

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 30, 2015



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE



Members of the Facebook group Justice for John Geer protested outside the Fairfax County Government center prior to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on April 27.

More Money

Funding for improvement projects for Route 1 gathers momentum.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County elected officials were pleased with recent announcements from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and Commonwealth Transportation Board that included increased funding for transportation improvements along U.S. Route 1.

As part of its FY 2015-2016 Program, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority voted through an additional \$1 million on top of a previously allocated \$9 million in federal funding towards widening the highway from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to Napper Road. This initial funding would support preliminary work like design, environmental analysis and potential land acquisition.

The new Six Year Improvement Plan of the Commonwealth Transportation Board includes a proposed \$4 million, also for preliminary work to do engineering and environmental impact studies for the addition of a Bus Rapid Transit system, a recommendation of a 2014 study completed by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit.

"The big, big picture is all of this is the first step to extending the Yellow Line into Hybla Valley, laying the groundwork for that," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "Beneath that, the next step from the \$14 million we just secured, what it's really about is a completely new vision for the Route 1 corridor and the infrastructure that's there to support it."

Surovell sees the additional \$1 million and support from the Commonwealth Transportation Board as significant interest from those groups in funding the projects going forward.

Justin Brown, a Democratic candidate for 44th district House of

Delegates seat, disagrees. "I have heard from our residents, they see this for what it is, it's political hush money that allows [the Northern Virginia Transit Authority] to kick our project down the road, provide more money for Tyson's Corner and Reston, and disregard South County."

A candidate for the same seat, Paul Krizek said, "This is very good news and just shows the power of the Mount Vernon-Lee community when it speaks with one strong voice. I am very proud of the almost 500 citizens that signed Del. Scott Surovell and my petition that we circulated, and the 130 citizens that came together at the [Northern Virginia Transit Authority] hearing last month. Clearly our message was heard."

In a statement, Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova also referenced the March 31 community meeting where numerous citizens voiced their opinions that the road widening be made a higher priority by the Northern Virginia Transit Authority.

"We heard constituents loud and clear, and have since been hard at work to secure additional [Northern Virginia Transit Authority] funding for this area," Bulova said.

With preliminary funding in place, Surovell said the next question is "Where do we find \$600 million to fund all these improvements?" The sources, he believes, ought to be the Commonwealth Transportation Board, Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, Federal Transit Administration, the U.S. Army ("I'm hopeful they will step up to the plate — a lot of need for this was driven by changes at Fort Belvoir," Surovell said) and Fairfax County. "The county made some big commitments in Tysons Corner and Dulles; I think they should make a similar commitment to Route 1, on our end of Fairfax," Surovell said.

Protest Precedes Police Meeting

Officials describe procedures that follow police-involved shootings.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Increased Fairfax County Police presence was noticeable at the rear of the room after three masked men entered the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Their faces were veiled by the iconic pale plastic and long, up-curved mustache made popular by the movie "V for Vendetta." The men had been protesting with the Facebook group Justice for John Geer

prior to the meeting.

When given the chance to speak, they asked questions about police use of tear gas and pepper spray, and the difference between police officers and citizens with regards to the amount of time allowed after being involved in a shooting before giving a statement. One man also asked questions directly referencing the killing of John Geer, which were turned down due to the ongoing investigations into that case.

The masked men left the room once they had asked their questions, but were stopped on their way out

SEE "THIS IS," PAGE 6

One Injured in Hotel Fire

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPT.



An accidental electrical fire caused the destruction of the Quality Inn & Suites on Richmond Highway.

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue investigators determined that an accidental electrical fire ignited a blaze that destroyed the Quality Inn & Suites hotel located at 8849 Richmond Highway.

According to a release from the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue department, firefighters first responded to the smoking hotel at 2:20 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, April 26. After the fire crew evacuated more than 90 people from the building, the severity of the fire caused the incident commander to ring second and third alarms. This brought another roughly 100 firefighters to the site.

Several floors as well as the hotel roof collapsed; however only one person was injured and taken to Mount Vernon Hospital having sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Firefighters had the blaze under control after several hours but continued to fight smaller "hotspot" fires for a few additional hours.

— TIM PETERSON

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Alexandria \$599,000

Price Reduced! Much larger than it looks. This home offers 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Updated kitchen with granite counters and hardwood floors throughout. Near major interstate access, Metro, shopping, dining and more. 6425cygnet.mceneaney.com

Sue Goodhart

703.362.3221

TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria \$1,649,000

Deluxe Redux - 1940 Stone Charmer! In Belle Haven, this premier luxury residence features 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths with 3 finished levels above grade. The great room with kitchen opens to a tree-top deck. Great in-law suite! 6006 Grove Dr.

Janet Caterson Price

703.960.5858

JanetPriceHomes.com



Mason Hill \$812,000

This grand all brick center hall Colonial offers 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Large eat-in kitchen with family room leading out to deck for relaxing & entertaining. Beautiful hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces. This gem awaits a lucky new owner to truly call this "HOME".

Pat Smith

703.728.4728

Pat4Pat.com



Alexandria \$435,000

Spacious townhouse in popular community with so many recent updates: kitchen, bath, windows, doors, floors, HVAC, deck, and fencing. Enjoy boating on Little Hunting Creek, swimming in community pool or tennis anyone? Close to shopping and public transit.

