



Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova watches as School Board Chairman Tamara Kaufax makes her plea for full funding of the schools at the April 7 budget hearing.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

More Than 200 Attend Hearing

Schools, libraries, economic development authority and others seek more funding while tax-hawks call for reductions.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

More than 200 people packed the Fairfax County Government auditorium Tuesday, April 7, and 60 speakers were scheduled to testify before the Board of Supervisors on the advertised budget. The hearing began with a presentation by School Board Chairman Tamara Derenak Kaufax.

Members of the Fairfax County School Board sat in the front row, gave a standing ovation, and remained standing as Kaufax finished her testimony to begin the budget hearings.

"Budget reductions come with a price — the price should not be our children's future. This budget does not meet all of the school systems needs and it certainly does not adequately fund our shared vision of excellence for our schools and students," said Kaufax.

The Fairfax County Public Schools requested \$14 million more than is in the proposed budget.

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 188,000 students.

Kaufax cited statistics and trends that challenge the school system. "We would be the sixth largest school division in Virginia, if you counted just our free-or-reduced-price meal population; or the

ninth largest if you only counted our English for Speakers of Other Languages population," she said.

Nearly 53 percent of the proposed \$3.8 billion county budget is slated to be transferred to the schools.

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said that while the schools didn't ask for everything they needed or get everything they wanted, that the amount of the proposed transfer from the county to the schools was closer to the amount requested than anytime in memory.

"We appreciate that you rolled up your sleeves, and we rolled up our sleeves," said Bulova.

Supervisor Jeff McKay called it "unconscionable" that the state doesn't adequately fund the schools. "We will have the same conversations year after year after year," he said, if the Board of Supervisors and School Board don't advocate together in unity. "We need to march together," he said.

Familiar faces advocated for a reduction in spending and taxes, such as James Parmalee of Centreville, and Arthur Purvis, of Vienna.

There were also advocates who encouraged an increase in taxes to ensure that funding will address the needs of all of Fairfax residents.

Steven Davis, chairman of the Economic Development Authority, said the county is experiencing record office vacancy rates, which pushes down commercial property values and, with it, the proportion of taxes paid by the commercial tax base, shifting more of the burden onto residential taxes.

Maintaining Fairfax County's AAA bond rating is critical, Davis said. "You send a signal to businesses around the world that Fairfax County is one of the best managed jurisdictions in the world," he said. "We all know it has taken decades to build a product that gets businesses here and keeps people here."

SEE BUDGET HEARING, PAGE 5

Foreman Drives Senate District

GOP candidate spends day seeing the 36th top to bottom.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

By 2:30 p.m. on April 2, Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman had already attended meet-and-greets in Stafford, Quantico and Montclair. His fourth stop was the home of Susan Valentine in the Kingstowne area of Alexandria. A fifth event, an ice cream social called "Get the Scoop on Jerry," awaited him at the finish line in Dumfries.

After announcing his candidacy to represent the 36th Virginia Senate District, which includes parts of Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties, Foreman was out on one of what he said will be numerous road-trips traversing the territory. The seat is being vacated by Sen. Toddy Puller, who said she will not seek re-election.

On March 26, the Republican's campaign declared Foreman would be unopposed for the party's nomination to face Democrat Del. Scott Surovell (D-44).

"My success in a town like Dumfries is simple," he said in the



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman spent Thursday April 2 roadtripping around the 36th Senate District.

statement announcing his campaign, "Be honest and straightforward with voters and business owners; promote accessible, transparent government; and make sure hardworking taxpayers and fixed-income retirees get more for less."

He was received in Valentine's dining and sitting rooms by a dozen members of the community, SEE FOREMAN DRIVES, PAGE 5

Surovell, Krizek Deliver Petition on Route 1 Widening

Following a public meeting held March 31 at the South County Government Center to discuss the different projects the Northern Virginia Transit Authority is considering, Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) and 44th District House of Delegates candidate Paul Krizek submitted a petition to the Transit Authority demanding the widening of Route 1 be made a higher priority.

The proposed project would expand Route 1 to six lanes between

Napper Road and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

In a statement on April 6, Surovell announced the petition had garnered nearly 500 signatures and would be delivered directly to the Northern Virginia Transit Authority.

"We received hundreds of comments from residents and commuters who described how this congestion keeps them on the road and takes countless hours

SEE PETITION, PAGE 5

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Old Town \$1,280,000

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Old Town \$1,100,000

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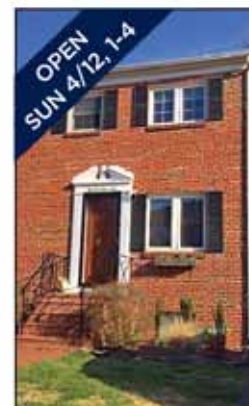
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Royal Visit to Mount Vernon Estate

Prince Charles charms fellow visitors at the Estate.

BY GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

There was a buzz on March 18 throughout the D.C. Metropolitan area as Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, visited sites in Washington D.C. and beyond.

Mary Beth Powers said that she was caught off-guard as she was driving down the George Washington Parkway when the Prince's motorcade came by on its way to Mount Vernon.

Mike and Artemis Davey somehow ended up in the motorcade in their VW Bug "Herbie." "People all along the side were waving Herbie on," said Artemis Davey.

While the Prince's visit to Mount Vernon was not officially announced until the day before, word had gotten out and people lined up around Mount Vernon to greet the future king and his wife. Although there were just as many who just happened to be at Mount Vernon that day and had the added bonus of seeing Prince Charles and Camilla as they toured the grounds.

Ellen Moiseovich was at Mount Vernon, and said, "It was thrilling and he was quite gracious and engaged with a lot of people on Wednesday. As I walked down the hill to the tomb, I passed at least 20 people on their phones saying, 'You will not believe what just happened to me at Mt Vernon.'"

"It was a wonderful day and they were both incredibly gracious spending a few minutes — engaged, focused minutes — with many of the well-wishers lining their route — young and old, with two legs and four."

Prince Charles approached Donald Francisco, history interpreter and fifer, and asked him if he could play a tune.

Francisco said, "He approached me and we talked and I suggested that I play 'God Save the Queen,' which I played for the Queen when she visited President Bush in 2007."

Formerly with the U.S. Army Fife and



The Royals are greeted at the Estate by Mount Vernon Director and CEO Curt Viebranz; Mount Vernon Ladies Association Regent Barbara Lucas; Mount Vernon's Senior Vice President of Historic Preservations & Collections Carol Cadou; and Gov. Terry McAuliffe and First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe.

Drum Corp, Francisco said, "He [Prince Charles] was very grateful and very kind. It was very special — once in a lifetime and I was honored to do it."

The last time Prince Charles visited Alexandria was 1970, and this was the first visit with his wife since he married Camilla Parker-Bowles in 2005.

The Royals were greeted at the Estate by Mount Vernon Director and CEO Curt Viebranz; Mount Vernon Ladies Association Regent Barbara Lucas; Mount Vernon's Senior Vice President of Historic Preservations & Collections Carol Cadou; and Gov. Terry McAuliffe and First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe.

The group toured the mansion and then visited the Tomb and the Mount Vernon Wharf. Dean Norton, director of horticulture, had spent the week before grooming the grounds in preparation for the visit.

"Washington said that 'nothing would contribute more than the proper management of our lands,'" said Norton. "Prince Charles is doing the same — he is very interested in sustainable gardening so this is

a great time for his visit."

