids."

According to Storck, the process of discussing plans for school renovations, new buildings and boundary-drawing should last from March until late-summer, or even early fall.

— TIM PETERSON

Daniel Storck was part of the panel of presenters, and spoke primarily about the financial deficit that the School Board was grappling with, and the upcoming Capital Improvement Project, which will ultimately require school boundary changes. He assured everyone that there will be ample opportunities for concerned parents and others to participate and advise the School Board and staff on the recommendations. In a show of support on the board, Storck introduced four of his School Board colleagues who attended the meeting. Storck pointed out that Fairfax County is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest single school district in the U.S. and the growth and complexity of the incoming student population in the Mount Vernon area and county-wide was challenging the board and superintendent who are coping with an increasingly diverse student body and the limitations on school funding.

Sharon Bulova, chair of the Board of Supervisors and also a 28-year veteran on the board, spoke about the financial needs of the county and the impact the federal budget cutbacks have had on a population heavily dependent on federal military and civilian expenditures to provide jobs and a consistent quality of living level. She also mentioned that when she first came to live in Fairfax County many years ago she lived in the eastern area and was and is familiar with the needs of Route 1 corridor residents.

Ed Long, the board's appointed county executive, echoed the financial concerns described by Bulova and outlined the work he is doing with a multi-year budget that staff will be working on this year. He said that the budget and agency staff will be looking ahead to 2017, and 2018 to review county priorities, best practices, and creative ways to do more with less. His view is the current cutbacks at the federal level and uncertainty that the state will increase funding for the county are likely to continue and the county has to accept and meet the challenge of lean times.

Michelle Mitchell, Garrison Commander of Fort Belvoir, reviewed the status of the multi-billion dollar defense expenditures required to fulfill the base realignment requirements (BRAC) that brought many additional thousands of uniformed military to Fort Belvoir. In part, this is a result of closing Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. and transferring part of its patient population to Fort Belvoir for immediate and rehabilitation care. Among the highlights she mentioned: the newly constructed and now open community hospital, newly transferred intelligence functions, and the numerous new support functions designed to meet the wounded warrior requirements for acute care and rehabilitation, and visiting families. She said that the current volume of military and civilians entering the base daily is 75,000 per day. This alone has and continues to pose a transportation challenge for the base and Fairfax County. Asked about the clogged traffic around the entrances to the base on Route 1, she responded that she has been subjected to the same delays as she attempts to enter the



School board member Dan Storck gives a presentation during the Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting Jan. 31.

PHOTO BY  
TIM PETERSON/  
THE GAZETTE

base, and she will be actively working to end the traffic jams at the access gates.

**HYLAND THEN BEGAN** his virtual bus tour presentation of the District. Here are the highlights of his presentation:

- ❖ Inova Mount Vernon Hospital expansion is well underway to expand the emergency department, number of hospital beds, and rehabilitation and orthopedic facilities.

- ❖ Cited the successful opening of the Westgrove dog park adjacent to the Belle View Elementary School on Fort Hunt Road as a good example of the county government working with the community to provide a much needed dog park.

- ❖ Announced that the Grist Mill dog park will host a dog festival planned for March 15 to be called the "Ides of Bark." The festival will be about and for dogs; registration of dogs, prizes, food, games, etc.

- ❖ Belle View flood study and the multi-million dollar bond referendum that was recently approved by the voters will allow financing of the design and construction of a levee to prevent future flooding of residential properties off Huntington Avenue.

- ❖ North Gateway comprehensive plan change calls for a separated grade interchange at Huntington Avenue and Fort Hunt Road and Richmond Highway. It's part of a study of alternatives to improve traffic in the north gateway area.

- ❖ Hoffman property: 1,123, dwelling units; townhouse and multifamily units;

dedicating land for bike trails.

- ❖ Building sidewalks at Montebello.

- ❖ Richmond highway transit study: pursuing the hybrid option to provide metro and bus rapid transit south to Hybla valley and on to Woodbridge. Funding needs are estimated in excess of \$5 billion.

- ❖ North Kings Highway improvements: Issue is how to access new developments; road access study continues.

- ❖ Kings Crossing development south of Walmart: Study continues about type of development to agree on.

- ❖ Fairfield Inn & Suites sold to new owner.

- ❖ At the former MetroCall building a new occupant will be providing neighborhood health services including developing a partnership with the Gartlan mental health center.

- ❖ North Hill development: 67 manufactured homes built. New plans include 144 town homes, 329 multifamily rental units. The county plans to pay for the land and build North Hill Park.

- ❖ Laurel Hill adaptive reuse: two phase development, commercial and residential.

- ❖ Turf fields in all county high schools by the end of the year.

- ❖ Workhouse Arts Center briefing on progress.

- ❖ Vulcan Water Authority to eventually create a water reservoir.

- ❖ ESI landfill: landfill operations will end in December 2018.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnews.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews.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.

### SATURDAYS/THROUGH FEB. 15

**Affordable Care Act Registration.** 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway. Meet with a certified application counselor to learn about financial assistance, select the best plan and enroll. Call 571-748-2584 for an appointment or schedule online at [www.getcoveredamerica.org/connector/](http://www.getcoveredamerica.org/connector/).

### FEB. 1-APRIL 15

**Free Tax Preparation.** Monday-Saturday, 10:15 a.m.-2 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 5-8 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood

Hall Lane, Alexandria. For taxpayers with low and middle income. All ages, with special attention to seniors. Federal and Virginia tax returns prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Tax questions can be answered. Bring your photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), tax documents, and your prior year tax return.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 5

**African-American Read-In.** 4-6 p.m. at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road, Alexandria. The teen book & poetry club is hosting their Third Annual African-American Read-In with free books, arts and crafts, poetry readings, special visitors and a few other surprises. This program will be run by the teens. RSVP if bringing more than five participants. Contact Jyll (Julia) Turner, Intel Computer Clubhouse Manager - Gum Springs,

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 22

# Geer Documents Made Public

FROM PAGE 1

internal Affairs investigation by the FCPD, the results of which were not included in the discovery materials.

In his interview for the investigation, Peters referenced that internal affairs file being sought by Commonwealth Attorney Raymond F Morrogh while his office was still working on the case. FCPD refused to cooperate, Peters said.

Some have called that type of action in this case "stonewalling" by Fairfax County, including the police department and the governing body they answer to, the Board of Supervisors.

Jerry Santos, another friend of Geer's, said, "At this point, while Torres' past and his management or mismanagement remain relevant and important, it's all overcome by the cover-up by the board's and chief's and county attorney's arrogance and frankly foolishness in the manner in which they've conducted themselves in the matter of the killing of John Geer."

**ONE DAY AFTER** the county posted the files on its website, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland fielded questions about the Geer case at the Mount Vernon Town Hall Meeting.

Bulova held the position that this case

presented unprecedented circumstances.

"Our policies have not fit with this particular scenario," Bulova said. "Do we get it? Absolutely."

Hyland responded in calm and paced phrasing. "I questioned immediately whether the force that killed him was appropriate," he said. "Now everyone pretty much knows what happened. Obviously people have questioned whether it was just. This never takes that long with a typical case and the frustration has been awful for us."

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) followed the release with a statement saying: "It is a shame we are where we are," and that the latest action by the county was "making up for lost ground on transparency."

"I encourage the public to view this release as what it is," Herrity continued, "peoples' honest perceptions of the facts mixed in with hard evidence."

**LIEBERMAN SAID** the release is beginning to ease Don Geer's "torture" of the last 17 months being left in the dark.

"I don't know how many days he's been able to sleep through the night," said Lieberman.

Though he said he was upset at times that nothing was going to happen with his son's case, Don Geer said the county's handing over documents, videos and audio is "encouraging."

"We're going in the right direction finally; these have been sitting around on somebody's desk and finally we're getting some action," Don Geer said.

Having witnessed the shooting himself, Don Geer was initially concerned "possibly there would be some conflicting stories," he said.

But the incident report "came out exactly as I saw it," Don Geer continued. "Fortunately we were all on the same page." Except for Torres.

Torres' internal affairs file is the subject of one of three motions Lieberman is planning to bring to court Friday, Feb. 6. "What did the county do in light of the fact Torres had a meltdown in court?" said Lieberman. "Mediation of some sort? Counseling? Did they conclude he was a loose cannon and didn't do anything about it?"

Lieberman insists the court dates won't stop there, that even though Morrogh has handed the case to the Department of Justice civil rights division, "I don't see why the state can't take another look, say we should bring it to the grand jury or raise some special prosecutor."

The county's materials, first produced under court order to the Lieberman, the Geer family and Maura Harrington on Jan. 21, can be found online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2015/geer-case-materials.htm>.

## Aphrodite S. Hero

Aphrodite S. Hero, 87, a Washington, D.C. arts and education activist since settling in this area in the 1950s, died peacefully on Feb. 1, 2015 in Charlotte, N.C. She was a 45-year resident of Alexandria and a 10-year resident of Reston.



Mrs. Hero, a native of New York City, graduated from Columbia University and pursued graduate studies at NYU and George Mason University.

After moving to the Washington area, Mrs. Hero became very active in the local communities. Mrs. Hero was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Symphony, Wolf Trap Associates, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, and the George Mason University Board for the Center for the Arts. She was past president of the Women's Committee for the NSO, and past vice-president of the American Association of University Women, Mount Vernon Branch. Mrs. Hero was also a member of the Capital Speaker Club, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Tri Delta Alumnae Association and the Arts League of Washington.

Mrs. Hero is preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, The Hon. Sophocles A. Hero. She is survived by her son Gregory (Susan) of Cornelius, N.C., four grandchildren (Andreas, Nicole, Devon and Keenan), and brother, James Santos (Ruth) of Stowe, Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Symphony Orchestra Education Scholarship Fund, the Wolf Trap Education Fund or the Lombardi Cancer Center.

The funeral service will be held at the Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, Va., on Monday, Feb. 9, 2015, at 11 a.m. with a burial service to be followed, at the Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

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# OPINION

## No Justification for Secrecy, Delay on Geer Shooting

Everything about this case erodes public trust and demonstrates police departments should not be allowed to apply “blanket” exemptions to release of information.

**A**fter waiting 17 months for any information about the investigation into the shooting death of John Geer, the information released last week is deeply troubling.

Fairfax County Police officer Adam D. Torres shot and killed John Geer of Springfield inside the doorway of his own home in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Police were called to Geer's home following Geer's argument with his longtime partner. Police spoke with him for more than half an hour while he stood in his doorway, unarmed, with his hands raised and resting on the frame. As he began to lower his hands, by all accounts still at shoulder level, he was shot in the chest and died in his house without receiving medical attention.