Brenda Gail Brown

703.819.8406

BrendaGail.com



Alexandria/Stonegate \$675,000

Fabulous end unit stands apart from the rest! Natural lights pour through the many windows on all 3 finished levels! 3BR, 3.5BA. Freshly painted throughout. Over-sized outdoor space has a stone patio shaded by a custom, automatic awning. 2415 Gorgas Pl.

Betty Mallon

703.989.8548

BettyMallon.com



Alexandria \$225,000

Bright, cheery, light-filled condo walking distance to restaurants and easy commute to DC. Original hardwood floors. Washer and dryer in unit. Off-street parking. Jogging and bike trail across the street. Complex features pool, exercise room, and tennis court.

Chris Hayes

703.944.7737

HomesByHayes.com



Alexandria \$949,000

Potomac River Views from the deck! Unique expanded brick rambler with contemporary architectural details. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 fireplaces, deck, extensive landscaping, gazebo and gardens with shed. Gourmet kitchen. New price! 7105 Marlan Dr.

Catherine Davidson

703.201.1998

CMDRealty.net



Old Town \$629,000

2 bedroom, 2 full bath brick row house with fully fenced rear and front yards, hardwood floors, renovated kitchen and baths, beautiful deck and gardens. 1.5 blocks to Braddock metro, 5 blocks to King St, 7 blocks to Mt. Vernon trail. 523 N. West St.

MaryAshley Rhule

860.214.7474

MaryAshleyRealEstate.com



Alexandria \$849,000

With 5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, this center hall colonial is updated throughout. Three finished levels on one-half acre and a river view included! For interactive virtual tour visit: www.janetpricehomes.com. 4002 Belle Rive Ter.

Janet Caterson Price

703.960.5858

JanetPriceHomes.com



Mason Neck \$895,000

Beautiful low-maintenance grounds on six and a third acres surround this four bedroom, brick center hall colonial including a self-cleaning, heated, saltwater swimming pool, expansive deck, two-car garage and expansion possibilities.

Waldi Crawford

703.629.5655

Jeffery McGlothlin

703.798.0127



Rosemont \$1,124,900

Beautifully renovated and expanded bungalow in Rosemont! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 levels of great living space, gourmet kitchen, beautiful hardwoods, long driveway, and just a short walk to King Street Metro! Fantastic location! 8 E Walnut St.

Jen Walker

703.675.1566

JenWalker.com



Lorton \$540,000

You'll love living in this wonderful harbor view community! Over 1/2 acre landscaped and treated with loving care. This large home has four levels of living space, 2-car garage and 3 separate outdoor storage buildings. Marina membership available.

Vicki Binkley

703.994.0778

VickiBinkley.com

Looking Ahead

Development is underway along Route 1.

Penn Daw area of U.S. Route 1

1 The former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center was rezoned as part of a 2012 Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Penn Daw area and is set to be replaced by a mixed-use development called One Kings. One Kings will feature 400 apartments, 41 townhomes and ground-level retail. The Shelby, a luxury apartment community at 6200 N Kings Highway, has already been built out by Insight Properties.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The One Kings development in the former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center is set to include 400 apartments and 41 townhomes.

North Hill area

2 33-acres along U.S. Rt. 1 by Lockheed Blvd. In March members of the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing authority voted in favor of moving forward with interim agreement to develop the remaining 33 acres of North Hill. (Fifteen out of a 1981 land purchase have been developed as Woodley Hills Estates.) The Community Housing Partners of Virginia and Philadelphia-based developer Pennrose partnership has proposed building 329 multi-family apartments in two separate buildings, 144 townhomes and leaving some space for a park. A number of the units would be designated households with lower incomes.

New Fairfield Inn & Suites

3 6421 U.S. Rt. 1 The Hersha Group has finished with demolition of the Fairview Motel and obtained construction permits to move forward with a new 108-room development renamed Fairfield Inn & Suites.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Buffalo Wild Wings

5 7732 U.S. Route 1 The chicken wings, beer and sports-focused restaurant opened March 23 in the building that formerly housed Chevys Fresh Mex restaurant.



Widening of Richmond Highway — Still Underway

7 3.5 miles of U.S. Rt. 1 between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Telegraph Road The \$180 million project to widen Route 1 from four to six lanes, while also accommodating mass transit, bicycles and walking, is expected to be completed in 2016.

Ross Dress for Less

4 Mount Vernon Crossroads shopping center, 7802 U.S. Rt. 1 The off-price retail chain opened its Mount Vernon location March 7.

The Parker at Huntington Station

8 Adjacent to the Huntington Metro on Huntington Ave. The decades-old VSE office building situated by the Huntington Metro was torn down and is set to be replaced a 390-unit, four-to-six-story residential development, as well as a 15-story, 260,000 square foot office-retail building and a 150-room hotel. Rezoning and a site plan were approved in 2012, and apartments and a parking garage are currently under construction.

Wegmans at Hilltop Village Center

9 Hilltop Village Center (corner of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street) The long-awaited grocery experiencing destination is scheduled to open June 14 at 7 a.m. The 126,000-square-foot store includes a full-service "Pub" bar-restaurant. Though Wegmans isn't known for grand opening celebrations, there will be a kick-off event in September to mark the opening of the entire shopping center.



IMAGE COURTESY OF SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY (D-LEE) AND WEINGARTEN REALTY



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

From left, Bob Farr, Wegmans Virginia division manager; Jennifer Stickle, Wegmans marketing; Heather Gole, Wegmans Virginia human resources division manager; Mike Dempsey, Alexandria Wegmans store manager; Jo Natale, Wegmans vice president of media relations and Linda Lovejoy, Wegmans community relations manager.