The Wharf is significant in that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth dedicated the Wharf during her visit in 1991. Mike Quinn was deputy director at Mount Vernon at the time along with his wife, Carolyn, and daughters, Sara and Lucy. They remember the visit fondly, with a picture of their older daughter, Sara, with the Queen still hanging on their wall at home.

The Prince's final visit was the Pioneer Farm, where he spoke to Mount Vernon's Director of Trades Steve Bashore.

In Washington D.C., Elaine Flynn, tour guide, was guiding a school group and happened to be in the right place at the right time. "The excitement built from the time we arrived at 9:30 a.m. — myself and 21 school children from Florida. The press was already gathered at the stairs and we heard he was scheduled to arrive at 10.

"So ... we waited. It was freezing and windy. But what an experience of a lifetime. The thrill was the excitement of the crowds walking up the stairs with him. As a Na-



Dean Norton, director of horticulture, prepares the grounds for the visit.

tional Park Service woman explained the memorial to him, Camilla (with Doris Kearns Goodwin accompanying them), people took picture after picture. After he walked down the stairs, he spent a good five minutes talking to people and shaking their hands."

Kitty Morgan, with sons Sam and Jem, was thrilled to spend time with Prince Charles and Camilla.

PHOTOS BY
GALE CURCIO
THE GAZETTE

Prince Charles, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Mount Vernon's Senior Vice President of Historic Preservations and Collections Carol Cadou.





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Grand Opening!

Brand new home in fabulous Plymouth Haven—buy now & be in by end of year! Spectacular Wakefield home loaded with virtually every custom upgrade & amenity. 3 levels of luxury! Fabulous features include striking

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4712 Ferry Landing Rd \$480,000

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fundamentals are here just waiting for your finishing touches: open floor plan, cathedral ceilings, large eat-in kitchen, 4 bedrooms, finished lower level, and amazing oversize 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on level 1/2 acre lots



4408 Tarpon Ln \$549,950

Stunning Yacht Haven Opportunity!

Fabulous updated home with dramatic open floor plan at remarkable price! Spacious four level home with major updates including brand new custom kitchen, 3

full updated baths, gorgeous hardwood floors on 2 levels, walk out lower level. Large deck overlooks beautiful half acre level lot. Walk to Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Nothing like it for close to this price!



NEW PRICE!

9201 Cherrytree Drive \$564,950
Huge House—Small Price!

Most home for the \$\$ in premier Mt. Vernon neighborhood! Exceptionally spacious 5

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SOLD!

1804 Rampart Drive \$599,000
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9223 Craig Ave \$614,995
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SOLD!



SOLD!

4720 Dolphin Lane \$809,900
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chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314



Foreman Drives Senate District

FROM PAGE 1
who enjoyed light refreshments and soaked up warm afternoon sun streaming through windows.

"The first thing I learned about being mayor," Foreman said as he began some impromptu remarks, "is being available to the people." In his nearly four years as Mayor of Dumfries, a town of around 5,000, he said his accessibility to citizens has been key to the role, and something he hoped to share with voters on the road trips.

Foreman gave a succinct bio, including his 25 years as a U.S. Marine, work as an aviation consultant, election to Dumfries Town Council Council in 2010 and elections to mayor in 2012 and 2014.

Valentine, who is also the Lee District Republican chair, has hosted similar candidate and interest meetings before.

She said she's optimistic for the party's chances in the election climate. "There's an enthusiasm and confidence, it's an environment where people can be successful."

Both Valentine and Foreman commented on the "vast area" that comprises the 36th District. "There are so many levels to coordinate for the greatest effect what people actually want, what will make a difference," said Valentine.

Foreman gave the example of transportation and redevelopment developments along the Route 1 corridor. "I will represent the entire district," he said. "Route 1 projects in Dumfries, Prince William County, Fairfax shouldn't be ranked against each other, but count as one, for the benefit of everyone." He answered questions about his legislative agenda by continuing the themes of commu-

nication, connecting with local citizens and making sure decisions would benefit all three counties. Foreman highlighted needing to generate business, despite not having retail centers like Potomac Mills or Tysons, as well as getting Stafford more representation at the Northern Virginia Transit Authority and protecting the district's waterways.

If elected, Foreman said, some of his first phone calls would be to set up meetings to "align visions" with the county supervisors and school board members in the district. "It's a matter of three different school boards with different concerns that need to be balanced and fairly represented," he said.

For more on Foreman, visit www.gmforemansenate36va.com.

Petition Calls for Widening of Route 1

FROM PAGE 1
away from their family," Surovell said in a statement. "Furthermore, this project will also lay the groundwork for a substantial section recommended for significant transit improvements in the U.S. 1 Multimodal Transit Alternatives Study which was completed in October 2014."

Also in a statement, Krizek referenced the community support for the widening project he observed at a March 31 hearing.

"This bottleneck is not just an inconvenience for those traveling along the corridor but affects our quality of life, ability to attract new businesses and the ability for our emergency personnel to do their

jobs," Krizek said. "I sincerely hope that the NVTA will prioritize funding for the widening of U.S. 1."

Surovell is currently running for the 36th District Senate seat being vacated by state Sen. Toddy

Puller. According to the Virginia Department of Elections, he will face Republican candidate and Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman as the Democratic party's direct nominee.

— TIM PETERSON

Budget Hearing

FROM PAGE 1
Brian Engler, of the Fairfax Library Foundation, and Charles Fegan, of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, addressed the cuts to the library system. Libraries are part of educating the county's young people, and provide a myriad of other services to residents of all ages despite significant cuts in recent years, they said.

Two additional hearings were scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 8 and 9, with dozens more speakers ready to testify.

On April 28, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt its FY 2016 Budget and tax rate, including budget transfer to the school system. The School Board is scheduled to adopt its budget on May 21.

The FY 2016 Budget becomes effective July 1.



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OPEN SUN. 1-4

Alex./Yacht Haven \$875,000

4505 Dolphin Lane

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Alex./Bucknell Manor \$309,900

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NEW LISTING

OPEN SUN. 1-4

Springfield \$414,900

7217 Olde Lantern Way

Beautiful 3 level, 2.5 bath town house backing to wooded area in great location off of Fairfax County Parkway. Spacious rooms, open floor plan. Newly renovated eat-in kitchen w/all-new appliances, cabinetry and Silestone counters. Roof 2011. Large master suite with vaulted ceiling, hardwood floor, walk-in closet, and luxurious bath with soaking tub, separate shower and double sinks. It's a winner.



COMING SOON

Alex./Riverside Estates Low \$500s

8508 Wagon Wheel Road

Beautiful 5/6 BR split on one of Riverside's largest lots. Welcome to a freshly painted interior & stunning, refinished hwd flrs. Replacement windows plus a nice addition which can serve as a formal & separate dining rm or an in-law-suite complete w/a bath & shower. A finished lower lvl offers 2 BRs, bath, large family rm w/wood-burning fpl & a large utility/laundry rm. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 to Old Town (N). This is a GREAT BUY!