It took more than 16 months, a \$12 million civil suit by Geer's family and a court order to get the first tiny bit of information on the shooting, which came earlier this month when police named the officer who fired the shot that killed Geer.

On Friday, Jan. 30, 2015, in response to a court order, Fairfax County released more than 10,000 pages of documents about the shooting and the investigation.

We now know that investigators learned on the same day Geer died, Aug. 29, 2013, that at least five witnesses including the police officer actually talking to Geer at the instant he

was shot, disputed Torres's version of events. Torres said Geer suddenly dropped his hands to his waist; none of the other witnesses saw Geer's hands move below his head.

On the day of the shooting, investigators and prosecutors had compelling information to take to a grand jury. Instead, after a long period of silence, obstruction and obfuscation, the investigation was turned over to the Justice Department, where there is no timetable for resolution (and no adequate explanation for punting the investigation to the feds).

Without the Geer family lawsuit and the court order to turn over documents as part of discovery, the public might never know what really happened that day.

The question of accountability for what happened remains.

As we have said many times, the problem goes beyond Fairfax County, and beyond police shootings.

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should.

It's past time for change.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL



# 520

days

**It took a court order and 520 days after Fairfax County police officer Adam D. Torres shot and killed John Geer of Springfield for basic information about what happened that day to be released. The public now knows what investigators learned on the same day Geer died, Aug. 29, 2013, that at least five witnesses including the police officer actually talking to Geer at the instant he was shot, disputed Torres's version of events. Torres said Geer suddenly dropped his hands to his waist; none of the other witnesses saw Geer's hands move below his head.**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## County Failings

To the Editor:

Recently, the Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors has been in the news perhaps more than they would prefer to be and, concerning the second item below, should be in the news.

First, the tragic death of un-

armed citizen John Geer in August 2013, allegedly shot by a Fairfax County police officer punctuates lack of transparency on the part of the Board of Supervisors. Finally, after 17 months of the

County police and Commonwealth's Attorney stonewalling the public, a Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge ordered the county police to produce documents that had been withheld identifying the shooter and concerning other pertinent information. Once the information was disgorged pursuant to Court Order, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova issued a statement on Jan. 5 stating: “I am pleased that the information and details we are releasing today are now available to the public. This breaks the logjam that has prevented the sharing of information that the public and the Geer family have been requesting.” The average citizen reading this statement would be led to believe the Board of Supervisors was powerless to release the information. In fact, as surely as Dorothy was always able to return to Kansas by merely clicking her heels together three times, the Board of Supervisors always had the power to cause release of pertinent information

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

## Snapshot

Cub scouts from Washington Mill Elementary School spent Tuesday evening, Feb. 3, cheering on the Mount Vernon High School varsity baseball team as it played Edison High School.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

**Steven Mauren**  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

**Tim Peterson**  
Community Reporter  
703-314-0789  
tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jeanne Theismann**  
703-778-9436  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013  
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com  
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**Julie Ferrill**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9446  
jferrill@connectionnewspapers.com

**Helen Walutes**  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9424  
hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com

**Andrea Smith**  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
asmith@connectionnewspapers.com

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

**Publisher**  
Jerry Vernon  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Photography:**  
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Ann Oliver  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8  
concerning this tragedy. This is proven by Section 2.2-3706A1.a. of the Virginia Code.

That section requires records concerning alleged felony offenses to be released upon request, the released information to include a general description of the alleged criminal activity, the date on which the alleged crime was committed, the general location, the identity of the investigating officer and a general description of any injuries suffered. The only exceptions to these requirements are where release of the information "is likely to jeopardize an ongoing investigation ..., cause a suspect to flee ..., or result in destruction of evidence. Even under those circumstances, the information may still be released. The Fairfax County Police Department is under the control of the Board of Supervisors. At any stage in the investigation, the Board of Supervisors has been empowered to order the police department to release pertinent information. None of the exceptions to mandatory release apply here. The incident occurred in the presence of numerous eye witnesses. The suspect, a Fairfax County police officer, was immediately identified. Witness state-

ments including those from other police officers were quickly taken.

It now comes out that the County Commonwealth's Attorney referred the investigation to the Federal U.S. Attorney's Office because in a completely unrelated matter, the officer in question had raised his voice to an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in the County Courthouse. As a trial attorney myself, I can't fathom how the officer's alleged show of disrespect to an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney raises a conflict requiring this referral. The bottom line is that the offending party in this entire situation is the Board of Supervisors. They have always had the power to order release of information that could not possibly jeopardize an investigation that was essentially completed within hours of the incident.

Second, at the Board of Supervisors meeting of Jan. 27, the Board of Supervisors appointed 101 people to various boards, authorities, and commissions. It took the Board of Supervisors a total of 1 minute and 5 seconds to make these 101 appointments. The appointments were made in violation of state law, namely, Virginia Code  
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10



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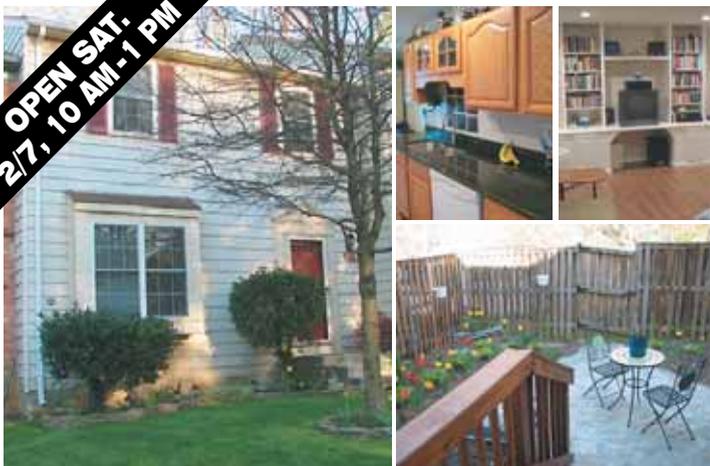
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# Family Matters

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# A Senatorial Legacy of Working for Veterans

BY TODDY PULLER  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The first two weeks of the 2015 General Assembly session have flown by with a flurry of activity and legislation. I always find it invigorating to be in Richmond and the Senate engaging in a healthy debate of ideas with my colleagues from around the Commonwealth. Somehow we always find ways

**COMMENTARY**

to disagree without being disagreeable. This year is bittersweet for me as it will be my last session as a senator. It has been an honor to serve the people of the 36<sup>th</sup> district of Virginia and I hope to finish strong in this, my 24<sup>th</sup> year.

One of the things I will miss is being able to help Gunston Hall. I have enjoyed being liaison between the Commonwealth and the Colonial Dames, who are the care-takers of the house, and the staff, including the current executive director, Scott Stroh. This year Del. Dave Albo and I have a Commend-

ing Resolution to declare 2016 the Year of George Mason and the Virginia Declaration of Rights. 2016 will be the 240<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mason writing that historic document.

Much of my legislation this year relates to veterans and making Virginia the most veteran-friendly state in the country. I am pleased to be working with other senators and delegates on these bills in a truly bi-partisan fashion. Politics should always stop at the water's edge when it comes to those brave men and women who voluntarily sign up for military duty to protect and serve our nation. It also makes me glad to know that even though my time in the senate is ending, there are legislators who will continue to fight for our veterans and military installations in Virginia. I would like to thank my colleagues,

whom I consider good friends, Senators Reeves, Lucas and Lewis and Delegates Anderson and Stolle for working with me on legislation this year.

I would like to highlight two pieces of legislation I have been working on. The bills to secure funding for the Veteran Care Centers in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads (SB675, SB676) have passed the Senate and will go to the House on Feb. 10. These Veteran Care Centers [VCC] will fill a critical need for our aging veterans. Currently there are two VCCs, in Richmond and Roanoke.

They provide short-term rehabilitative services as well as long-term nursing home care. These two new VCCs will help retirees stay in Virginia and close to their families and friends while receiving the top-notch care they deserve.

I am also the patron of SB 903, which will allow courts to create a specific docket for veterans who end up in the court system, for the express purpose of giving targeted attention to veterans and those with mental health issues monitoring, rehabili-

tation, treatment and supervision. The goal is to move these offenders out of the court system and into productive lives in the community. My bill was passed out of the Senate Courts of Justice committee and referred to the Senate Finance committee. Judge Penney Azcarate of the 19<sup>th</sup> District Fairfax General District Court, along with judges in Hampton Roads, is already out in front on this issue. Judge Azcarate will begin a "Veterans Treatment Docket" on Feb. 12 and the Department of Veterans Services Commissioner John Newby will be at that ceremony. I look forward to seeing how that program helps veterans in Fairfax County.

On Feb. 14 join myself, state Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Scott Surovell for our annual Mount Vernon Legislative Town Hall, 10:30 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

As always, I am honored to represent the 36<sup>th</sup> senatorial district of Virginia. Anyone with an issue or concern should contact my office in Richmond at [district36@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district36@senate.virginia.gov) or by phone: 804-698-7536.

# Gerry Hyland: Epitome of Public Service

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



At Saturday's town hall meeting, we learned that we are losing another 28-years of public policy wisdom, seniority and experience.

In 1987, Mount Vernon was a different place. In 1987, we had just emerged from a divisive high school merger battle driven by a decline in the number of students. Mount Vernon had seen a tsunami of homes built between 1955 and 1970 and about 10 years after the construction stopped, the area found itself with thousands of

**COMMENTARY**

aging empty nesters, fewer children and vacant schools.

U.S. 1 was blighted by over a dozen old motels, a reputation for its hard knocks and crime, two strip clubs and curiosities like Northern Virginia's last duck pin bowling alley and the Thieves' Market. Lorton was known for its prison, from which inmates escaped periodically, a landfill and not much else.

In 1987 when I got my driver's license, Mount Vernon elected a local PTA activist, former president of United Community Ministries, 30-year Air Force officer, farmer and lawyer to the Board of Supervisors on a campaign focused on nourishing schools and closing prisons, landfills, and incinerators and bringing our area a better quality of life. That was Gerry Hyland.

I was part of West Potomac High School's inaugural freshman class and graduated in 1989. I mainly remember two things about graduation: Channel 4's Jim Vance's stirring commencement address and Supervisor Hyland (with hair) getting out of his chair to shake my hand as I walked across the

dais. That stirring memory is the main reason I try to attend every high school graduation in my district and shake the hand of as many kids as I can. You only graduate from high school

once and Gerry Hyland understands that that's a big step in life. Today, West Potomac High School is a community institution.