Gold's Gym is still working on a \$2 million expansion in its U.S. Rt. 1 location.

Gold's Gym

6 7770 U.S. Route 1 Once the site of Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, Gold's is undergoing a \$2 million expansion while continuing to operate. No overall completion date has been released, however work is finished on a new salt-water pool.

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Old Town
\$999,900
433 S. Lee St.
Circa 1775 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with river views in the desirable south-east quadrant of town. Updated inside and out with beautiful kitchen and baths. Loads of historic character, including the

original hardware and random-width wood floors on 3 levels. Large side yard with patio, water feature, garden and ornate wrought iron fence.

Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Old Town
\$889,000
416 N. Pitt St.
STUNNING 3 Br, 3.5 Ba Bulfinch Square TH in Heart of Old Town w/Cherry Cabinets, Granite Counters, Updated Baths, Refinished Hdwd Floors, Freshly Painted, 2 Off-St Designated Parking, 4 Bkls to FREE King St. Trolley, Boutique Shops. Potomac River, Nat'l Airport, Pentagon, D.C. Mins/Nearby.
Philip Matyas 571-332-0963



Alexandria/Belle Haven **\$1,299,900**
6002 Grove Dr. Stunning Belle Haven home with custom architectural features! This 3,200 sq ft home features a gourmet kitchen that opens to the family room, and deck, overlooking the ornate yard. Enjoy spacious bedrooms w/large closets. Multiple patios are perfect for entertaining or relaxing; or cool off in the resting pool. Welcome home!
Fran Slade 904-476-2691



Alexandria/Wellington **\$825,000**
7816 Ridgecrest Dr. Enjoy balmy spring nights grilling on your deck. With a kitchen large enough to host a crowd, entertaining is a breeze. You'll want to relax under a ceiling fan in this sunroom after work. There's time for daily walks on the G.W. bike path with a totally remodeled home. EZ commuting on the G.W. Parkway, by bus or Huntington Metro. A hot tub for a nightly dip before bed. A half-acre lot situated on a cul-de-sac on a street with no thru traffic provides a quiet retreat at the end of the day. Two-car garage to protect your vehicles year-round. Call today for a private tour.
Greg Koons 703-209-7678, Joni Koons 703-209-7277



Alexandria/Belle Haven **\$824,900**
6016 Grove Dr. Sunny, updated colonial in sought-after Belle Haven. Relax on the screened porch overlooking the .31 acre yard. Stroll to shopping, dining, Old Town! 3+ beds, 2.5 baths, 2,130 Sq Ft. Don't miss this home! Priced to sell at \$824,900.
Jennifer Birtwhistle 703-835-1256



SOLD
Old Town
413 Green St.
\$795,000
Well-kept YATES GARDENS end unit with 3 bedrooms & 3 full baths. Sold in 1 week.
Diann Hicks Carlson 703-628-2440



Alexandria **\$690,000**
7611 Range Rd. Gorgeous 4 BR, 3BA split level w/front porch and 2-car garage in great neighborhood, off the G.W. Parkway between Old Town Alexandria and Mount Vernon estate. LR & DR have hardwood floors, large window, and SGD to backyard. Upgraded kitchen. MBR has a skylite with a built-in bookshelves and desk; MBA has a whirlpool tub & separate shower. Also upstairs are two spacious bedrooms and a full guest bathroom. Walk-out lower level has in-home office with gas f/p. Magnificent backyard has stone patio with Japanese garden, covered Gazebo w/built-in bar, refrigerator. Easy commute to Alex., Ft Belvoir, & Huntington Metro.
Mike Downie 703-780-2727



Alexandria/Kingstowne **\$569,900**
5132 Ballycastle Cir. END unit town house with tons of upgrades and charm. Awesome location at the north end of Kingstowne. Gourmet kitchen. Vaulted ceilings. Fireplace. Large bedrooms and baths. Two-car garage. Wonderful pride of ownership shows.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634



Alexandria/Hollin Hall **\$524,900**
8103 Kane Ct. Tucked away on a quiet cul-de-sac, this home is in "small town neighborhood" Hollin Hall. Recently painted inside. A dining room with picture windows overlooks a blooming back yard. Family room with newer carpet & built-in speakers for comfortable TV viewing. Large laundry room with built-ins for efficient laundry days. Fenced yard complete with patio and storage shed. Awesome storage level. Drive, walk or bike to 2 Hollin Hall Shopping Centers. Wayneswood Elementary School. Call for your private tour.
Greg Koons 703-209-7678, Joni Koons 703-209-7277



Alexandria **\$442,000**
51 Fendall Ave. Remodeled end unit townhome backing to wooded park-like open area. Less than 2 miles from Metro and Old Town Alexandria. City & Dash bus 1 block. Express to Pentagon. Bike or Dash to patent office. 3 Levels, deck, fireplace & much more.
Mary Smith 703-626-9207



Alexandria/Virginia Hills **\$410,000**
6411 Wilcox Ct. Spend warm spring evenings on your front deck at the top of the cul-de-sac. Gather round a kitchen island for coffee & conversations. Crown molding, refinished hardwood floors & painting create inviting interior spaces. Lower level full bath & family room offer private guest space. Convenient craft & storage room for nurturing hobbies. Low-maintenance brick exterior with newer roof, painting & new shed. Walk a block for EZ Fairfax Connector commuting to 2 Metro stations in minutes.
Greg Koons 703-209-7678, Joni Koons 703-209-7277



Alexandria **\$310,000**
5909 Founders Hill Ct. #102. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bath with views of nothing but TREES. Great location near Metro, Kingstowne and I-495/I-95/I-395. Upgraded kitchen, baths and appliances. New Granite, stainless. New mirrors and lighting. Fireplace, corner unit for loads of light.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634

Interested in a Career in Real Estate? Pre-licensing courses are available soon. Call Managing Broker, Mark Ackermann, at 703-851-8100 for further information.