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Saturday, April 18th, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 19th, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria 22308

Roles for 9 males & 7 females. Auditions will be cold readings from the script, bring known conflicts,

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 Stunning Old Town Commons light-filled end townhome with luxurious upgrades and finishes. 3BR + den, 3.5BA. Open floor plan. Gourmet chef's kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite. Elegant living room has custom built-ins and hearth-warming gas fireplace opening to dining room. Peaceful master bedroom with spa-like bath. 4th level bedroom and family room. Roof top terrace with double-sided fireplace. 2-car garage.
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GEORGETOWN, DC \$2,650,000
 1517 28th Street
 Handsome bay front residence circa 1900 with approximately 4,000 sq ft, features high ceilings, three fireplaces, first floor family room, kitchen with table space, and deep garden.
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JEFFERSON PARK \$1,195,000
505 Woodland Terrace
Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home in Alexandria City featuring a renovated kitchen, hardwood floors throughout, landscaped backyard with stone patio, 3 fireplaces, and a huge storage attic.



KIRKSIDE \$895,000
2210 Traies Court
This gorgeous 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath home features a grand foyer, beautifully renovated kitchen, sun room with high ceiling, luxurious master suite, lower level with 2 large rec rooms, and a back deck.



STRATFORD \$749,000
8604 Cotswold Court
Charming center hall colonial offering 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a 1-car garage. Features Brazilian teak hardwood floors, gas fireplace, fenced backyard with two-tier deck, and an abundance of storage.



STRATFORD LANDING \$679,000
9016 Greylock Street
Sun-filled home offering 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, open concept living and dining rooms, lower level rec room, updated kitchen and baths, attached 2-car garage, and a large fenced backyard with deck.



COLUMBIA PINES \$549,000
4002 Rose Lane
This renovated Cape Cod features 3 spacious bedrooms, 2.5 baths, stunning updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances, sun room, hardwood floors throughout, and a professionally landscaped yard.



COLLINGWOOD MANOR WEST \$795,000
8207 Mack Street
Beautiful 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial offering a fenced backyard complete with pool and deck, hardwood floors throughout, updated kitchen, and a fully finished lower level. **Under Contract in 5 Days!**



FENWICK ESTATES \$1,095,000
7623 Admiral Drive
Located on a 0.67 acre lot, this home offers 5 bedrooms and 4.5 baths on 3 fully finished levels. Features beautifully updated baths, large back deck, open concept kitchen and family room, & 2-car garage.



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OPINION

A Big Election Year in Virginia

Register, research, vote. And vote again.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Here are a few examples that demonstrate that while elections are ubiquitous in Virginia, they are neither simple nor unimportant. Wade in, a lot depends on figuring this out and voting. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of candidates.

The choices begin April 23.

Almost every state and local elected office in Virginia will be in play. Democrats will choose their candidates in the primary on June 9. Republicans will choose candidates for individual offices at caucuses, firehouse primaries and conventions, beginning April 23 and finishing by June 9.

For example, the Republican candidate for Sully District supervisor will be chosen in a firehouse primary on Saturday, April 25 at Westfield High School, with three candidates seeking the nomination to replace retiring Michael Frey.

The three candidates are Brian Schoeneman, John Guevara and John Litzenberger, and the winner will likely face Democrat Cathy Smith on Nov. 3. Smith is vacating her Sully District School Board seat to run for Sully District supervisor.

This year's elections begin May 5 with elections in the Town of Vienna with three candidates vying for three positions on the Vienna Town Council. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.

There are similar chains of musical chairs happening in the Mount Vernon district, with District Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D) retiring,

and Democrats Jack Dobbyn, Dan Storck, Candace Bennett and Tim Sargeant seeking the Democratic nomination to replace him. Democrats will choose their candidate in a primary June 9 at usual polling places; Republicans have scheduled a canvass on May 16 at Sherwood Regional Library.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot including district members and the chairman. Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members; Constitutional Officers Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's Attorney; and three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats. With several key retirements, including Del. Rob Krupicka (D), Del. Tom Rust (R) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D), it's clear that there will be some change. Del. Scott Surovell (D) will give up his seat to run for Puller's Senate seat, so the musical chairs continue.

IN ARLINGTON, the General Election on Nov. 3. will include Virginia Senate (30th, 31st, and 32nd Districts), Virginia House of Delegates (45th, 47th, 48th, and 49th Districts), County Constitutional Offices (Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of Revenue, and Treasurer), County Board (two seats), and School Board. In Arlington, staggered terms on the County Board and School Board mean that there are two seats on the County Board and one on School Board up for election.

The Democratic party will select its nomi-

nees for County Board and House of Delegates, 45th District, on Tuesday, June 9. Republicans will select their nominees for all offices at party meetings or caucuses, to be held at dates to be announced. The Republican party has until June 9 to select nominees. Source: <http://vote.arlingtonva.us/elections/>

IN ALEXANDRIA, aside from the five Democratic candidates seeking the nomination to replace Krupicka, only one Democratic candidate qualified for the primary ballot for Virginia State Senate (30th and 35th Districts) and House of Delegates (46th District) and only six Democratic candidates qualified for the primary ballot for City Council, so no primaries for those offices will be held.

In addition, only one Republican candidate qualified for Virginia State Senate (39th District) so no primary for that office will be held. Source: <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>

The Republican Party will be nominating its candidates for Mayor, City Council, Virginia House of Delegates (45th and 46th District) and State Senate (30th and 35th District) through a party canvass. Check with the Alexandria Republican City Committee for more information, www.alexgop.org.

The Democratic Party will be nominating its candidate for Virginia State Senate (39th District) by a method other than a primary. Check with the Alexandria Democratic Committee for more information, www.alexdem.org.

Don't miss any of this. Check that you are registered to vote at your current address by visiting <http://elections.virginia.gov/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Not a Priority?

To the Editor:

Last Tuesday night over 100 members of the Mt. Vernon community met with Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA), in efforts to prioritize funding in their upcoming two year transportation budget for the widening of Route 1 from Jeff Todd Way (Roy Rogers) to Napper Road (Costco).

The meeting started with NVTA Chair Marty Nohe, who also serves on Prince William County's Board of Supervisors (R-Colesville), stating that he had to leave early. Nohe indicated that NVTA were presented with many "wants" and that they ultimately decide the actual "needs," with the underlying sentiment being that Mt. Vernon doesn't "need" this project. He affirmed this when he stated that the widening of Route 1 is not currently recommended for funding; he placated the audience by suggesting the public's input was

a factor for weighting decisions.

Unfortunately when it was time for public comments, Nohe decided to leave and wished everyone a "good night." By leaving early, Chairman Nohe ensured that the passion and demeanor of the residents will be left unheard.

There are two metrics that NVTA uses to decide on funding priority, one being their own "needs scale," and the other coming from the Virginia General Assembly's (GA) House Bill 599 (HB599). HB599's formula was created by the General Assembly in an effort "to reduce congestion and, to the extent feasible, the degree to which the project is expected to improve regional mobility in the event of a homeland security emergency." With the presence of Ft. Belvoir (Northern Virginia's largest employer) less than a quarter mile from the project site, it would be a tough argument to make that this funding would not reduce congestion and improve regional mo-

bility in the event of a homeland security emergency. The application of House Bill's metrics resulted in determining that eight of the other 10 projects that are recommended for funding in Fairfax County scored lower than our project. Thus, according to the General Assembly's metrics, the widening of Route 1 would dramatically reduce congestion, which makes funding for the project crucial. Not only would the extra two lanes increase Route 1's ability to sustain traffic, it would also add a bike lane and pedestrian friendly walking areas. This would allow residents to have different transportation options to choose from while making the area more attractive for WMATA to extend the Yellow Line to Hybla Valley.