Over the last 28, most of the notorious "no-tell motels" are gone. Crime on U.S. 1 is down. Lorton Prison closed in 2001, Laurel Hill is springing up and South County has never looked back.

Population and jobs on Fort Belvoir have probably tripled since Gerry took office. The Fairfax County Parkway now bisects the base and provides access to the west. Belvoir boasts a state-of-the-art, billion dollar hospital and has become the largest employer in the County.

Gerry has addressed New Alexandria and Belleview's flooding, secured a \$30 million floodwall to save Huntington, mediated dozens of complaints about infill housing stimulated by the desirability of our community, endured dog park battles and relentlessly protected Mason Neck's unique bucolic character.

When rumors started building that Mount Vernon Hospital was in danger of closing, Gerry led the charge to save the facility. Today, Inova has just completed the first of five planned expansions including a 30,000 square foot emergency room scheduled for construction in a few months. Having hospital service closer to Mount Vernon than Alexandria or Fairfax saves lives.

He has been the leading voice on the Board of Supervisors for funding education and he has had the courage to propose new revenue sources. Every year, he has pressed his colleagues to fund Fairfax County's schools at a level deserving of our community.

Recognizing the need for affordable housing and building on his early charity work, Gerry has fought to fully fund a safety net and pick up where the state and federal governments fail to meet their responsibility.

Our schools are bursting at the seams, the Mount Vernon's population has matured, diversified and young families flock to our community. Population south of Fort Belvoir

has quadrupled and it's hard to find a house in the 22079 zip code for less than \$500,000. South County High School is a focal point of community activity and sits astride a nationally recognized public golf course. West Potomac High School stands as one of Fairfax County's oldest schools; Mount Vernon High School, as a community institution.

Gerry has skillfully steered Mount Vernon through a generational transition and helped us set the stage for bringing rail and the next 30 years of responsible growth and change in Mount Vernon.

Thank you, Gerry, for your 28-plus years of public service and best wishes on a well-deserved retirement.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

Section 2.2-3707F. That section requires the Board of Supervisors to simultaneously make available for public inspection all materials furnished to members of the Board of Supervisors. In this regard, the Board of Supervisors published its agenda for the meeting the previous Friday including listing of prospective appointments. When the appointments came up for vote, a Board of Supervisors member stated that the appointments being voted upon were those on "final list" that had been distributed to Board of Supervisors members that morning. However, the public was not simultaneously provided that final list. After the meeting, I asked the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors to provide me a copy of the "final list." When I received it, I compared it with the list published the previous Friday and found fully 31 changes. It is unfortunate the Board of Supervisors favors efficiency over transparency. It is also illegal.

Any changes from the list of prospective appointees published the Friday before a Board of Supervisors meeting should result in the appointments in question being deferred to the next Board of Supervisors meeting so that the public is provided the legally required notice. I have written Chairman Bulova on this subject to no avail and have also discussed it in letters to the Gazette. If the Board of Supervisors does not reform its appointment practices, it appears the only recourse will be Court action.

H. Jay Spiegel  
Mount Vernon

## Advocating Adultery?

To the Editor:

Adultery is a moral defect (i.e., a crime

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

# OPINION

## Gun Violence, Monkeys and Tax Loopholes

By ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



Thanks to all who attended my recent legislative Town Hall Meetings in Arlington and Lee District. We discussed issues including the budget, ethics reforms, gun safety, homelessness among our veterans, and transportation improvements on Route 1. Other topics that came up ranged from in-state tuition rates for students granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status by the federal government to how to best prepare teachers educating children with dyslexia.

### COMMENTARY

If you were unable to join us, I hope to see you Saturday, Feb. 14 from 10:30 a.m. – noon at the Mount Vernon Government Center with state Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell; or from 2:30 - 4 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Old Town Alexandria with Del. Rob Krupicka.

Many of my colleagues and I are greatly concerned with how we can stem the tide of preventable gun violence. I am a founding member of a newly formed organization, American State Legislators For Gun Violence Prevention. We have spent a great deal of time researching best practices for reducing preventable gun deaths.

To that end, I introduced two gun safety bills this

year. The first would have required universal background checks to close the “gun-show loophole;” prohibited the use of a gun by a person under the influence of drugs or alcohol; and repealed the right for concealed carry permit holders to openly carry semi-automatic weapons with large capacity ammunition clips in our urban centers including Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax. Unfortunately the Senate Courts of Justice Committee defeated the bill.

For reasons beyond my comprehension, the committee also defeated my bill that would have held adults accountable if they allow children aged 4 and younger to hold or use a gun. I was shocked when a National Rifle Association representative testified that some toddlers may be ready for firearms training.

My proposal to reestablish a Virginia Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking passed its first hurdle, winning approval from the Rules Committee and now awaits funding by the Finance Committee.

For years I have worked to address the tragic crime of human trafficking. While many think of trafficking as just an international issue, it often occurs domestically entrapping both immigrants and citizens. Hard as it is to believe, there have even been gang-operated trafficking rings in our area; Fairfax girls were trafficked while still enrolled in high school and pimps offered young girls for prostitution door-to-door along part of Columbia Pike in Arlington.

The Commission would study human trafficking in the Commonwealth, provide services to victims,

SEE GUN VIOLENCE, PAGE 22

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<b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm	<b>Thursday &amp; First Friday of the Month:</b> 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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<sup>1</sup>According to *Barron's*, "The formula [used] to rank advisors has three major components: assets managed, revenue produced and quality of the advisor's practice. Investment returns are not a component of the rankings because an advisor's returns are dictated largely by each client's risk tolerance. The quality-of-practice component includes an evaluation of each advisor's regulatory record." The rankings are based on the universe of applications submitted to *Barron's*. The selection process begins with a nomination and application provided to *Barron's*. Principals of Edelman Financial Services LLC self-nominated the firm and submitted quantitative and qualitative information to *Barron's* as requested. *Barron's* reviewed and considered this information which resulted in the rankings on Aug. 27, 2012/Aug. 28, 2010/Aug. 31, 2009. Ric Edelman is Chairman and CEO of Edelman Financial Services LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor, and CEO, President and a Director of Pinnacle Summer Investments, Inc. He is an Investment Advisor Representative who offers advisory services through EFS and a Registered Principal of (and offers securities through) Sanders Morris Harris Inc., an affiliated broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC.  
<sup>2</sup>The Washington Post, Washington Bestsellers Paperback Nonfiction General, April 20, 2014.

# Free and Low-Cost Dental Care for Children

Special programs available as part of National Children's Dental Health Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**D**ental hygiene should start even before a baby's first tooth emerges. That is one of the messages that dental professionals are hoping to convey this month.

February is designated National Children's Dental Health Month, organized by the American Dental Association, along with the ADA Foundation, to raise awareness about the benefits of good oral health for children. Dental professionals stress children should brush for two minutes twice per day, floss and rinse daily, eat healthy meals, limit snacks and visit the dentist regularly.

"To get babies comfortable with oral hygiene, begin cleaning the baby's mouth by wiping the gums and tongue with a moist washcloth or gauze shortly after birth until teeth erupt into the mouth," said Jeanne Yang, DDS, a public health dentist at the Joseph Willard Health Center's dental clinic in the City of Fairfax. "It is recommended that parents bring children to their first dentist appointment preferably within 6 months of when the first tooth appears, but

no later than their first birthday. And, always, always, always use a soft toothbrush, whether you are 1 or 100. A soft toothbrush should be used by all ages."

Local health departments want the public to know that a child's dental care need not depend on a family's ability to afford such services. Many Northern Virginia dental clinics offer free or low-cost dental examinations, cleanings, fluoride applications, restorative services including fillings and even limited oral surgeries.

"We have three children's dental clinics in Fairfax County," said Tina Dale of the Fairfax County Health Department. The county's clinics are in Mount Vernon, Fairfax and Reston. "Our dental program is just for children.

Their family's income has to be at a level where they meet Medicaid criteria."

The Northern Virginia Dental Society is also hosting a "Give a Kids a Smile Project" on Saturday, Feb. 6 at the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Medical Education Campus in Springfield. The project will join dentists and dental hygiene students from NOVA with other community volunteers to offer dental services to underserved children, including preschool

students in Arlington County's Head Start program.

"A huge number of children have dental disease earlier and earlier," said Kathy A. Thompson of Northern Virginia Community College. "This is an opportunity to get them excited about dental care and give them information on how to take care of their teeth, and introduce them to what it's like to go the dentist."

The slogan for the 2015 campaign is "Defeat Monster Mouth." It's plastered on posters that depict dental superheroes fighting to defeat "Plaqster the Monster" for good oral health. Dental providers are hoping to teach children and parents about the timing of a first dental visit, how to brush and floss properly, the effect of thumb sucking on teeth and the importance of regular dental examinations. Although the observance is a month long, health department officials keep up the effort year-round.

"We work with Arlington families on the importance of dental care from day one," said Kurt Larrick of the Arlington County Health Department. "We're working with parents from the times the kids are born to talk about the importance of hygiene, nutrition, tooth brushing."

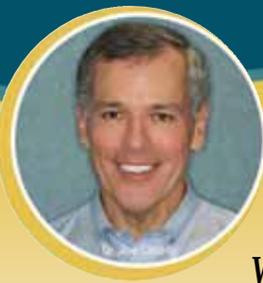


PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**Dr. Howard Ngo works on a young patient at Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield, as part of the Give Kids a Smile Program.**

## DENTAL IMPLANTS

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conserving package. Upgrades include: 4 luxury baths, 5 BR including two master suites, hardwood floors, chef's kitchen and finished walk-out lower level. Many features the builder is utilizing in \$1.5+ homes!



**3810 Westgate Drive  
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Remarkably attractive price for totally updated spacious Colonial in wonderful Westgate, one of area's premier

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Views!**

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**8826 Black Alder Dr  
\$598,500  
Stunning Value—  
Seems Too Good  
To Be True!**

Stunning Value—seems too good to be true! Spacious three level Colonial in beautiful neighborhood for under \$600,000! Features inc: 3 fin levels, 5 bedrooms including main level master suite, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces. Open kitchen to family room and oversize 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous yard. Thousands below comps—move quickly!

Stunning Value—seems too good to be true! Spacious three level Colonial in beautiful neighborhood for under \$600,000! Features inc: 3 fin levels, 5 bedrooms including main level master suite, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces. Open kitchen to family room and oversize 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous yard. Thousands below comps—move quickly!



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with bright, open floor plan in pristine "move-in" condition! Major updates include roof, windows, HVAC, kitchen & more! Other features: hardwood floors, chef's kitchen, gas cooking, heat & hot water heater. Sunroom and custom deck overlook magnificent grounds. We invite comparison—nothing like it on market for close to this price!