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NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

One of Chris White's upcoming listings is 9357 Mt Vernon Circle, a property coming on the market for \$1.5 million. The home is located in the Mount Vernon on the Potomac waterfront community with river docks and an exclusive-use marina for residents.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS WHITE

Trending in Mount Vernon

Waterfront, rebuilding and townhomes.

Chris White, an Alexandria-based Long and Foster agent, says business is booming for waterfront property in the Mount Vernon area.

Whether it's canals, creeks or the open river, "anything you can stick a boat into" is getting a lot of attention, he said. In particular, homes with dramatic river views, sellers of those in the \$1-2 million range are getting close to their asking price.

"There's no denying that waterfront is something that's always going to have limited supply, that demand always exceeds it," said David Versel, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

"Especially in Fairfax County," Versel continued, "where all of the waterfront is built out due to environmental restrictions that didn't exist" previously.

White also factors in a strong "move up, move in" population of buyer-sellers wanting to take care of low interest rates and upgrade to a bigger house.

"Now, people are almost expecting low interest rates," White said. "As rates stay low, they should be fine. If there's a spike in interest rates, it could cause problems."

Versel thinks there's also an opportunity for builders to capitalize on some of the older homes being vacated, possibly by the move-up individuals.



Chris White



David Versel

"The house itself is no longer an asset," Versel said, referring to small, 50 to 60-year old homes in areas like off Fort Hunt Road. "They're no value to many of today's buyers, but land underneath is very valuable. Renovate, tear down, rebuild — are the only logical steps really."

And while the opportunity is there to go one deal at time, Versel believes what will move the market along more rapidly is additional townhouse developments like the ones beginning to emerge along U.S. Route 1.

The land in the Richmond Highway corridor is too valuable to do single family homes, he said. It's better to put 50 to 100 townhomes on it. "If anyone expects to make a living as a homebuilder in Fairfax County, they can't just buy a piece of dirt and put utilities in, those properties don't exist anymore."

— TIM PETERSON

HOME SALES

In March 2015, 117 homes sold between \$1,300,000-\$100,000 in the Mount Vernon area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,300,000-\$614,995 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
7214 VALON CT	6	4	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.24	22307	VILLAMAY
8429 CAMDEN ST	5	4	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$1,130,000	Detached	0.30	22308	STRAITFORD LANDING
8044 WASHINGTON RD	5	4	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	..	\$982,780	Detached	0.00	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
1214 BELLE VISTA DR	4	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$955,000	Detached	0.35	22307	VILLAMAY
7413 PARK TERRACE DR	5	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$939,000	Detached	0.51	22307	VILLAMAY
8212 COLLINGWOOD CT	4	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$885,000	Detached	0.24	22308	COLLINGWOOD SPRINGS KHOR
8022 FAIRFAX RD	5	5	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$850,000	Detached	0.23	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
2003 WINDMILL LN	6	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$829,500	Detached	0.39	22307	MASON HILL
1501 LAFAYETTE DR SW	5	4	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$795,707	Detached	0.14	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE
2308 POPKINS LN	3	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$785,000	Detached	0.29	22306	POPKINS FARM ESTATES
8428 OLD MOUNT VERNON RD	6	7	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$745,000	Detached	0.50	22309	MT ZEPHYR
8908 BRIDGEHAVEN CT	5	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$687,000	Detached	0.51	22308	BRIDGEHAVEN
923 CROTON DR	5	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$685,000	Detached	0.25	22308	WAYNEWOOD
920 CROTON DR	4	3	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$675,000	Detached	0.25	22308	WAYNEWOOD
1705 COURTLAND RD	4	2	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$665,000	Detached	0.25	22306	HOLLINDALE
2509 LISBON LN	6	4	2	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$654,500	Detached	0.31	22306	MILWAY MEADOWS
6307 FORT HUNT RD	4	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$649,900	Semi-Detached	0.19	22307	OLDE BELHAVEN TOWNE
1135 CAMERON RD	3	2	0	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$635,000	Detached	0.58	22308	BELLE HAVEN TERRACE
8814 BLACK ALDER DR	5	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$622,500	Detached	0.21	22309	WOODMILL ESTATES
8413 DOYLE DR	3	1	2	...	ALEXANDRIA	.....	\$615,000	Detached	0.31	22308	WAYNEWOOD
9223 CRAIG AVE	6	3	1	...	ALEXANDRIA	\$614,995	Detached	0.34	22309	MT VERNON GROVE

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Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



Alex./Woodlawn Estates • \$789,900

8896 McNair Drive

Spectacular Colonial w/3 finished levels, large 2-car garage on a quiet cul-de-sac looking across to the 9th fairway of Mount Vernon Country Club. 3,800 sq. ft. of living space w/beautiful hardwood floors, huge bedrms, master bedrm w/sitting room, 3.5 updated baths including MBA suite. Totally remodeled kitchen w/SS, granite, ceramic tile flr. Huge walk-up lower level w/recreation rm, game rm, full bath & 500 sq.ft. of storage (can use RR as 5th bedrm). Spectacular landscaped lot w/beautiful stone patio & private hot tub. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir – A 10!!