The other, "needs based" metric, which according to Nohe, is "objectively infallible," comes from the NVTA itself. I want to note that other projects such as Metro's Sil-

ver Line, Tyson's Corner Redevelopment, Merrifield, etc. aren't put into consideration when NVTA makes their funding decisions. This results in most of their funding going to road projects in areas already undergoing major redevelopment, while leaving Mt. Vernon widely underfunded.

Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) and Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) obtained funding for a transportation study which recommended the widening of Route 1. This study concluded that widening Route 1 from Roy Rogers to Costco would be the first step to bringing the Metro to Hybla Valley. This vital investment could be the first step to major economic redevelopment of our area.

Ultimately, it seemed as though the NVTA was simply going through the motions by having this meeting, and that they never fully considered this project in the first place. The citizens' concerns went

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A Connection Newspaper



Funding Hearing for Route 1

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

Last week, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) held public hearings at the South County Government Center at the request of Fairfax County Supervisor Jeff McKay and Board Chairman Sharon Bulova.

These deliberations include whether to help fund the \$14 million estimate for the initial design and environmental analysis of widening U.S. 1 from Fort Belvoir to Napper Road near the Costco, including reserving space for bus rapid transit to Woodbridge and constructing a sidewalk and multi-use path along the entire length. It also includes about \$60 million for widening U.S. 1 in Prince William County (Featherstone to Mary's Way and Fraley Boulevard to VA-234).

First, here's some background. Virginia's transportation system suffered from a 20-year funding shortfall, and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) "borrowed" maintenance money (paving and bridge reconstruction) so there was something to spend on construction. This is why about 75 percent of the secondary roads in the 36th Senate District now require paving. In 2013, the General Assembly passed legislation, now law, raising taxes to fund about 20 percent of our known long-term new construction needs. The bill had statewide and local components.

Statewide Funding Components

The statewide component repealed the \$0.175 gas tax and replaced it with wholesale taxes equal to about a \$0.10-0.12/gallon tax, and raised sales taxes on cars from 3 percent to 4.3 percent.

It also raised sales taxes by 0.3 percent and then diverted \$700 million over five years from education, public safety, and higher education to the Transportation Trust Fund to help make up the lost \$0.05/gallon. The bill also enacted a new \$100 tax on Virginia's hybrid vehicles which was repealed after I led the fight with Sen. Adam Ebbin.

This plugged the statewide maintenance shortfall and funded new paving in the Northern part of the 36th District around Sherwood Hall Lane last year and is why many roads between Sherwood Hall and Collingwood Road will be paved this year.

Regional Funding Components

The bill also imposed three more taxes Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads only taxes – a 0.7 percent sales tax, a 3 percent hotel tax and a "regional congestion relief fee" of about \$250 per \$100,000 of home value. I voted against initial versions of this legislation for several reasons, including that it only funded one-fifth of our known needs, it relied on regressive sales taxes to fund roads instead of use taxes, and it also included partially unspecified formulas to make spending decisions, and voted for the bill on final passage with Governor

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McDonnell's amendments.

The NVTA's Process

The NVTA is required to make funding decisions based on two different formulas. One, which originated from a bill called HB599 that

we passed in 2011, requires VDOT to focus its spending on projects that reduce congestion and improve homeland security. The second formula focuses on a number of variables, including economic development and project readiness.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the NVTA rated 36 projects. Under the HB599 formula, the widening of U.S. 1 near Fort Belvoir ranked eighth. However, under the NVTA's 2020 performance measures, it dropped to #18, which was slightly under the cut for projects recommended for funding this year, while the two Prince William projects held their ground to merit recommendations for funding.

The Public Hearing

Last week's public hearing on U.S. 1 drew a larger crowd than the "main" NVTA hearing in central Fairfax County – over 130 citizens – and the message was loud and clear. Our community supports widening U.S. 1 and people has serious concerns about the formulas being used.

I also conducted a robopoll which held that 67 percent support widening U.S. 1; 13 percent oppose it. I also posted a petition along with Paul Krizek, candidate for the 44th House of Delegates District. Over 430 people signed on with comments demanding action.

Future Action

Moving forward, I am working with local officials and state legislators, including Sen. Adam Ebbin, who is on the NVTA Board, to work hard to get all of the U.S. 1 projects included in this round of funding.

We cannot wait any longer for the improvement of U.S. 1 and we are fighting hard to fund it now.

Please share your views with me at scott@scottsuovell.org.

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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D.C. Design House

McLean showcase home opens to the public April 12.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Local interior design enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour a much-anticipated unveiling this weekend when the 2015 Design House opens in McLean on Sunday, April 12 at noon, with ticket sales benefiting the Children's National Health System.

The 8,869-square-foot home was built by Artisan Builders and designed by Harrison

Design to look like an old American farmhouse. Then, 24 local designers were chosen to design a room in the home — the eighth annual design house — using inspiration that ran the gamut from American art to the home's natural surroundings. Organizers hope the varied styles will make the home's design appear to have evolved over many years.

THE KITCHEN was designed by Paul Lobkovich and Emily Neifeld, of Lobkovich

Kitchen Designs in Tysons Corner. Antique white walls accented by a custom hood in both black and stainless steel create a simple, but elegant gathering space.

If this kitchen is the hub of a home's activities, then the butler's pantry is where the preparation for those celebrations begins. That notion was the inspiration for Margery Wedderburn's design. "This butler's pantry is the celebration of a good life," said Wedderburn, of Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC in Vienna. "One enters the heart of the home, the kitchen and family room, through this butler's pantry, so the room is casually elegant, but doesn't take itself too seriously. It is happy, bright and fun.

"This home was designed to have a country farmhouse feeling, and we were inspired by the architecture plus the Virginia countryside," she said, explaining that nature was also a big inspiration. "We have the casual green leaf wallpaper, plus we designed a custom, faux-wallpaper on the ceiling

which looks just like repurposed wood. We bring the outdoors in with the green and blue tones of the space, including the fun peacock color, which ties in with our peacock feathers in the umbrella stand."

Another active hub of the home is the back stair hallway, which connects all three floors. Although it's windowless, designer David Benton's goal was to create a warm, welcoming and stylish space. "Using furniture, lighting and accents, we visually divided the hall into two zones," said Benton of RA Spaces, the interior division of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md. Benton even created a "virtual window" with a commissioned painting, "Old Dominion Sky."

The first-floor space is accented with a custom, tufted bench and unexpected pops of color to create a formal space between the butler's pantry and dining room. "The hall space that connects the garage, mudroom and kitchen is anchored by a console table and wool rug," said Benton.

Open shelving and a built-in desk offer additional display areas. Benton finished the space with a chandelier by Circa Lighting and photo art. Those accessories "de-

liver fresh takes on period furnishing," said Benton. "The classic Eames bright blue fiberglass shell chair introduces an unexpected Americana twist."

"Like the house, which feels like it has been added to over time, we wanted the interior to feel like an acquired collection of pieces," said Benton. "The useful storage bench and custom sweater rug give the space warmth and style. The fun and inexpensive swag light is another way we added flair and utility."

INSPIRED BY A SAILING TRIP through the fjords of New Zealand and by the bright oil-on-canvas painting, "Mountains and Sea," designer Lisa Tureson, of Studio

Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery."

Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mirror and eight paintings in the space. "My goal was to create a pictorial space since I'm an artist and

painter," she said. "The subtle sparkle on the walls ... adds pizzazz."