**SOLD!**

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Incredible opportunity! Best price for 3 level Colonial in area! 4 BR, 2 full bath & 2 half bath home on wooded half acre

corner lot in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Living room with FP; library with built-ins; eat in kitchen, 2 zone HVAC; garage parking; large deck; walk to nearby elem school. Must be able to close quickly



**CONTRACT!**

**4416 Tarpon Lane  
\$549,900  
Contemporary  
Rambler!**

Walk to Yacht Club from this fabulous home. Glass window walls make for exceptionally bright, airy atmosphere &

capture natural beauty of grounds. Spacious home with numerous special features include: bright, open floor plan, large glass walled great room with fireplace, bedrooms on main level, hardwood floors, 3 updated baths, finished walk-out LL with FP & large windows. Gorgeous setting on 1/2 acre lot near river!



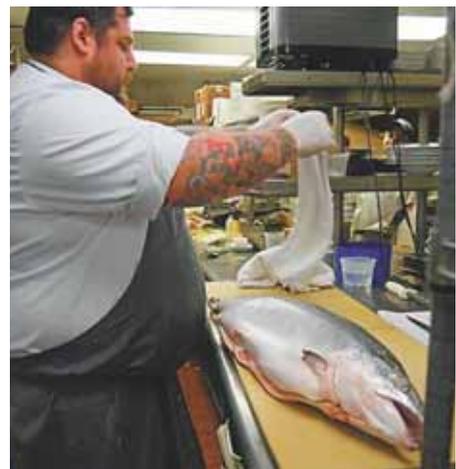
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# ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

**Chef William Morris sticks the sharpened knife under the skin of a Scottish salmon before making a large filet. It will be cut into squares for the seared Scottish salmon on the evening menu at Vermilion for Restaurant week.**

## Meet the Chef: William Morris at Vermilion

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he sharp tip of the chef's knife slips under the skin of the large Scottish salmon as William Morris, chef at Vermilion, begins to slice the salmon off the back bone. Then he will pinbone it. This fish will be for the seared Scottish salmon offered on the evening menu for Restaurant Week.

"We sell a lot of salmon," he said, "although these are all my favorite dishes. I am passionate about what I do." He says he wakes up in the morning happy to go to work because he likes what he does. "If you don't like it, you're not good at it."

Morris added, "I have no ceiling. I cook what I like and choose what is in season."

"I don't worry about trends," he said. He explains that he has a relationship with a number of local farmers. "It's quite nice knowing where you get it from and I believe in a sustainable ecosystem."

Morris said the chef has the last call on

what is served and can override everybody. "But I try to work so that everyone has a voice. Nobody liked the date ice cream with the goat cheesecake," he said pointing to a dessert plate about to be taken out to a table. "But I did, and now it has caught on."

Morris says he got his work ethic from his parents, but not the cooking. His father was from America and his mother from Chile so they had two different approaches. He said his mother was big on family and eating together but she only cooked when she wanted to.

### IN THE KITCHEN a monthly series

"I remember making pancakes when I was about 8. And the first time I made bacon." He said he

learned quickly never to cook bacon with his shirt off "because I got burned pretty bad." But Morris declares that bacon is good. "One of my pasty chefs brought me bacon ice cream."

He calls out to one of the kitchen staff, "how much flatbread do we have?"

They are ordering for the next day since everything is ordered fresh each day. His work day starts at 9:30 a.m. and often ends

past 10 p.m. He begins "by saying hello to the guys." Then proceeds to check prior night sales, answer time-sensitive emails, check prep status for lunch and moves into orchestrating the kitchen — calling out orders, what to cook when. He likes to keep it organized and disciplined. New ideas emerge from eating out and observing dishes and techniques at other restaurants, word of mouth, going to farms, networking with other chefs. He says when he is tired of something; it's time to change the menu.

**MORRIS WANTED TO BE** an architect but was much more suited for engineering. He went to school for engineering but decided he didn't want to sit in an office. So he started cooking.

He worked as a local chef in several other restaurants before coming to Vermilion two years ago. "The former chef made it really easy for me. Our cooking styles are totally different but mentally we are in the same place — good food, simple and using the best products."

It is important to Morris to have ties with the local farmers and the community. "I taught a couple of master classes to inner city kids who had never seen a zucchini before. I showed them how to plant seedlings and grow a garden and then make lunch. In the beginning they were a bit stand-offish but they learned that eating this way, instead of McDonalds, would make them healthier and more energetic and for a few dollars they could make something good."

Every other Tuesday he offers a Farm to Table menu for up to six around a communal table. "You won't know what the menu is in advance; it depends on the ingredients. It's fun."

It is 3 p.m., and lunch has ended. The chef has taken a minute to sit before the dinner preparations begin. A couple bundled up against the cold walks out with a big smile of satisfaction.

"That's what makes it all worthwhile," he says. "Eating brings everyone together. That's what it is all about. Creating memories, reliving old ones."

### CALENDAR

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

**Mount Vernon Celebrates Black History Month.** Through February at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Throughout the month, a daily Slave Life at Mount Vernon Tour explores the lives and contributions of the slaves who lived at Mount Vernon at 11:30 a.m. The tour will conclude with a wreath laying at the Slave Memorial site. Black History Month activities are included in admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Tavern Toddlers.** Weekly open

playtime continues every Monday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President's Day. [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or 703-746-4242.

**"The Space Between."** Through Feb. 2 at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Photographer Janet Matthews presents a portfolio of new work in this solo exhibit at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, looking beyond the literal representation of objects to explore their edges and the space that surrounds them. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com) or call 703-683-2205 for more.

**Signature Tour.** 2 p.m. or various other availability. Through Thursday, Feb. 12 at Mount Vernon Mansion,

3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. During a guided exploration tour of the Mansion, visit areas not normally open to guests, including the basement and the third floor where Martha Washington retired after the death of her husband in 1799. \$5/per person in addition to general admission. Hours vary. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org) for more.

**"Front and Back."** Feb. 11- March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.- 9 p.m. second Thursday of the month at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Artists' imagination plays with Items that are different front vs back; right vs left; top vs bottom; inside vs outside; right side up vs up side down; positive space vs negative space. Anything that has two or more sides can be used to show two different visuals. Free admission. See [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**"Beyond the Board" Art Exhibit.** Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' presents "Beyond the Board." A portion of artists' sales go to the

PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/) 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.

**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. Visit [www.PresPassport.Monticello.org](http://www.PresPassport.Monticello.org) for more.

**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

# ENTERTAINMENT

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.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Tavern Toddlers.** Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit [www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern](http://www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern) or call 703-746-4242.

**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. Drop-in for the session and bring 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.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 8-FEB. 22

**Exhibition "Unearthed | Unleashed."** In the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Gessner's mixed media sculptures reference a variety of natural forms. Kent's minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/JAN.22-SUNDAY/MARCH 15

**"Bessie's Blues."** Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. "Bessie's Blues," features Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. William Knowles is music director. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) or call 800-494-8497.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 5

**Larry Calvert Cookie Class.** 6-8 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Join cookie artisan Larry Calvert as he makes hand-decorated sugar cookies. Six different cookies per student will be supplied for creating and taking home. This class

is hands-on training with all supplies included. \$45. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## City of Alexandria Pipes & Drums.

9:30-10:30 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 6

### "Elements" Art Exhibit Opening Reception.

7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. John Bordner, Kathryn Brown, Michele Reday Cook, Linda Elliff, Kim S. Joy, Marlin Lord and Tamara Wilkerson present artworks which incorporate elements of earth, water, air and fire in materials, media and subject matter. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 7

**Coin Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Springfield American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The coin show features 50 tables with a variety of coins, currency and numismatic collectables. Prizes to the first 500 visitors. An instruction period is included for those new to collecting. Additionally, there is a raffle for Gold & Silver coins. Visit [www.alexandriacoinclub.com](http://www.alexandriacoinclub.com) or email [boots.barnes1@verizon.net](mailto:boots.barnes1@verizon.net) for more.

**Carlyle's Birthday Celebration.** noon-4 p.m. at 121 N. Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria. Step back in time to the 1770's at one of Alexandria's finest and oldest houses to commemorate the 295th birthday of Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Call 703-549-2997 or visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com).

**Tea with Martha Washington,** 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Listen to Martha Washington's stories about life at Mount Vernon while enjoying a selection of lite fare prepared by the Mount Vernon Inn. Following tea, enjoy a self-guided exploration of the estate and decorative arts found in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. \$30 for adults, \$20 for youth (12 and under), includes tea, lite fare, and general estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

**Love Wins Concert.** 7:30-10 p.m. at Hope United Church of Christ, 6130 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Gay Men's Chorus Rock Creek Singers perform to celebrate equality of love in Virginia. An intimate setting, food, drink, and lots of Valentine's love to share. Tickets available at door, online at [www.hopeucc.org/store](http://www.hopeucc.org/store), call 703-599-7919 or email [humphrey.law@earthlink.net](mailto:humphrey.law@earthlink.net).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 7-8

**The Taste & Style of George Washington.** 2 p.m. Mount Vernon's first fine arts tour offers guests the chance to appreciate a lesser known quality of George Washington - his keen eye. This tour, which includes the mansion as well as the museum, explores Washington's tastes and his selection of decorative fine arts for his home.

This tour is included in admission, visitors must register for a tour ticket online or at the ticket window. Limited capacity. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## Alice's Restaurant 50th

**Anniversary Tour.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Arlo Guthrie celebrates the event that inspired the song "Alice's Restaurant Massacre." Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.Birchmere.com](http://www.Birchmere.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 8

**The Navy Concert Band.** 2 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. The Navy Band Chamber Music Series features musicians from the U.S. Navy Band, the Navy's premier musical organization and one of the top professional wind ensembles in the world. This chamber music recital will feature traditional and modern music for woodwinds and brass. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) for more.

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King St., Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Town sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

**Winter Warmer Tea with Martha Washington.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum, "take" a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, and eat period-inspired delicacies, both sweet and savory, with your 21st-century friends. A historic guest who will be visit during each tea. \$35 per person all inclusive. Reservations are required. To make reservations and purchase tickets, call 703-746-4242 or visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). Ticket also includes a tour at 2:15 or 2:45 prior to the tea.