Alex./Riverside Estates • \$564,900

8349 Orange Court

Spectacular 5 BR, 3 BA Split w/2-car garage. Stunning in-ground pool (saltwater) w/2 decks. Professionally landscaped yard that looks like an oasis. 2 skylights brighten up a remodeled kitchen w/ceramic tile & SS. Beautiful bay window overlooking the pool & back yard. All 3 baths remodeled, hall bath w/skylight. Beautiful hardwood floors. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir!!



S. Alex./Mount Vernon • \$769,900

3225 Woodland Lane

Beautiful WATER VIEWS overlooking Little Hunting Creek. Wonderful .84 acre lot provides fabulous nature setting & abundant windows provide stunning water & wildlife views. 4 BR, 3 BA contemporary home w/2-car garage on very special Woodland Lane w/million dollar plus homes. Renovated kitchen & master bath. Enjoy serenity & nature's beauty from huge deck & yard. 1 mile G.W. Pkwy.



Alex./Olive Park • \$514,900

8732 Lea Lane

Lovely 3,000+ sq ft Colonial w/5 BRs/4 BAs on a beautiful .5 acre lot. A 2005 upper level addition offers a true master bedroom/master bath suite, both w/vaulted ceilings along w/2 other bedrooms & a bath. The main level has 2 BRs, 2 BAs plus a large kitchen which opens to a great room, both w/vaulted ceilings. A wood-burning FPL in the living room & wood stove in the great room add to the charm. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 mins to NTL Airport.



Alex./Bucknell Manor • \$309,900

6839 Kenyon Drive

Why rent, when you can buy this lovely 3-level duplex townhome conveniently located near G.W. Parkway & Potomac River and just a few minutes from Old Town and Huntington Metro? 2 BR, 1 BA. Stunning main level with new hardwoods, gorgeous kitchen w/all-new SS appliances, granite counters and recessed lighting. Beautiful bathroom. Replacement windows, newer HVAC. Large backyard w/shed. A 10!



Alex./Riverside Estates • \$529,000

8405 Bound Brook Lane

Stunning version of Riverside's most popular Colonial model – Freshly painted interior, beautifully refinished hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Gorgeous bump-out expanding the kitchen eating area and looks out to a spectacular back yard. Large spacious bedrooms plus a walkout partially finished basement. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town & Metro. Priced to sell!



Alex./Yacht Haven • \$875,000

4505 Dolphin Lane

4,000 sq. ft. of renovated luxury in this 5 BR/4 BA Split – Updates: Kitchen, all 4 baths, spectacular cherry hwd floors – Great room opens to beautiful sun-room addition that opens to spectacular 35K deck overlooking an unbelievable custom landscaped bkdy. House designed for independent living on either level. Two updated HVAC systems plus tankless HWH – the list goes on & on. Walk to marina, clubhouse & pool. Nothing better in all of Mount Vernon.

For more information: www.RexReiley.com



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'This Is Not the Last Bite of the Apple'

FROM PAGE 1
by commission chairman Michael Hershman, who said he respected their rights to demonstrate as they did and thanked them for participating peacefully.

Though he reminded the commission discussion of the Geer case details are off the table while investigations are still underway, he said, "This is not the last bite of this apple."

THE BULK OF THE MEETING featured speeches from three guests: Fairfax County Police Captain Bob Blakely, Detective Chris Flanagan and Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh.

Flanagan, whose department deals with cold cases, officer-involved shootings and in-custody deaths, walked through his typical progression following an officer-involved shooting. This includes responding directly to the scene, conducting interviews of witnesses, returning to the scene with the officer and interviews with the officer after a day or so have passed.

"At the end of the day I have to be right," Flanagan said, commenting on adhering to administrative policies. "These take a long time."

Morrogh explained a bit about his role as a prosecutor of criminal, rather than civil, cases and addressed the issues of transparency that were a main focus in the formation of the Ad Hoc Commission.

On transparency, he said, "We're seeing the same questions around the country. I would turn over all reports as soon as I get it but it would be unethical to disclose information pretrial to the public."

Similar to Flanagan, Blakely described the course of events following an officer-involved shooting from the police perspective of Fairfax County Police Internal Affairs.

After the presentations, members of the commission and the public in attendance were able to ask questions of the three speakers.

Commissioner Peggy Fox of news channel WUSA9 asked if the men were in favor of dashboard cameras in police cruisers and body cameras on officers.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh described his role to the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police Department Detective Chris Flanagan walked the commission through how he and his Cold Case department would respond to an officer-involved shooting or in-custody death.

They were responses were in favor, including Morrogh, who said if a picture is worth a thousand words, "a video speaks ten-thousand."

Connection Newspapers editor and publisher Mary Kimm followed that by asking Morrogh when the public would get to see the dashboard camera footage of the 2009 police shooting of David Masters.

Morrogh responded that he had no problem with the public seeing the video. He also confirmed recent media reports that he has decided to convene a special grand jury to review evidence in the killing of John Geer.

Emotions bubbled over when commissioner Nicholas Beltrante asked Morrogh why it had taken 18 months since Geer's death to draw a grand jury. Morrogh remarked about letters he has received from Beltrante and commented negatively on the commissioner's age before Hershman moved the meeting along.