When designing the room known as the gentleman's retreat, Scott Cooke, of Scott Cooke Design in Alexandria, wanted to "honor the architecture of the house itself, with a room that's rustic in nature, and that feels in sync with the time period the house evokes," he said.

From the wooden poster bed and canopy to the rug and art, Cooke used neutral hues throughout the room. He drew inspiration from the home of the late fashion designer Bill Blass, which was, "done in a monochromatic color story ranging from white and parchment, to caramel, chocolate, espresso and black," said Cooke.

Transforming this grand house into a home was a mammoth undertaking, but one designers say was well worth the effort.

"It is an honor to be a part of this amazing group of designers," said Wedderburn. "The great thing about the group is that everyone is wonderful and helpful to each other. There is a special camaraderie here and we are all drawing inspiration off each other."

D.C. Design House

956 Mackall Farm Lane, McLean, will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 12, noon-5 p.m.

❖ **Regular Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (Visitors must arrive one-half hour before closing time to take the tour.)

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The 2015 D.C. Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 12.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8
 largely ignored. Mount Vernon continues to be overlooked for funding compared to the rest of the County. It's our turn for equal transportation funding and the opportunity to enjoy the redevelopment others in the county have received.

Jack Dobbyn
 Candidate for Mt. Vernon District supervisor

Prioritizing Improvements

To the Editor:

My name is Paul Krizek, and I am running for delegate in Virginia's 44th District. I've been proud to call the Mt. Vernon community my home for over 40 years, and Route 1 has long been the thoroughfare that has connected me from my home to my work.

I've seen Richmond Highway evolve over the years — from when Putt Putt golf was a fun feature of Hybla Valley to our multiplex theatre replaced by a Costco; from pawnshops and seedy motels, to better shopping centers.

We now have a huge economic driver in Ft. Belvoir, with twice as

many people working there than at the Pentagon. Mt. Vernon/Lee and the Route 1 corridor has experienced ongoing change to meet the needs of its residents and to ensure that it remains the unique, family-friendly area that we all cherish.

And yet, today, Richmond Highway is the last main thoroughfare in Fairfax County that has not yet experienced a proper revitalization. We can see the negative impacts: excessive traffic congestion, poor pedestrian connectivity and no bicycle lanes, a lack of quality office space, storm water erosion, an explosion of title loan lenders, a dearth of sustainable small businesses.

These challenges pose long-term threats to our economic and environmental health, not to mention younger generations — our children and grandchildren — who are seeking communities that offer multiple transit options and a way to balance work and home, rather than spending hours commuting each day.

With the input from residents and community partners, I think we can achieve important changes such as:

- ❖ A multi-modal emphasis with Bus Rapid Transit in the short-term

and as soon as possible, expansion of the Metro system down the corridor with stops at Beacon Mall and Hybla Valley

- ❖ Burying the power-lines to eliminate an unsightly feature of Richmond Highway and an impractical and risky design during storms;

- ❖ Create new jobs and keep existing jobs in the community, and thus also add valuable tax dollars to the community; and

- ❖ Maintain the affordable housing options that are one of Fairfax County's most notable successes in community development.

On March 31 at the South County Center, a public hearing of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (called by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay) was held with a great outpouring of public support for widening Route 1 from Ft. Belvoir to the Costco.

More than 400 people signed a petition circulated by Delegate Surovell and me urging the Authority to reconsider the prioritization of projects to place widening of Richmond Highway between Mount Vernon Memorial

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

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LETTERS

Failing Those Most in Need

To the Editor:

My name is Maurine Houser and I am writing in response to your article ["Moving: From Institution to Community"] printed on April 2 regarding the Northern Virginia Training Center.

I am the younger sister and guardian of my 57-year-old brother Kim Houser. Until recently, he resided at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Kim is non-verbal, non-ambulatory without assistance, has the cognitive ability of a nine month old and is medically fragile.

Your article states that the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has provided a multitude of community placement options for family members. However, it has been my experience and others that the placements offered are inappropriate and do not have the skills or supports necessary for the medically disabled and behaviorally challenged population remaining at the Northern Virginia Training Center to survive. Not only are the placements unrealistic, they are not in Northern Virginia. My brother was offered placements in Williamsburg and Petersburg, Va., that were not in line with the standards of care suitable for him. My other alternative was to allow the

State of Virginia to relocate Kim to the Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg, Va., which the state intends on closing in 2020 and ultimately start the process of discharge all over again.

I came to realize unless I was proactive on behalf of my brother, his future would be severely compromised. Through my own research and efforts, I connected with Good Neighbor Community Services who are now caring for my brother in Spotsylvania, Va. The discharge process was extensive, cumbersome and extremely emotional. None of the professionals could predict the future of the Medicaid Waiver, which is now my brother's source of funding, nor anticipate how he would react to a new home, staff and routine. The discharge process encompassed a seven-month period; including but not limited to 20 state employees.

I feel fortunate I have found a provider that will take good care of my brother. However, I fear that the remaining residents will not be so lucky. How can moving someone's severely disable child hundreds of miles away not be in violation of the American with Disabilities Act? The populations at the training centers are aging and many individuals have elderly parents who will be unable to see



Kim Houser

their children due to travel constraints. Similarly, Virginia remains glaringly non-compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice's findings as highlighted by the increase of individuals waiting for Medicaid Waiver funds and services. The process of deinstitutionalization in theory may work for most individuals but for those who are the 1 percent a hasty, underfunded, unsupported process will result in catastrophe as did the rapid deinstitutionalization and nonexistent funding for the mentally ill.

Maurine Houser
Reston

Cottrell Awarded

The Law Enforcement Commendation Certificate and Medal were presented to Chief Inspector Guy Cottrell (center) of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service at the George Washington Chapter meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution on March 14. The award was presented by chapter President Dwight E. Whitney, Ph.D., (right) at the banquet luncheon meeting held at the Belle Haven Country Club. Paul Wagoner (left), vice chairman of the chapter's awards committee assisted in the presentation. Cottrell received the award in recognition of his service in the field of law enforcement.



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special thanks to Mount Vernon Gazette

ENTERTAINMENT

Meet the Chef: Christophe Poteaux at Bastille

Ingredients are important to the French.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

A bucket of 5-inch long pod-shaped razor clams from Virginia Beach sits on the counter ready for the lunch special at Bastille.

"This dish is seasonal," said Chef Christophe Poteaux. "It depends on the moon cycle since you need a wide beach when the tides are out to harvest the clams. The clams dig deep into the sand." The chef will add "a little bunch of vegetables" from a tray of square white containers. Into the skillet with a little oil go the artichokes, fennel, celery, carrots, peppers and tomatoes and he says shaking the pan, "we sauté them but not so much they color."

Poteaux added, "I've seen people become more adventuresome these days. Ten years ago they wouldn't have ordered braised veal breasts, and hangar steak was a little obscure." He added that side dishes of vegetables and small plates are a lot more popular because they are nutritious. He says this past winter the customer favorites have been the short rib beef daube, and the potato gnocchi, "and there's the homard curry (lobster Thai style.)" But Poteaux said, "I have a personal feeling about duck — confit on cassoulet, rillettes and duck prosciutto which I cure for 48 hours and then hang to dry."

He sees a trend in people interested to know where their ingredients are from locally. "As a French person the ingredients are essential."