**Philharmonic Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G. St. NW, Washington, D.C. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic welcomes pianist Thomas Pandolfi along with trombonist Brian Bourne as featured musicians for their February performances of Franz Liszt's Les Preludes, Brahms' Piano Concerto and the world premiere of Sparkling Dialogue for trombone and strings. Adults, \$20; 18 and younger, free. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

## MONDAYS/FEB. 9 & 23

**The Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7-7:45 and 7:45-8:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba, taught by Gary Stephans. Come with or without a partner. Beginning and advanced dancers welcome. Both classes are invited to practice from 8:30-9 p.m. \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) for more or email [garystephans@me.com](mailto:garystephans@me.com) or call 703-505-5998.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 12

**Second Thursday Live.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. "The Course of True Love Ne'er Did Run Smooth" —

**King's Jewelry**

Sterling Silver Bracelet  
Sweet Heart Special \$175  
Regularly \$270  
While supplies last.

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## 2ND ANNUAL Boys & Girls Club Fairfax Casino Night

**Friday, March 6, 2015**  
**The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax Region help hundreds of at-risk youth every day right here in Fairfax County.

**Casino Night is a fun-filled evening featuring:**

- Full complement of staffed gaming tables including Texas Hold 'em, Black Jack and Craps, Roulette
- Fabulous dinner buffet \* open bar \* amazing raffles, live and silent auction
- Celebrity Emcee with music and dancing.

**The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner**  
1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102 • On the Silver Line  
Tickets: [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night/](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night/)

**Friday, March 6, 2015**  
**6:30-11:30pm**  
Tickets: \$95.00 per person,  
\$175.00 per couple  
Special Overnight Guest Room Rate  
at the Ritz-Carlton for  
Friday March 6, 2015 -- \$119.00

**We invite your organization to consider sponsorship opportunities for our 2nd Annual Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax Region Casino Night.**

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax Region help boys and girls of all backgrounds build confidence, develop character, and acquire skills fundamental to becoming productive, civic-minded, responsible adults. BGCGW provides a safe and positive environment for our youth.

# Make Valentine's Day Special...

## Celebrate Valentine's Day with the Romance of Italy

Three-course Dinner with Champagne or House Wine  
A Red Rose and Chocolates for the Couple

### Live Entertainment

Daryl Ott at the piano and some songs by the singing Chef Franco

7:00-11:00 P.M.  
February 14th  
Valentine's Day

### Special Menu Includes:

- Linguini Mare Nostrum
- Veal Scaloppini St. Valentino Style
- Filetto di Salmone al Caviar



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from the Fair!

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Coq au Vin • Demi-Baguette  
Frisée & Baby Greens Salad  
Heart-shaped Coeur de Bray Cheese & Preserves  
Salted Caramel Brownies • Red Wine  
Sparkling Wine • \$110, serves two

Reserve today at [store.societyfair.net](http://store.societyfair.net)!

### DINNER AT THE FAIR

Lobster Lemon Linguini or Coq au Vin  
\$48, 3 courses • Optional Wine Pairing

Reservations: [societyfair.net](http://societyfair.net)

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NEAPOLITAN PIZZERIA | BAR

**AUSTIN GRILL**  
— AND TEQUILA BAR —

## Valentine's Day

Please join us for delicious  
Valentine's Day Specials  
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[WWW.AUSTINGRILL.COM](http://WWW.AUSTINGRILL.COM) MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

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Greek • Italian • American

**571-312-6690**  
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Alexandria, VA

For menu and catering, visit:  
[www.mammaskitchenva.com](http://www.mammaskitchenva.com)

**Valentine's Day Menu... \$30/person**

**Appetizers** (choice of one)

- Fried Feta Martini – cubes of feta deep fried and served on a bed of mixed greens and balsamic drizzle
- Calamari Fritti
- Caprese Tower – fresh tomatoes and fresh mozzarella, alternating, drizzled with blood orange olive oil vinaigrette

**Entrées** (choice of one, includes salad)

- Beef Medallion – filet mignon sautéed with portabella mushrooms and reduced in a creamy Marsala sauce served with roasted potatoes and vegetable
- Kotopoulo – chicken marinated with rosemary, thyme, oregano slow roasted with lemony flavored potatoes
- Lobster Ravioli – tossed with a lobster base alfredo sauce, covered with mozzarella and baked
- Grilled Swordfish – seared with a citrus marinade and served with sun-dried tomato couscous and vegetable

**Dessert** (choice of one)

- Limoncello – lemon sorbet, with lemon liqueur served in a champagne glass
- Hazelnut Ganache – mini hazelnut cake with ganache
- Espresso Crème Brulee – custard tart topped with caramelized sugar & espresso

Dine With Us for Our **Valentine's** Weekend Special

Thurs., Feb. 12  
Fri., Feb. 13  
Sat., Feb. 14

**\$45 per Couple**  
(\$22.50 per person)  
Tax & Gratuity not included

Choice of One:

- Prime Rib of Beef
- Wild Alaskan Salmon topped with Dijon Sauce
- Crab Cakes served with French Fries
- Land & Sea – N.Y. Strip Steak & Crab Cake

Also Includes:

- Romantic Dessert
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BRING THIS AD and RECEIVE 10% OFF Your Entire Bill.  
Limited to parties of 4 or less. One coupon per party and Offer excludes alcohol, tax & gratuity. Present coupon when ordering. Exp. 2/28/2015

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Enjoy a Great Knight on St. Valentine's!  
Admit it! You want the best.

Presenting:  
A fabulous four course dinner.  
Half price on selected wines and beers  
Live entertainment.

Call 703-329-3075 for details or reservations.  
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710 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314



# Some Like It Haute

## Boutique District Warehouse Sale set for Feb. 7.

When Elizabeth Todd first opened The Shoe Hive in 2003, she was new to the retail industry and unfamiliar with ordering inventory. By the following year, she had a problem.

"I had too much inventory," Todd said with a laugh. "The Warehouse Sale was a solution to a problem."

Now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, the Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale will take place Feb. 7 at the George Washington Masonic Memorial from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We started out at the Campagna Center with about seven vendors and maybe 400 attendees," said Todd, founder of the sale as well as the Old Town Boutique District. "But we quickly outgrew that space and now have more than 1,000 people come through in the course of the day."

Considered the longest running annual designer warehouse sale in the area, the once-a-year shop-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Elizabeth Todd, owner of The Shoe Hive, started the Warehouse Sale as a way to reduce the shop's excess inventory.**

## Participating Alexandria merchants include:

- ❖ Bishop Boutique, 815-B King St.
- ❖ Coco Blanca, 210 S. Union St.
- ❖ Dolce Collection, 1321 Gatewood Drive
- ❖ Duchess M, 805 King St.
- ❖ Gossypia, 325 Cameron St.
- ❖ Hysteria, 123 S. Fairfax St.
- ❖ Mystique Jewelers, 211 Strand St.
- ❖ Olio Tasting Room, 1223 King St.
- ❖ Queen Bee Designs, 1410 Cool Spring Drive
- ❖ Sara Campbell, 320 Prince St.
- ❖ She's Unique, 205 King St.
- ❖ Stuart Nordin, 101 S. St. Asaph St.
- ❖ The Pink Palm, 1123 King St.
- ❖ The Shoe Hive, 127 S. Fairfax St.
- ❖ Tokka and Chris, etsy.com
- ❖ Top It Off, 1906 Mount Vernon Ave.

The recently closed Periwinkle and The Little Monogram Shop will be selling their excess inventory. Additional participating stores from DC and Northern Virginia include Britt Ryan, Fornas, J McLaughlin, Kiki Lynn and Sherman Pickey. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com).

ping extravaganza features merchandise from more than 25 vendors from around the region, including clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 70 or 80 percent off retail prices.

"Experienced shoppers know to line up early in the morning to get first grabs at top merchandise," Todd added.

— JEANNE THEISMANN

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15

Shakespeare's unhappy love scenes. Just in time for St. Valentine's Day: A reminder that dysfunctional love is eternal. DC-area theatre actors will read scenes of love and discord. Dessert reception follows the reading. \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**Andrew O'Day.** 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 13

**Eric Benet.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

Tickets \$59.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

### FRIDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 13-16

**George Washington's Masonic Apron on View.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon,

3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. This Masonic apron was made in France and is believed to have been presented to George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784 by the Marquis de Lafayette, a former general and close friend of Washington's, who was also a Freemason. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 13-SUNDAY/MARCH 29

**"In and of the Land."** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915

## Alexandria Celebrates George Washington's Birthday

Locations, dates and costs vary. Find event information at [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday).

❖ **George Washington Birthday Parade** – Feb. 16, 1-3 p.m. The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. With nearly 3,500 participants, this community parade honors one of the city's favorite sons. Free.

❖ **Cherry Challenge** — Through Tuesday, Feb. 10, in honor of George Washington's birthday, 30 Alexandria restaurants serve unique, cherry-centric dishes in celebration of one of the most cherished legends surrounding our first president. Patrons rate their favorite dishes and winners are given special recognition at the George Washington Birthday Parade.

❖ **18th Century Dance Classes** — 7:30-9:30 p.m. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on Feb. 14, learn 18th century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets: \$12 per class or \$30 for series.

❖ **Walking with Washington tours** – Sundays in February, 2-3 p.m. Walk in George Washington's footsteps through his hometown, historic Alexandria, and view some of the sites connected to the General, like where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Free.

❖ **George Washington's Birthnight Banquet & Ball** – Feb. 14, 5:30-11 p.m. Don dancing shoes for this famous celebration of Washington's Birthday at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. \$125 for banquet and ball; \$50 for ball only. Advance reservations required.

❖ **Madeira Tasting with President Washington** – Feb. 15, 3-5 p.m. Delight in Madeira wines (George Washington's favorite drink) and insight into their production plus food pairings. \$45.

❖ **George Washington Classic 10-K Race and 2-K Fun Run** – Feb. 16, 8 a.m. Dash through this certified course through Eisenhower Valley. Prizes, t-shirts and refreshments will be provided. All proceeds benefit the historic celebration. \$40 for 10-K; \$10 for 2-K.

❖ **Historic Alexandria Open Houses** – Feb. 16, times vary. Admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Carlyle House, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum.

❖ **Breakfast and Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association** – Feb. 16, 9-10:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association, this annual tradition at the Hotel Monaco features "George Washington's" first appearance of the day, plus an address by a speaker and breakfast. \$30. Ticket information at [www.friendshipfire.net](http://www.friendshipfire.net) or at 703-751-6416.

❖ **Revolutionary War Reenactment at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site** – Feb. 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish at 2 p.m. between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. Free.

❖ **Tomb Ceremony** – Feb. 17, 11 a.m.-noon. Colonial military and civilians honor the soldiers of the Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. Free.

East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land" is a two person exhibition of recent work in paintings by Clive Pates and ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery) for more.