Morrogh said that regarding information related to the Geer case, "I'd love to tell, I really would, but I'm not going to do it."

The commission was formed after public criticism of how Fairfax County police and government officials handled the release of information regarding that incident. Kimm alluded to this when she commented the evening's presentations about administrative policies "don't add up to events that brought us here."

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, who formed the commission and brought it before the supervisors for endorsement in March, said that one could write "a paper on things that went wrong" in that situation.

Bulova listed the delayed sharing of information, the wrongful death civil lawsuit between the Geer family and Fairfax County and the Internal Affairs investigation into the incident. "It's been such a long time," she said.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS of the meeting included announcing the formation of themed subcommittees that will more closely examine Police Use of Force, Com-

munications, Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Training, Police Recruitment and Vetting, and Independent Oversight and Investigations.

Shirley Ginwright, chairman of the Communities of Trust Committee, president of the Fairfax County NAACP and chairman of the commission's recruitment and vetting subcommittee, spoke to the need for more diversity on the subcommittees than exists on the commission, as additional citizens are allowed to be selected to participate at

John Geer Protest

Adam Buchanan of Springfield was among a group of about 20 protesters in front of the Fairfax County Government Center prior to the Ad Hoc commission meeting on April 27. He began following the case of John Geer after some of his friends who lived nearby where Geer was killed told him about the incident.

"I'm glad to hear about the grand jury," Buchanan said, "but all these cases, why are people getting killed in these situations? What can be done to prevent this in the future?"

Mike Curtis of Manassas is one of the founders of the Facebook Group Justice for John Geer, which organized the protest, as well as Northern Virginia Cop Block and vice president of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.

Curtis said the protest was first advertised on Facebook about a week ahead of time and had over 50 people signed up to come.

He responded to the announcement of a special grand jury being formed to look at the John Geer case: "It's happening, but they're never addressing the bigger problems in the county with transparency and accountability."

Explaining the motivation for the protest, Curtis referenced released emails between Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova, county executive Edward L. Long, Jr and members of the Ad Hoc commission that showed opposition and reluctance to bringing Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability executive director Nicho-



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE GAZETTE

A masked community member (left) asked at the end of the meeting about use of tear gas and pepper spray by police as considered deadly or non-deadly force.

that level. "It's supposed to be inclusive of members of the community," she said.

The next meeting of the commission will be a public forum, held Monday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Documents from the meeting, information on upcoming meetings and lists of commission and subcommittee members can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission. Fairfax County video from the April 27 meeting is set to be online soon.

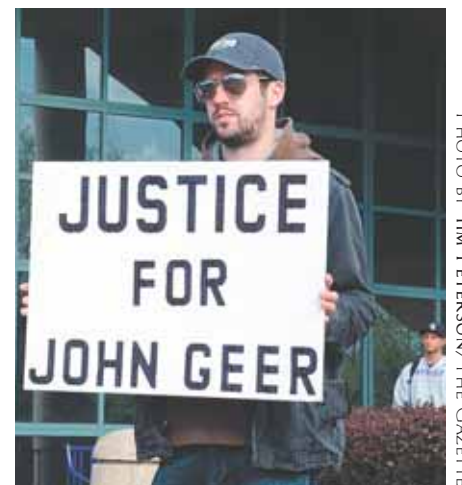


PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Adam Buchanan of Springfield protests outside the Fairfax County Government Center with the Facebook group Justice for John Geer.

las Beltrante onboard as a commissioner.

"I don't think I'm being cynical, but the pattern shows they're not dedicated to change," Curtis said.

Twice during the protest, Fairfax County Police officers approached Curtis and the group. The first time, Curtis said, they were asked to move their protest to the island on the other side of the circular driveway in front of the Government Center. The second time, Captain Jeff Powell spoke with Curtis, addressing concerns that the protest remain nonviolent and protesters not block pedestrians from entering or leaving the building.

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OBITUARY

Jeff K. Meadows

Jeff K. Meadows, a former Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce board member and local entrepreneur, died in his home on April 20, 2015. He was diagnosed with cancer last September and maintained a bright outlook continually, seeking a new opportunity for good in the manner that he approached all things.

Jeff was recruited to Alexandria to direct trade shows for The Aaron Group and then found his passion for producing special events. Out of his kitchen table he founded Line One Productions, a company which grew to be awarded multi-million dollars in revenue, mentoring many employees into their life long careers in the event industry. Jeff was sought out nationwide and beyond for his creative gifts and complete dedications to make each event spectacular. Later on Jeff formed Celebrate Productions through a partnership with Tom Shaw who predeceased him. Most recently Jeff was in the early stages of helping to build the company Eventometry with Robert Lunsik.

Jeff produced extraordinary event for clients such as ExxonMobil, Daimler/Chrysler Corp, Freightliner LLC, The Pentagon, PriceWaterhouse/Coopers and locally the Mount Vernon Estate and numerous philanthropic projects. He worked with such stars as Billy Joel, Celine Dion, Elton John, Oprah Winfrey, Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and enjoyed the inspiration of CEOs from major corporations, particularly those who started with nothing and built something incredible.

As a young adult Jeff performed in his favorite roles as Pippin in the musical "Pippin," Templeton in "Charlotte's Web" and as a circus clown in "Barnum." He was especially fond of his great experience being the professional clown for Dee's Inc. based in Salt Lake City and was known as The Deeburger Clown.