Poteaux always wanted to be a chef. He had a cousin in France with a restaurant where he sometimes worked in the summers as a youth. "My other influence

"I have a personal feeling about duck."

— Christophe Poteaux, Chef, Bastille Restaurant

Poteaux always wanted to be a chef. He had a cousin in France with a restaurant where he sometimes worked in the summers as a youth. "My other influence



Michelle Poteaux, pastry chef at Bastille, brings in a tray of freshly baked focaccia to top with aioli for the finishing touch.

was my grandpa, who was a baker. See his picture is in the hallway," he said, pointing through the kitchen door. Poteaux spent several summers there with his grandpa. He came to the U.S. in 1977. "I worked in finance and banking and got a late start on cooking. I made a good living, but I was miserable." He went to Los Angeles, then moved to New York. From 2003-2006 he was a chef at the Watergate Hotel.

Poteaux rubs salt between his fingers, and adds tellicherry pepper, a splash of chardonnay and shellfish broth to the skillet. He covers the dish for 3-4 minutes. "Get

me a cassoulet dish," he said, adding the large pink shrimp at the last minute "so you don't over do it."

Michelle Poteaux appears around the corner with a sheet of crisp newly-baked focaccia. "I thought you might want to use these with some aioli on the dish with the special."

He says the most difficult thing to cook is lobster because you have to be careful of the temperature or "it will curdle and get tough." Also duck because it is lean and gamey so you have to cook it slowly on the skin to render the fat. Poteaux begins his day about 9 a.m. when "I make sure everyone is on time." Then he checks his ingredients.

The menu is set for the season but he may



The razor clams are added to a bit of oil and slightly sautéed vegetables, covered and cooked 3-4 minutes.

change one dish, and he has a special for the day. "For instance we had rockfish two weeks ago when they told me they could go to the water to get some." When they have a special he will do it himself the first few times so the others in the kitchen know how for next time. "I am the quality control."

Sometimes he gets an idea. "I have been cooking for 20 years so I start with a classic and add a few things. My ideas burst." He thinks of the seasons, what is fresh and then adds protein. But he says he has failures. "Then I laugh." Before he puts a new dish on the menu, he tries it out on his staff and then adds it to the menu when it's ready.

Large black and white pictures of his wife Michelle and the children line the walls in the main dining room. Michelle is the pastry chef originally from Billings, Mo., and they met at UCLA. Today she has made ananas rotie, roasted spiced pineapple with almond cake. Bastille moved to its present location on N. Fayette Street in January from its former location on N. Royal Street. Poteaux said they were bursting out of the old building. Now they have a main dining room with 45 seats and a smaller one in back, "plus a 40-seat patio just waiting for spring. With the development of the waterfront and the sale of the power plant, this area is flourishing."

CALENDAR

Email announcements to 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 the event.

ONGOING

Michael Graves Memorial Exhibit.

Through Friday, April 10 during library hours at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The architect and designer of the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, Michael Graves, passed away on March 12. The Library has devoted a memorial table of his work along with a feature on the Alexandria Library website. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Art Exhibit. Through Tuesday, April 14. Sunday and Monday, 12-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,

10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Artist Kevin Fitzgerald presents a collection of coastal images painted in the tonalist style. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

"Strong Men and Women." Through April 14 at Alexandria Library, 5005 Duke St. The display honors distinguished African-Americans from Virginia. Contact Kyle Maier at 703-746-1776.

Art Show. Through May 3 at Cove, 805 King St., Alexandria. Cove will partner with ArtSee to open the doors of their Alexandria location for a reception featuring the work of Alexandria artist, Pete McCutchen. The work on display shares McCutchen's "Geometrics" series. Visit cove.is for more.

Art Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 3 at

Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Two new exhibits will be on display at the Multiple Exposures Gallery by artists Susan Meyers and Colleen Henderson. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. Through May 25, 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.

"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Runs through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans

and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

"Intricacies" Exhibit. Through Sunday, May 31 at various times at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Artist-Photographer Nina Tisara unveils her "Intricacies" exhibit, a collection of mosaics. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered will the National Kidney Foundation

for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

THROUGH APRIL 26

"The Island." Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N Royal St. The Island is set on Robben Island in South Africa where two political prisoners labor during the day and perform "Antigone" by night. Visit www.metrostage.com.

"Art and Story." Through April 26 at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Del Ray Artisans presents artworks illustrating the power of art and story. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

THROUGH APRIL 25

Art Exhibit. The Torpedo Factory, The

ENTERTAINMENT

Celebrate Tartan Day

Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish culture, Saturday, April 11, 1:30-6 p.m. Those of Scottish descent (and those who are not) may don kilts and head to Old Town's Market Square for an afternoon of traditional music and dance. Tartan Day attendees will also find Scottish-themed merchandise for sale. Admission is free. Visit www.dctartanday.org.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT

Associates Gallery, studio 319, 105 North Union. Ceramics artist Bev Andrews, painter Ann Noel, mixed media artist Gail Spencer Saour and fine arts photographer Jo Ann Tooley will present work for an exhibit titled "Layers." Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

THROUGH MAY 17

"COMPARTMENTALIZED." 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday 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, 5000 Dawes Ave. The exhibit, featuring Lang's assemblages of photography, digital photomontage, and found objects will be on display. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

"Dance for All Ages." 7-9 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Find dancing, refreshments, and door prizes. Free. RSVP to jackie.mccord@alexandria.gov.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

2015 HOPE Experience. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, 5000 Seminary Road. Child Care/Family Expert and Lifetime TV's "America's Supernanny" Deborah Tillman will headline this conference designed to encourage and empower parents. Admission is \$99.99 plus service fees. Couples tickets are \$149.99 plus service fee. Child care is available for an additional \$40 fee. See www.theparentingmovement.org.

Pinwheel making. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Children are invited to learn to make their own pinwheels. This is a partnership with Stop Child Abuse Now, Virginia (SCAN), which uses pinwheels as a symbol for child abuse awareness. This event is free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.scanva.org/kidsneedconnections.

Walking Tour. 1-3 p.m. at The Friendship Firehouse, 107 S Alfred St. Attend the "Firefighting in Civil War Alexandria Walk Tour." Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 10-17. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Tartan Day. 1:30-6 p.m. at Market Square. Learn about the Scottish culture by viewing

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Sunday 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	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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ENTERTAINMENT

traditional and contemporary music and dance. Free. Visit www.dctartanday.org/scottishfestival.

Mag-Whirl Gala. 7 p.m. at 201 Cambridge Road. This event will feature three magicians and DC's own Eric Henning, Magician of the Year. Benefits Bishop Ireton HS Tech Theater Dept. and Ring 50 of the IBM. Tickets start at \$15. Call 703-347-5540.

"Dare to Think Heroically." 8 p.m. at Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, 2121 Eisenhower Ave. Suite 608. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra welcomes Pianist Thomas Pandolfi to Present Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1. Children's tickets are \$5. Adult admission is \$60-80. Visit www.alexsym.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Architecture Tour. 1-3 p.m. at Market Square. As part of Alexandria Architecture Week, local architects will provide free walking tours through Old Town Alexandria. The tours will highlight the history of Alexandria as reflected through its architecture, showcasing examples from Georgian to Art Deco. Register at <http://aianova.org/panes/event.php?eventID=1102>.

"Dare to Think Heroically." 3 p.m. at Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, 2121 Eisenhower Ave. Suite 608. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra welcomes Pianist Thomas Pandolfi to Present Liszt Piano Concerto No. 1. Children's tickets are \$5. Adult admission is \$60-80.