### FEB. 13-MAY 25

**Nine Paintings from John Chapman.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are

on view. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 14

**"Blues Babies."** 12:30-2 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of live music interwoven with multi-media and storytelling, exploring the modernization of the Blues and its influence upon Jazz, Gospel, Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll, Soul, Soul Blues, and other related music genre. Free. Call 703-746-4356.

**Opening Reception and Gallery Talk.** 2-4 p.m. at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery in The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Alexandria Campus of



## United Community Ministries

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UCM provides food to more than 100 hungry families every day—and we need your help to do it. Our food pantry always needs:

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- Macaroni and cheese
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- Jelly

UCM's Food Pantry is located at 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA, 22306, and accepts food donations Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5:30 pm. • [www.ucmagency.com](http://www.ucmagency.com)

UCM is thankful for the generous support of the Mount Vernon Gazette.

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

# SHOP LOCAL FIRST

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Connecting Business and Community

Find local businesses at [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org)  
703-360-6925

### Monthly Networking

Feb 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Hampton Inn Mt Vernon  
Mar 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Good Shepherd Housing

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306

# ENTERTAINMENT

Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land," paintings by Clive Pates and Ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates, a two-person exhibition of recent work in painting and ceramics that relates on multiple levels – the relationship of the artists, the source material of a common landscape, and a harmony of color and abstract form. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery) for more.

**Burlesque-A-Pades in Loveland.** 6 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. show, at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. In this Valentine's Day production, Burlesque-A-Pades is serving up an evening jam packed with entertainment, including among others, award winning Burlesque Queen Angie Pontani. Full dinner and cocktail service is offered at the show plus learn more about the rich history of burlesque in American Theater with a pop up museum exhibit that will be featured in the lobby. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcc.org](http://www.mvcc.org).

**Andrew O'Day.** 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

**Dare to Follow Your Heart.** 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1" and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Visit [www.alexsym.org/](http://www.alexsym.org/) or call 703-548-0885.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 14-15

**Celebrate Washington's Birthday.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All weekend guests will be encouraged to create birthday greetings for George Washington which will be shared with "General Washington." Included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$18; children 6-11, \$9; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

❖ 9 a.m.-noon — Join "General Washington" for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff (while supplies last)  
❖ 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. — A wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington  
❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world  
❖ 1:45 p.m. — Take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18<sup>th</sup>-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.  
❖ 2 p.m. — After the dancing ends, re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories

## SUNDAY/FEB. 15

**Magic: The Gathering Tournament.** 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Registration

starts at 1 p.m. The 1st-4th Prizes are gift certificates to John Strongbow's Tavern. The 5th-8th Prizes: Packs of Fate Reforged prizes will be based on attendance. This event will be unsanctioned. Entry fee is \$35. Participants should pre-register by calling John Strongbow's Tavern at 703-329-3075. Visit [www.medievalmadness.com](http://www.medievalmadness.com) for more.

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King Street, Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. It lasts 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

**The Beverly Hillbillies.** 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at [www.mvcc.org](http://www.mvcc.org).

**Dare to Follow Your Heart.** 3:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1" and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Visit [www.alexsym.org/](http://www.alexsym.org/) or call 703-548-0885.

## MONDAY/FEB. 16

**George Washington's Birthday.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Free admission to George Washington's home and burial site. "General Washington" is on the grounds to greet visitors and receive birthday wishes all day. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

❖ 10 a.m. — Traditional wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's Tomb  
❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world  
❖ 11:15 a.m. — Patriotic music and military performances on the Bowling Green  
❖ 1:45 p.m. — Visitors may take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18<sup>th</sup>-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.  
❖ 2 p.m. — Re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories  
❖ 3 p.m. — A second wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington

## TUESDAY/FEB. 17

**History to Life.** 12:45 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In honor of George Washington's birthday, learn how the citizens of Alexandria would celebrate his birthday in the late 1790s. Includes opportunity to wear reproduction clothing and a period dance lesson. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**Bob Hume & Martha Capone.** 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**Andrew O'Day.** 8 - 11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St.,

Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 21

**Dinner and Silent and Live Auctions.** 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Enjoy the afternoon and evening with a silent auction at 3 p.m., followed by a wine bar at 5 p.m., a potluck dinner at 5:30 and a live auction at 6:45. Bring a dish to share. All proceeds will benefit the church. Contact Kelly Campbell at [moonbeam610@gmail.com](mailto:moonbeam610@gmail.com) for more information. Visit [mvuc.org/](http://mvuc.org/) for more.

**Benefit Concert.** 7 p.m. in the Meeting House at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Emma's Revolution headlines a benefit concert for the Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Visit [mvuc.org/](http://mvuc.org/) for more.

**The Hooligans.** 9-11 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 22

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King St., Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

**Gallery Talk, Symbiosis and Tension,** 3 p.m. in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Artists Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent explain their process, inspiration, and how their friendship played a role in the creation of the works in the show. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.  
**Lenten Evensong.** 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Arlington's Tina Chancey will play early musical instruments, including the rebec, vielle, kamenj, viol, and lyra viol. Her performance will be followed by a Lenten Choral Evensong service at St. Paul's Old Town, directed by Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, and will feature music by English composer Henry Purcell. Free. Donations will go to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. Call 703-549-3312 for more.

## MONDAY/FEB. 23

**Agenda: Alexandria Dinner.** 6:45 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Agenda: Alexandria presents "Down the Hatch: Alexandria's Luscious Libations" with Steve Bashore, manager of Historic Trades at Mount Vernon; Bill Butcher, founder, Port City Brewery; and Todd Thrasher, sommelier and liquid savant, Eat Good Food Group. Dinner catered by Bittersweet Catering at 6:45 (\$32-\$42); program only at 7:15 (members free; nonmembers \$5). Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email [agendaalexandria@aol.com](mailto:agendaalexandria@aol.com).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 26

**Bob Hume & Martha Capone.** 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit [www.johnstrongbows.com](http://www.johnstrongbows.com) or call 703-329-3075.

**Mike + The Mechanics 30th Anniversary Tour.** 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Their first American tour in almost 25 years. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

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Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

## FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing – National Children's Dental Health Month

2/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle

2/11/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16

2/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

2/25/2015 ..... Pet Connection Pullout

## MARCH

3/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing

3/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout

3/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

3/25/2015 ..... Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

## APRIL

4/1/2015 ..... Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout

Easter Sunday is April 5

4/8/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle

4/15/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

4/22/2015 ..... Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/29/2015 A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/29/2015... Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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# Community and Colleagues Praise Hyland's Tenure

FROM PAGE 1

ing Appeals, continued: "He has been a great public servant; honest, fair, and thoughtful in making the tough decisions ... He will certainly be missed."

Frank Cohn, Hyland's Transportation Committee appointee, said, "Gerry's announcement was not unexpected but it still made me shudder. We have relied on Gerry for so many years. He has always been willing to listen and weigh the facts carefully before making a decision. He served the community in an honest and constructive way to make the Mount Vernon District a better place, and I believe he did achieve that. He will certainly be missed by me and a big majority of the citizens of this district. The shoes of his successor will have to be real big and even then we will miss him."

Hyland's first exposure to politics in Fairfax County was as president of the PTA at Hollin Meadows elementary school, where he served as a parent along with his late wife, Carmen. As Hyland tells it, he was instrumental in developing a questionnaire for the teachers and their responses identified several teachers who were unable to spell and write simple answers to the questions. Hyland and the other PTA members viewed several respondents as less than adequate as teachers for their children. When the principal was presented with the teachers' responses, several were dismissed and replaced. Hyland also became involved with United Community Ministries first as a legal advisor in the late '70s when UCM asked him to help advise one of their clients who was facing eviction. He was elected to UCM's board of directors in 1981 and served through 1987 prior to his first election as Mount Vernon supervisor. His leadership as UCM board president led to the founding of the UCM-sponsored Bryant Early Learning Center for children in partnership with Fairfax county. That program continues today.

"Gerry has worked tirelessly to make Mount Vernon a better place to live, work, and educate our children," said Nichelle A. Mitchem, UCM executive director. "His compassionate, collaborative, inclusive leadership style has helped hundreds of thousands of Mount Vernon men, women, and children to obtain opportunities to achieve stability and improve their own lives. He leaves a legacy of caring commitment to improving the quality of life for vulnerable children, youth, and families which UCM proudly continues to embody."

**AFTER HIS RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT**, Hyland discussed what he believes are the current and long-term challenges that will face the next Mount Vernon supervisor:

❖ "The current split between Lorton/South County and the northern Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations. Similarly, the north-south split between respective Chambers of Commerce. "These organizations have to find a way to work together. Find common ground. By working together they will enhance their effective-

tiveness and bring about a strong political alliance and be effective advocates for their positions."

❖ "Continue to place a high priority on the redevelopment of Route 1 from the Alexandria city line to Woodbridge in the south. We have to increase residential density and promote the need for mass transit systems. A good example underway right now is the density being realized in the Huntington after a change in zoning near the subway station. We can't wait for people to move to a location; there must be first a place for them to live."

❖ "Improve the quality of education of Mount Vernon schools. If it takes supplemental assistance to accommodate diversity and language needs then we should do what it takes to make it happen. Everything begins with good schools and quality education to provide opportunities for our next generations to grow up to compete in an increasingly complex competitive society."

❖ "Manage stormwater runoff in the infill development areas of Mount Vernon. We have a huge problem needing attention now to mitigate the costly effects of drainage and runoff problems in our infill development neighborhoods. The federal government requires the expenditure of millions of dollars to create flood control ponds and costly drainage systems to prevent the damaging effects to our environment and conflicts with new and old buildings and neighborhoods."

❖ "Explore the options available for a Town Hall Center recommended by my Visioning Task Force. Among the options to study are the Islamic Saudi Academy on Route 1, and parcels of land in the vicinity of the Mount Vernon governmental center and Hospital, among other areas to consider."

❖ "Complete a detailed study of the options available for the alternative uses of the Islamic Saudi Academy. This was originally the Mount Vernon High School and is an excellent facility that could serve a number of uses. Hyland has already formed a Task Force to look into the options and reach out to the citizens for input."

❖ The lack of authority to raise revenue outside of property taxes as we see fit because of Virginia state law which treats counties differently from cities. Cities have significantly better flexibility to raise revenue than counties in Virginia. This anachronistic situation hampers our county and other counties in the Commonwealth. The General Assembly and Governor should change this difference in treatment of cities and counties. It makes no sense to designate ourselves a city when clearly we are not. Yet Alexandria city, for example, has the flexibility to tax and raise funds that we don't have."