Jeff was born on Easter Sunday, March 29, in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was predeceased by his father,



Jeff K. Meadows, his wife Dawn Meadows, and sons Trevor and Carson

Owen L. (Pete) Meadows and his beloved Bubba, Alice Pappa Mugleston who was originally from Yugoslavia. Living in Utah are his mother, Sandra (Sandy) Meadows, brother, Rick Meadows and sister, Cindy Meadows and many extended family members.

Living here in Alexandria are his wife Dawn Meadows, and sons Trevor and Carson Meadows. Raising his family in this community was the greatest joy of Jeff's life. Concerts at Grist Mill Park, Woodlawn Baseball, Woodley Hills Elementary, Mount Vernon High School, Mount Vernon Country Club, Mansion House Swim & Dive, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Mama's Kitchen, Elsie's Diner, backyard birthday parties, grilling and chilling at home, an annual trip to Panama City Beach, Fla., these were the moments of life at its finest for Jeff.

A commemorative service will be held on Saturday, May 2, at 11 a.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road in Alexandria. Donations in Jeff's honor may be sent to Aldersgate UMC, or to Alice's Kids, PO Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, www.aliceskids.org.



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PHOTO BY CHUCK BOTTS

Choral Welcome

A group of veterans arriving at Reagan National Airport on Wednesday morning, April 15, from Knoxville, Tenn. were greeted with cheers, hugs, and patriotic music. The songs, including official hymns of the Armed Forces, were sung by the Harmony Heritage Singers, a men's barbershop chorus based in Mount Vernon. The chorus is one of several local groups who volunteer to participate in the Honor Flight program, which honors veterans who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam by flying them to see the memorials built in their honor in Washington, D.C. The Harmony Heritage Singers rehearse at Sherwood Regional Library and give over 25 performances each year, many of which are at retirement communities or assisted living facilities. Most chorus members are veterans themselves. At left, the chorus warms up under Assistant Director Drew Fuller.



2015 Contest Winners Announced

**“What can you do to improve
your local watershed?”**



George Washington Middle School
students won top honors for their project
which aims to raise awareness on the
harmful effects of microbead facial exfoliates.

Thank you to all the students, teachers and partners who participated this year! Hundreds of area students in grades 6-8 competed to develop solutions to watershed issues. Classroom teams presented their proposals at the School Environmental Action Showcase on April 9 at George Mason University in Fairfax.

This program empowers students to imagine, develop and create solutions in their local watersheds, as they develop research, problem-solving, budgeting, community- involvement and presentation skills.

Nearly \$20,000 was awarded in cash prizes and school awards. Agrium is also providing \$10,000 to help implement student ideas.

Turning ideas into realistic solutions is the key to improving our local watersheds.

Alexandria/Arlington/Fairfax Finalists, Grades 6-8

Final Place	Award	Proposal Name	School
1	\$1,000	Microbeadless	George Washington Middle School
2	\$900	Ban the Bottles!	Lanier Middle School
3	\$800	Helping Grasses to Form Masses	George Washington Middle School
4	\$700	Every Drip Counts	George Washington Middle School
5	\$600	Saving Four Mile Run from FCB	Kenmore Middle School
6	\$500	Screened Storm Drains Save Streams	Kenmore Middle School
7	\$450	Helping with Rain Barrels	George Washington Middle School
8	\$400	Acorus Americanus Away!	George Washington Middle School
9	\$350	Compost Bin for Dog Waster	Kenmore Middle School
10	\$300	Rain Barrel Proposal	Kenmore Middle School



CaringForOurWatersheds.com

OPINION

Fostering Connections, Faltering

Why are federal dollars acceptable for roads, but not for helping foster children?

While there is plenty of competition for the title “most vulnerable,” foster children are certainly among them.

In Fairfax County right now, there are more than 240 children in foster care. There is no benign way to end up in foster care. Foster children are victims of abuse and/or neglect significant enough for them to be removed from their families. On Tuesday, April 29, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced that May is Foster Care and Foster Family Recognition Month.

Ironically, May, 2015 could be a month of uncertainty for older foster children in many places in Virginia because of a failure in the Virginia General Assembly.

About 50 foster children a year “age out” of the foster care system in Fairfax County. There are children who may have spent much of their lives in foster care, and reach the age of majority while they are still in foster care, without being reunited with their families or being adopted.

“The research shows that our youth who have been in foster care are extremely traumatized,” said Carl E. Ayers, director of the Virginia Division of Family Services. “Children who have aged out of foster care are much more likely to be homeless, to end up in psychiatric hospitals, to end up in jail, to be young parents, to be on public assistance and just in general have higher rates of poverty. If you can

think of a negative outcome, that’s what we see [at high rates] with foster children who age out.”

But right now, about 150 young people between 18-21 who are receiving foster care services in Virginia, with as many as 50 of them here in Fairfax County, are discovering that because the General Assembly failed to pave the way for Federal “Fostering Connections” funding, they could be aging out sooner than they expected.

In 2008, President George Bush signed the Fostering Connections Act that gives states the ability to use federal dollars for children who were in foster care up until the age of 21.

In Virginia, the General Assembly passed in 2014 a plan for implementation that required legislation in 2015 session. But that bill died in committee, and Virginia Family Services has begun the process of informing local agencies, like Fairfax County Department of Family Services, that once a foster child turns 18, they must be transitioned out of foster care.

By spending a little over \$3 million, the state could have gained more than \$10 million in federal money to help these emerging adults at a critical moment. Savings to localities would have been more than \$3 million.