Artist Talk: Enveloping Time. 3 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Opening for an exhibition of the works of Robert Cwiok in the Athenaeum gallery. Cwiok's paintings, collage, and mixed media works lead visitors on a visual tour through the development of an artist. Text, print ephemera and envelopes are visual leitmotifs throughout his career. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

TranzitionMe Grand Opening. 3-7 p.m. at 2815 Duke St. Tour TranzitionMe, a new holistic wellness center offers yoga, colon hydrotherapy, sauna and more. Free. Call 703-212-5802 to RSVP.

"Music in the Life of President Lincoln." 4 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. Explore Lincoln's musical preferences, from opera and folk songs to patriotic melodies and spirituals. \$40 for adults; \$30 for seniors. Student admission is free. See www.virginiachamberorchestra.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

"Sniff the Breezes." All day at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. In honor of the Egyptian Spring Holiday "Sniffing the Breezes Day," Ten Thousand Villages will host a fundraiser for Hands along the Nile Development Center. Visit www.tenthousandvillages.com/alexandria.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

"Zappa Plays Zappa." 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. The eldest son of Frank Zappa, Dweezil performs his father's music. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.birchmere.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Antiques Club. 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club presents Dick Hamly, discussing oarlocks. Experience with sailing and



PHOTO BY MATT LIPTAK

Spring Cleaning

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is cleaning out its closets and will hold a yard sale Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Costumes, props, set pieces, wigs and more will be for sale as LTA prepares for next season's productions. Costume items will include gowns, wedding gowns, period and vintage pieces, sport coats, men's and women's suits, jackets, coats, country-western pieces, furs, hats, shoes and purses. Entire shows such as "Spamalot" will be sold as a group or as individual costumes with helmets and copper shoes alike on the block. 600 Wolfe St. Call 703-683-0496.

rowing, as well as serving in the Navy sparked his interest in different oarlock types, led to collecting them, including visits to Venice where he learned about variations in shape and details of design in Italian oarlocks, even to a high art. Free, public invited. Call 703-360-4979 or email annconnell@verizon.net for more.

Book Signing. 5-7 p.m. at @home 111 S. Alfred St. Col. Patrick Murray will be signing and celebrating the launch of his new book "Government is the Problem." Free. Visit www.athomedcmetro.com.

Joan Armatrading. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. singer/songwriter Joan Armatrading performs. Tickets start at \$75. visit www.joanarmatrading.com.

Swing Dancing. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. Dance to the rockabilly/early rock music of Tom Bowes, Willie Barry, Eric Hurt and Louis Newmyer. Tickets are \$10. Call 703-751-8900.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 16-19

Spring Book Sale. Members preview on Thursday, 4-8:30 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4:30 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Books are \$3 or less unless specifically marked. Find hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books, and audio-visual items. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

APRIL 16-MAY 31

Art Exhibit. Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. "Rara Avis" is an exhibition of bird-centric works of Beverly Ress, Langley Spurlock and Martin Tarrat in the Athenaeum Gallery. Free gallery admission. Visit nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Book Signing. 7:30 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Author Mary Kay

Andrews will meet fans and sign copies of her books. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/APRIL 17

Principle Gallery Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. The Gallery will celebrate the opening of the "Tempo & Pause" exhibit with artists Valerio D'Ospina and Greg Gandy. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Tea Tasting. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Attendees will learn about and taste several types of Chinese Pu-Erh tea. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Exhibit Reception. 3-5 p.m. at The Target Gallery, 105 North Union St. Eunsook Lee will discuss her exhibit of blacklight threads sealed and laminated alongside images and other materials. Free. www.torpedofactory.com.

"COMPARTMENTALIZED" Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, 5000 Dawes Ave. Attend the opening reception for Zofie Lang's "Compartmentalized Exhibit." Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

Country-Western Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a benefit dance for the Fisher House Foundation. \$20 admission. See www.nvca.org.

APRIL 18-MAY 31

"Dispersed Family." Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 North Union St. Eunsook Lee's exhibit of blacklight threads sealed and laminated alongside images and other materials are on display. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.com.

Mount Vernon Softball Wins Third Straight

The Mount Vernon softball team defeated Washington-Lee 11-2 Tuesday, giving the Majors three straight wins. Freshman pitcher Susannah Anderson tossed a complete game, allowing five hits and two runs while striking out 10.

At the plate, Anderson went 3-for-3 with a double and three RBIs. Senior Stormy Zyzyk and Junior Jazmyn McClure each had two hits.

SPORTS BRIEFS

"I feel like we played well tonight and played like a team tonight," Zyzyk wrote in an email. "We lost concentration in the fifth inning, where they scored those two runs, but we came back strong the next inning to shut them down."

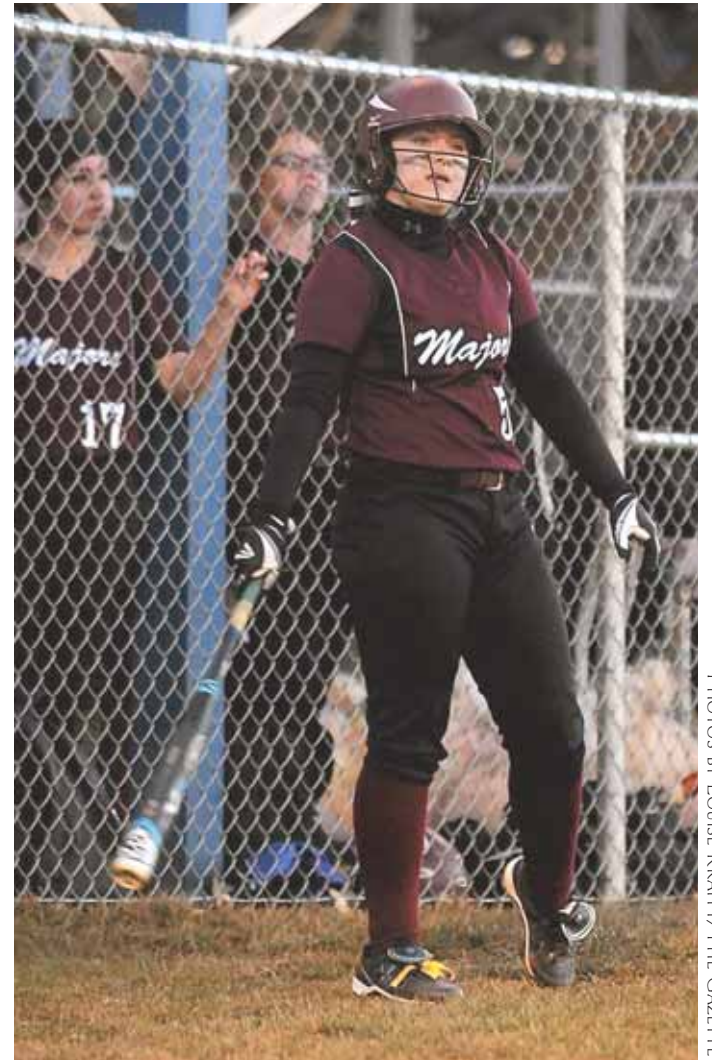
The Majors opened the season with three straight losses, but bounced back to even their record with victories against Thomas Jefferson, T.C. Williams and W-L by a combined score of 39-2.