**HYLAND THEN HIGHLIGHTED** what he felt were some of the most important recent accomplishments during his career:

❖ Expanding the number and kind of public parks in the Mount Vernon area. Examples he cited include designating 800 acres of land in the Mason Neck wildlife

area; and the Lorton Arts Foundation park land.

❖ Securing the approval of the \$30 million bond referendum to finance the design and building of a levee in the Huntington area to prevent the flooding of homes in the area.

❖ Blocking the extension for another 40 years the continuation of the ESI landfill. It will close in 2018.

❖ Setting a precedent for collaboration and transparency with the citizens by involving them in the decision process. This includes the annual Town Hall Meeting and working closely with civic associations, non-profits and the various county agencies in a deliberative process that includes citizens at every step of the way until a decision is made.

**ADDITIONAL TRIBUTES** from supporters included:

**Bill Bock**, Justice Snowden Farm:

"Gerry is a thoroughly decent and compassionate man." Longtime personal friend Bock had the privilege of knowing him while spending time together on the Eastern shore at his farm in Partsley, Va. Hyland has owned and operated a farm there for many years that he retreats to for relaxation and a different lifestyle and manages gardening fruits and vegetables, trapping crabs, and catching fish, etc. During his years there he developed a close personal relationship with residents of this rural Virginia farm area. One of his local farm friends came down with cancer and, as Bock describes it, Hyland did everything he could to raise money for the family, and brought his friend to Fairfax County to be examined by oncologists at Fairfax hospital. Hyland visited his friend regularly. He visited him the day before he died. According to Bock, Hyland is the real thing: the same caring person in private that he is in public.

**Martin Rizer**, South County:

"I applaud Gerry for his years of service and commitment. Gerry's retirement is our loss but well deserved. He has left an indelible mark on our county, especially the south county area."

**Barbara Sullivan**, executive director, Mount Vernon at Home:

"MVAH is very appreciative of the dedication and deep commitment to the community and support he has given over the years. We thank him for his leadership, support, and guidance and wish him good luck in retirement."

**Katherine Ward**, Federation of Civic Association representative for the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Associations

"Supervisor Hyland fought the good fight to help keep our property taxes from constantly rising by offering another option to raise revenue — the meals tax. Gerry understood that this tax would bring new revenue in from visitors, commuters, and tourists. The proposal to place it on the ballot as a referendum failed on the board. Thanks

Gerry for trying."

**Tim Sargeant**, At Large Member, Fairfax County Planning Commission:

"I have known Gerry for many years, and like so many Mount Vernon residents, have not only considered him my supervisor but my friend. I have always appreciated the opportunities he provided to me for civic participation and leadership in Mount Vernon and the county. Gerry will be remembered for his commitment to public service and his devotion to the people of the Mount Vernon District."

**Daniel Storck**, Mount Vernon School Board representative:

"In over 40 years of public service our residents have greatly benefitted from his support and deep caring for others as the hallmark of his public service and the essence of what he has taught me. He has truly been a 'leader who listens' bridging and uniting the whole of the Mount Vernon District to move us progressively into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I will greatly miss him but look forward to his continued partnership during his last year as we work together to meet the needs of our residents and community."

John Morton, long time personal friend and volunteer on his political campaigns and annual Lobsterfest, said, "I was always very pleased and proud to serve as a volunteer on his election campaigns and the other activities, including making the Brunswick stew. Over these many years we have remained good friends. I hope the best for him for the rest of his days. I will miss him."

**Anne Andrews**, convener, South County Task Force for Human Services:

"Gerry has been a very effective partner in the work of the South County Task Force which has advocated for essential services that needed to be provided, enhance cooperation between various government agencies and non-profits and to prevent overlap. While Gerry deserves and needs a respite from the tremendous demands on his time and physical effort ... I am counting on him to continue to take a less demanding role in enhancing the lives of all of us."

**Sue Langley**, chair, Fairfax County Democratic Committee, issued a press release in connection with Hyland's retirement announcement.

In the statement she praised his 28 years of service on the Board of Supervisors and listed many accomplishments during his tenure. They included: saving the Mount Vernon Hospital from being closed; the extensive redevelopment of the Lorton area after the closure of the Lorton Prison; closing of the ESI landfill by 2018 in response to the community's desire; bringing the crime rate down in the Route 1 corridor; and pressing for better Mount Vernon district schools. Langley said the Democratic party would work to hold the seat in Democratic hands and commented that she was very pleased by the candidates who already have announced an interest in running for the seat.

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**OBITUARY**  
**APHRODITE SANTOS HERO**

Aphrodite S. Hero, 87, a Washington, D.C. arts and education activist since settling in this area in the 1950s, died peacefully on February 1, 2015 in Charlotte, NC.

Mrs. Hero, a native of New York City, graduated from Columbia University and pursued graduate studies at NYU and George Mason University.

After moving to the Washington area, Mrs. Hero became very active in the local communities. Mrs. Hero was a member of the Board of Directors of the National Symphony, Wolf Trap Associates, Virginia Chamber Orchestra, and the George Mason University Board for the Center for the Arts. She was past President of the Women's Committee for the NSO, and past vice-president of the American Association of University Women, Mount Vernon Branch. Mrs. Hero was also a member of the Capital Speaker Club, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Tri Delta Alumnae Association and the Arts League of Washington.

Mrs. Hero is preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, The Honorable Sophocles A. Hero. She is survived by her son Gregory (Susan) of Cornelius, NC, four incredible grandchildren (Andreas, Nicole, Devon and Keenan), and brother, James Santos (Ruth) of Stowe, Vermont.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the National Symphony Orchestra Education Scholarship Fund, the Wolf Trap Education Fund or the Lombardi Cancer Center.

The funeral service will be held at the Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA., this Monday, February 9, 2015, at 11:00am with a burial service to be followed, at the Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, VA.

**OBITUARY**



**Max Cameron Johnson**

**December 24, 1926 – January 27, 2015**

Max Cameron Johnson, formerly of Alexandria, Virginia passed away January 27, 2015 at Applewood Living Center, Longmont, CO. He was 88 years old.

He was born December 24, 1926 in Norfolk, Virginia. Max moved to Roanoke, VA where he was raised and attended school. He went on to graduate from Virginia Southern College. Max enlisted in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of an Airborne unit. He was honorably discharged from active duty on December 6, 1946. He then served with the Ready Reserves at Langley AFB until February 22, 1963.

He married Anna Johnston in 1954 and they made their home in Alexandria, VA. He moved to Longmont in 2011, following the death of Anna on December 22, 2010, to be close to his family.

Max was a Special Agent for the United States Department of the Treasury, retiring in 1984. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge.

Max volunteered his time as a tax preparer and at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. He was a Civil War buff and enjoyed growing Bonsai trees, classical music, writing poetry, bird-watching and swimming.

He is survived by his sister Gayle Jeffreys of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, sister-in-law Sue Loper of Niwot, CO and several nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life will be held on from 12:30-2:30pm, Sunday, February 22, 2015 at The Chinquapin Rec Center, 3210 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Cremation entrusted to Ahlberg Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Longmont, CO. Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin County (Virginia) Historical Society, Rocky Mount, VA or the Men's Home, Alexandria, VA and sent in c/o Ahlberg Funeral Chapel, 326 Terry St., Longmont, CO 80501. Visit [www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com](http://www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com) to share condolences.

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21 Announcements

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## OPINION

### Gun Violence, Monkeys and Tax Loopholes

FROM PAGE 11

and develop strategies to fight the scourge of modern day slavery.

One significant tax loophole that I am working with the Governor to close deals with Online Travel Companies (OTCs) like Expedia.com and Hotels.com to remit the full retail tax on hotel rooms they sell. Currently, OTCs only remit taxes on the wholesale price that they pay for the room. It is unfair to consumers for OTCs not to pay the same amount as those who book directly through brick and mortar hotels. Supporters of my bill include the Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association as well as many regional hotel associations and visitors bureaus. If OTCs were paying their fair share, projections show the Commonwealth would generate \$5.98 million in Fiscal Year 2016 and \$6.74 million in Fiscal Year 2017 in state and local revenue, which would be used to promote regional tourism.

As a member of the Agriculture, Conservation, and Natural Resources Committee, a number of issues dealing with the care and treatment of animals have come before me. One important piece of legislation introduced by Sen. William Stanley (SB1001) would require pet shops to acquire their

dogs though humane societies, animal shelters, and only those breeders who meet ethical qualifications. This will effectively stop "puppy mills," where profits are prioritized over the humane treatment of animals. I supported this legislation both in committee as well as on the floor of the Senate where the bill passed unanimously.

Another bill introduced by Sen. Lynwood Lewis (SB1315) would prohibit the possession, sale, transfer, or breeding of primates within the Commonwealth. Currently there is no law regarding possession of monkeys in Virginia and there have been multiple allegations of mistreatment and neglect from both individual owners and for-profit zoos.

Exotic animals like monkeys are clearly not meant to be domesticated.

Please take my online survey at [www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey](http://www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey). You can also email me at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov). I am active on Twitter @AdamEbbin and Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign](http://www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign). You can sign up for my weekly email updates at [www.AdamEbbin.com](http://www.AdamEbbin.com).

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

against nature and nature's God), which bears negative consequences for everyone, not just those who practice it. It affects human society in general.

That is why Virginia HB 2014 (2015 Regular Session), introduced by Del. Scott Surovell, must be defeated.

If this Bill were to pass, adultery would no longer be considered a Class 4 misdemeanor. The penalty would instead be reduced to a nominal fine "of not more than \$250" — in effect, placing adulterers in the same criminal category as someone who, in the opinion of state law, fails to properly dispose of litter [§ 10.1-200.2] or violates a local noise ordinance [§ 15.2-980].

In my experience, those who stand in opposition to good morals follow a relatively simple political strategy. It begins with trivializing the consequences. Once that piece has been accomplished successfully, those in charge will only be one or two steps away from legalizing adultery, whole hog.

I guess it's not enough that Same-Sex Marriage is already being imposed on Virginia. Adultery is now on the horizon. Followed, no doubt, by outright polygamy. At what point will ordinary citizens stand up to the political elite, and muster the courage to tell them enough is enough?

**Joseph A. Glean**  
Alexandria

#### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

Neighborhood and Community Services at 703-360-3014.

**SATURDAY/FEB. 14**

**Office Hours.** Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday 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) or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at [mehook@fcps.edu](mailto:mehook@fcps.edu)

- ♦ 10 a.m.-noon at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, in the Conference Room.
- ♦ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

**Town Hall Meeting.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Mt. Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Del. Scott Surovell, State Sen. Toddy Puller and State Sen. Adam Ebbin will host their annual legislative town hall where they will review their legislative agendas for the 2015 session, the status of current legislation and answer questions from attendees. Contact Surovell's office at 571-249-4484 or [delSSurovell@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delSSurovell@house.virginia.gov).