"We have a lot of new players, from incoming freshmen, late transfers and also people in new positions (I'm now catching), so we didn't really get the chance to jell well as a team and I think that definitely showed in the first three games so far," Zyzyk wrote. "I think we're on the right track after three wins in a row and think there is a lot of confidence in the team and each other now, which we lacked in the beginning."

Mount Vernon will host Wakefield at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 9, Yorktown on April 10 and Stuart on April 14.



Mount Vernon freshman Susannah Anderson pitches against West Potomac in the Majors' season opener on.



Mount Vernon senior Stormy Zyzyk was an all-state selection last season.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Boys' Lax: Is This the Year?

Dan Convery was the JV boys' lacrosse coach at Mount Vernon for eight years and a former player. In his first year as the varsity head coach, Coach Convery has high hopes for this team. Many of these players he coached on the junior varsity level and he knows the strengths and quality of the players he has.

This year, Mount Vernon returns several skilled seniors on the offense and defense including Mouctar Balde, an all-conference defensive player in 2014, and Christian Abenes, another defender and commit to

Ottawa University.

Returning on the offense is attackman Justin Fees, a three-year starter. He has great speed, a fierce shot and has been one of the team's leading scorers for the past several years. Louis Martin, another senior returns this year at attack. Louis brings quickness and has a knack for getting around defenders and finishing. Both Martin and Fees lead the team in goals this year with a total of 14. Keep an eye on junior Ricky Dobson and sophomores David Gibbs and Griffin Ocker.

On Thursday, April 9, the Majors will face one of their long-time rivals, the Edison

Eagles. Last year, these two teams met in the second round of the conference playoffs with Edison taking the win.

The Majors have won three of their four games, taking a tough loss against a very talented Oakton team in a tournament last week.

Edison comes in to this season with a fairly young team after graduating some key players last season — attackman Danny Riley and defender Tim Owens.

The Majors are looking for a chance to redeem that loss and continue their winning season. There are high expectations for the Majors to make it to conference play-

offs this season and Convery believes he has an impressive group of hard working, talented players that can hopefully get them there.

Over-40 Men's Softball Team Looking for Players

Games are throughout the summer on Sundays in Herndon. Lots of fun. Experience preferred. Contact dtazbin@aol.com or call 703-406-4711.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to 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.

SOL REVIEW

Mount Vernon High School will offer SOL review sessions beginning April 11. Students will be provided with breakfast and lunch. Registration required, visit goo.gl/DrBlGT.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Economic Outlook Summit. 8 a.m.-

noon at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Presentations by experts in the local economy, real estate, and business development will discuss the outlook for 2015. Hosted jointly by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. RSVP to info@sfdc.org or visit www.sfdc.org/whats-happening for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Volunteers Needed. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve Haul Road. Volunteers are needed to help clean up the Potomac River Shoreline. Free. Call 703-765-5233.
Mt. Vernon Creek Clean-Up. 9 a.m.-

5 p.m. at Creekside Village, Mount Vernon Shopping Plaza and the Janna Lee Bridge. Visit bit.ly/APRIL2015CLEANUP.

Seeking Volunteers. Mount Vernon High School is seeking volunteers for their mulch sale. Email Tracy Matteo at tmatteo@mac.com to help.

Community Office Hours. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Lorton Library Conference Room, 9520 Richmond Highway and 12:30-2:30 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday Community Office Hours. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

District Supervisor Candidate Debate. 7-10 p.m. at South County High School. Declared candidates Candice Bennett, Jack Dobbyn, Tim Sargeant and Dan Storck will give opening statements, followed by a question and answer period following by closing remarks. Visit www.southcountyfederation.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Community Engagement Meeting. 7-9:30 p.m. at Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Learn more about the process Fairfax County Public Schools uses to

determine student enrollment projections, school building renovation needs, programming at schools, and possible solutions to facility needs. Register here: www.surveymonkey.com/s/SZ8JXR9.

TUESDAY/APRIL 21

Citizens Group Meeting. 7 p.m. in Room 104 A/B, at the Martha Washington Public Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc. meets monthly. Visit virginiaccpa.com, email virginiaccpa@aol.com, or call 703-768-6700.

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LEGAL NOTICE
Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:
Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000519, Citywide Cultural Arts Plan
Closing Date and Time: May 7, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.
The City will hold a Non-Mandatory pre-proposal conference on April 20, 2015, 10:00 AM prevailing local time at 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314
For general inquiries contact Cynthia Davis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.3921.
The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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

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FROM PAGE 12

Highway and Napper Road (near the Costco) on the list for funding in 2015-16. A packed house included dozens of knowledgeable, concerned citizens and civic groups that testified. It was great to see this first step towards a community-led revitalization of a very important road that is our "Main Street" here for Mt. Vernon and Lee, which we know as U.S. Rt. 1, or as many of us prefer, Richmond Highway.

Paul Krizek
Alexandria

'Conscience' Held At Bay

To the Editor:

At the behest of a friend, I paid a recent visit to the Fairfax GOP webpage fairfaxgop.org/nomination/ – the link entitled "Nomination Process Information" is displayed prominently on the committee's homepage – and from the outside looking in, it does seem rather certain the Fairfax GOP has (either inadvertently or deliberately) omitted Virginia House District 44 from this year's "call for candidates."

Presently under the leadership of Chairman Matt Ames, this strikes me as portentous — an unfortunate reenactment of the approach taken by Jay McConville in 2013, through which the Democrat incumbent was propelled to victory at the polls, without having to face any formidable opposition, post any major expenditure or exert any real political effort whatsoever.

As a former candidate, I cannot help but take an immediate notice of the problem: That while the Democrats work hard to propel candidates of destructive, neo-humanist persuasion into office, the Republicans remain idle (here in HD-44 and elsewhere), as if spiritually depleted at the helm, untroubled by the recruitment and enlistment of those "on the other side of the track" whose political ambition is predicated and fueled heavily by an apparent (though reckless) desire to put God's wrath to the test.

At the center of this powder-keg — bound by their mutual devotion to abortion, same-sex marriage and state-mandated religion — I see two parties, united in the strange pursuit of divine provocation, as if determined to "try" and to "see" if the Lord of Hosts is truly as long-suffering and slow to anger as the Scriptures profess.

Joseph A. Glean
Alexandria

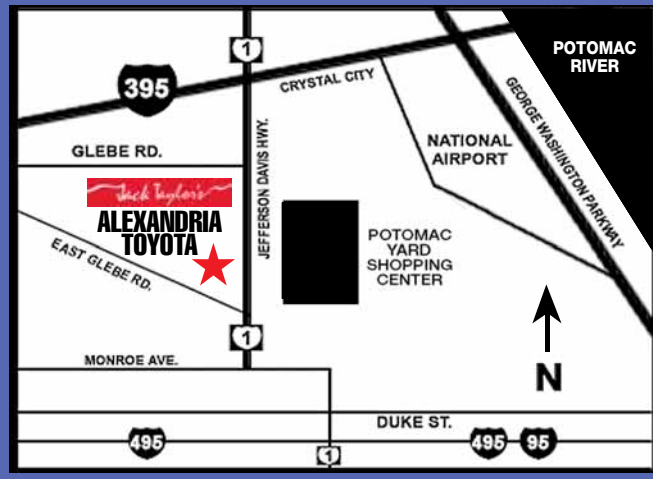
Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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2. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Plus plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details.

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4. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Plus plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 4/30/2015.

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