**SUNDAY/FEB. 22**

**Nature Talk: Snakefish.** 2 p.m. at the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. The Friends of Dyke Marsh will host a presentation by John Odenkirk, fish biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He will explore the world of the snakehead—its characteristics, impacts and future—and discuss the future and health of the Potomac River fishery. Free, open to the public. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org), [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or call 703-768-2525.

**MONDAY/MARCH 2**

**Scholarship Application Deadline.** Noon. The Military Officers Association of America Educational Assistance is accepting application for the 2015-16 school year. Students under age 24, who are children of former, currently serving or retired commissioned or warrant officers and children of currently serving or retired enlisted military personnel, who are graduating high school seniors or full-time college students working toward their first undergraduate degree, are eligible to apply. Apply online at [www.moaa.org/education](http://www.moaa.org/education).

# Local Prep Football Coaches React to End of Super Bowl XLIX

**Majority say they would have called a run play.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**ony Verducci still regrets not calling a timeout.

Kyle Simmons is still bothered by failed personnel decisions.

Trey Taylor remembers when he could have been a goat, but ended up a hero.

Football coaches spend countless hours during the season preparing their teams for game day. They must develop a strategy for attacking and defending against a particular opponent. They must choose which of their athletes will get the most playing time. And they must find a way to motivate their players to perform to the best of their ability.

After all the time, effort and emotion coaches spend preparing their teams for a game, sometimes a contest can be decided by a single decision.

On Sunday night in Glendale, Ariz., Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell combined to make a decision that will be remembered for years to come.

Seattle trailed the New England Patriots 28-24 with less than 1 minute remaining in Super Bowl XLIX. The Seahawks faced second-and-goal at the 1-yard line with the clock ticking and one timeout available. Through 59-plus minutes, Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch, nicknamed

“Beast Mode” for his violent running style and ability to break tackles, had amassed 102 yards and a touchdown on 24 carries, including a 4-yard run on the previous play that placed the ball just shy of the goal line.

**ON THE VERGE** of becoming the first team in a decade to win back-to-back Super Bowls, Carroll and Bevell called for a pass play rather than handing the ball to their star running back. The play called for wide receiver Ricardo Lockette to run a slant pattern. In theory, Lockette, with the help of a “pick” from fellow receiver Jermaine Kearse, was supposed to flash open for a touchdown. But when quarterback Russell Wilson fired the football toward Lockette, New England rookie defensive back Malcolm Butler jumped the route and intercepted the pass, securing the Patriots’ fourth Super Bowl championship of the millennium and leaving the Seahawks wondering what could have been.

Instead of putting the ball in the hands of the Seahawks’ best player (multiple times if needed), Carroll and Bevell called for a pass play into a crowded area of the field and came up empty. After the game, the play call received harsh criticism from fans, media members, and players from other teams.

From ESPN.com: “Carroll botches Super Bowl.”

From The Seattle Times: “Seahawks lost because of the worst call in Super Bowl history.”

From the San Jose Mercury News: “Any way you look at it, Seattle’s insane pass at the end of the Super Bowl was the worst play-call in modern sports history.”

The following day, several high school

football coaches from Northern Virginia and Montgomery County, Md., shared their thoughts about the final minute of Super Bowl XLIX. The majority of those who responded said they would have called a run play on second-and-goal from the 1. Some coaches acknowledged that it’s easy to second-guess a decision, and some shared tough decisions they had to make in the past.

Verducci, head football coach at Bishop Ireton (Alexandria), was “shocked” by Seattle’s decision to throw the football.

“In a similar situation against Green Bay [in the NFC Championship game on Jan. 18] the Seahawks ran ‘read option’ and Russell Wilson was virtually untouched scoring a touchdown,” Verducci wrote in an email. “During the timeout [prior to first down], I would have called a power running play for Lynch on second down and the read option for Wilson on third down if they did not score. I would have used my final timeout if the second and third down runs were unsuccessful.”

Verducci is haunted by his own tough decision gone wrong. Facing St. Christopher’s in the 2011 state semifinals, Bishop Ireton led 34-31 with less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter. St. Christopher’s faced fourth-and-15 at its own 2-yard line with less than 1 minute remaining and no timeouts.

“My gut instinct was to call a timeout,” Verducci wrote, “but I did not call one.”

St. Christopher’s executed a hook-and-lateral play that broke loose for a 98-yard touchdown and the Saints held on for a 38-34 victory.

“I still regret the fact,” Verducci wrote, “I did not call the timeout to discuss the possibility of a trick play, among other things.”

**SIMMONS, WHO HAS LED** the Westfield football team to four consecutive region championship games, was “surprised” Seattle opted to pass.

“They had one timeout left and an almost unstoppable running back,” Simmons wrote. “I said out loud, Seattle just needs to run the ball now. ... I would have run the same play they ran on first down. They almost scored on that one.”

Simmons said he remembers some of his failed choices as a coach.

“My biggest regrets come with personnel decisions,” Simmons wrote. “And yes, when I look back on some of those decisions it bothers me very much.”

Taylor was the head coach at W.T. Woodson in 2008 when he called for a fake punt at the Cavaliers’ own 10-yard line in a game against Westfield. The intended receiver on the play dropped the pass and Woodson went on to suffer a lopsided loss.

“The play was there, we just failed to execute,” wrote Taylor, who is now the head coach at South Lakes. “... For the Westfield game, we knew we had to do some things out of the box to have a chance to win. We were prepared to do things like we did, so the decision didn’t bother me because it was part of the game plan.”

In 2009, Woodson defeated eventual region champion Lake Braddock 43-42 during the regular season. Taylor took a risk at the end of the game and it paid off.

“We score on a 90-yard screen play to pull within one with about a minute to go,” Taylor wrote. “We opt for a 2-point conversion for the win. We convert and win the game 43-42. After the game, several people commented on how that isn’t what they would have done. Since we won it was a good call. If we wouldn’t have, then everyone would have had a better idea. But at the moment, that is what felt right.”

Seattle had the ball at the New England 11-yard line with 6 seconds remaining in the first half. The Patriots led 14-7 and the “safe” play would have been for Carroll to kick the field goal and go into the locker room down by four. Instead, he opted to run one more offensive play and it paid off with a touchdown pass from Wilson to Chris Matthews.

**CARROLL’S DARING DECISION** at the end of the game didn’t pay off.

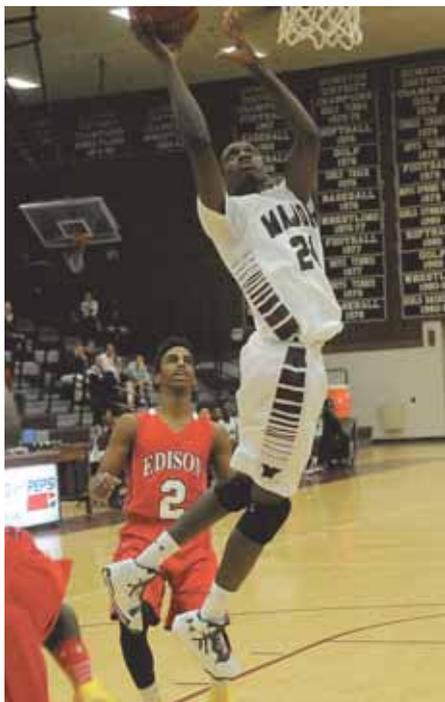
Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress defended Carroll, who led Seattle to a Super Bowl title the previous season and won a pair of national championships with the University of Southern California.

“Hindsight is always 20/20. Last I checked, Coach Carroll had won a lot of big games,” Poythress wrote. “Everybody is a football expert on Monday. The nature of being a football coach (or a weatherman) is that you will get second-guessed. I wish I could show up at the work place of those who have criticized our program and say whatever ridiculous comment I wanted.”

“Where were the experts after the NFC Championship [when Seattle overcame a 16-0 deficit to win 28-22 in overtime]? Didn’t Coach Bevell lead the comeback? I take my hat off to Bevell for getting them to the 1-yard line [in the final minute of Super Bowl XLIX]. He did that with little time left and probably 100 million people watching. More importantly, I credit the Seahawk players for sticking together after the game. Nobody pointed fingers or laid blame. Even Marshawn Lynch, who everybody loves to hate, had only positive things to say about the call and his teammates.”

Lake Braddock finished the 2014 season with a 10-3 record and reached the 6A North region semifinals despite the graduation of star quarterback Caleb Henderson, who is a freshman on the University of North Carolina football team.

“After winning 10 games this year, we were still second-guessed as a staff after the Westfield loss [in the region semis],” Poythress wrote. “We had some seniors that wanted to lay blame on the underclass. We had parents cry about their kid’s touches or stats. After the last-second win versus West Springfield [in the region quarterfinals], we were the greatest staff in the area. The next week we were dog dirt. It comes with the turf and you won’t last long if you pay attention to it. At the end of the season, only one team is happy.”



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

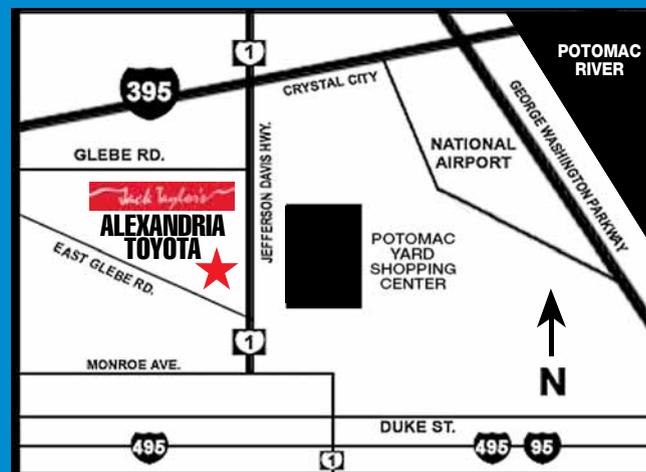
## Against Edison

**Earnest Jones Jr. and the Mount Vernon boys’ basketball team fell to Edison 74-59 on Tuesday, dropping the Majors’ record to 10-8. Mount Vernon will host Stuart at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.**

**Elisa Solomon and the Mount Vernon girls’ basketball team lost to Edison 89-46 on Tuesday. The Majors (11-7) will travel to face Stuart at 7:30 on Thursday.**

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