But instead, foster children 18 or older will need to have services transitioned. Ayers says the department will work with local agencies to be sure that none ends up homeless, no one

Learn More: Foster Care

Orientation meeting, second Monday monthly, 7 p.m.
Department of Family Services, Pennino Building
12011 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-7639
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/fca.htm

ends up in the hospital. But for youth in foster care 18 or over, a new plan will have to be worked out, and each such youth will have to deal with one more uncertainty.

“It is very, very important that no one is turned on the street,” said Ayers, citing specific instructions that local agencies contact him personally if they are having trouble identifying services for any of the youth being transitioned.

Localities got the word via a “broadcast” memo on April 15, and are still sorting out what it all means.

In Fairfax County, the goal is for youth who are currently in foster homes to be able to stay in them by shifting how they are served, but there will certainly be a financial impact.

“With this being so new, our immediate step was to see exactly which kids will be affected, timelines and expectations,” said Nannette Bowler, director of Fairfax County Family Services. “We’ll scramble and do an assessment on all these children to figure out how we can support them given what has occurred.

“We’re going to have ... to look any avenue that we can to be sure these children are not derailed.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Celebrate Mom, Dad—Without Selling One Short

BY CHRISTIAN PAASCH

In today’s marketing environment, it seems as though one gender cannot make progress without disparaging another. However, a few inspiring and refreshingly positive television ads have recently managed to gain popularity while avoiding this pitfall. I applaud Dove, Nissan and Toyota for having the courage to step away from the norm and, in doing so, not only bring men into the mainstream picture of the modern American parent, but also for doing so in a way that is perhaps more innovative than anything else: championing one gender without attacking, alienating or poking fun at the other gender.

Toyota has done a terrific job of bridging the strong bond between fathers and daughters. In the company’s latest ad, Toyota depicts the various stages of a daughter’s life where her dad is there to console, protect, guide

and eventually, set out into the world with tears in his eyes. The message of the ad is to make bold choices — what better term to describe what any parent would want for his or her child, in particular a daughter?

In a seeming balance to Toyota, Nissan focused on the relationship between a father and his son. Perhaps too stereotypically, the father here is depicted as the absent father, a race car driver in this instance, and the son looking on, wanting to be just like his father. Of course, the soundtrack to this commercial is none other than “Cats In The Cradle,” but thankfully, the father realizes before it’s too late that his son needs to physically see him and know that their relationship is more important than any job.

Dove has arguably the most moving, yet simple ad: clip after clip of young and adult children calling for “Dad” or “Daddy” at various stages of their lives. From

the toddler needing help to the adult calling his father with the wonderful news of a pregnancy, the commercial ends with a simple question and answer: “What makes a man stronger? Showing that he cares.”

So why do these ads matter? Why are they so special? Here again, the answer is simple: because they are a rarity. Because they champion the roles dads play in the lives of children, both boys and girls, without denigrating the crucial and complementary role mothers play in those same children’s lives. This spirit of gen-

der equality is one to celebrate and emulate.

In fact, the path these three companies have forged serves as a marketing model for others and reminds parents everywhere that they are parents first, united by the love for their children and made stronger by a mutual appreciation of their unique strengths and differences.

Christian Paasch is chair of the National Parents Organization in Virginia and has been appointed by Virginia Gov. McAuliffe to Virginia’s Child Support Guidelines Review Panel. He lives in Alexandria. Email christianpaasch@nationalparentsorganization.org.

WRITE US

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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Dir.: G.W. Parkway South from Old Town, right on Tulane & follow Partners Signs.

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•Immaculate – open floor plan. Total update in 2000 includes Roof, Plumbing, Wiring, Marvin Custom Windows,

GE/Advantium Kitchen •Full Wet Bar w/Dishwasher & Fridge •2 Masonry Fireplaces •3 Marble Baths •Extensive Granite-Steam Shower •Whirlpool Tub for two •Brick Driveway •Slate Patios, Stairs & Walkway •Security & Sprinkler Systems •Retractable Awning •Custom Doors •Cul-de-sac Location!



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REDUCED

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News



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Thousands Run in Parkway Classic

More than 5,000 runners competed in both 10-mile and five kilometer distances, as part of the 31st annual George Washington Parkway Classic. The parkway was shut down on April 26 for road racers between George Washington's Mount Vernon Estates and the finish line at Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town Alexandria.

Runners charge across Union Street in Old Town Alexandria, completing the final mile of the George Washington Parkway Classic road race.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disappointing Budget Vote

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland.

I was so disappointed to read the Board of Supervisors' decision on the Fairfax County Public Schools budget. I am a Fairfax County homeowner, and a 15-year veteran of the school system. I have worked here my entire career teaching children in the classroom, coaching teachers, and providing professional learning. I am so proud to work for this system. I love the Title I school I work in, and am so impressed with the work we do for students every day. I am so proud of the work we do, I even pupil place my daughter in school with me.

And yet, every year, I see the challenges before us grow while the staffing and materials shrink. I teach children that come to school every day homeless, hungry, with limited language exposure, and an eagerness to learn and grow that is nothing less than inspiring.

I work with amazing educators. They work collaboratively and continue to engage in professional learning to refine their practice. Administrators work alongside me

to provide exceptional accommodations to children that need them. The gains my students have made this year have been hard-fought.

As we begin to bring this year to a close and look forward to next year, we are learning that many of students might fail to meet the arbitrary mark set by the state for their achievement. This is disheartening, since we know children who made more than a year's worth of progress in reading this year will still look like failures according to this singular measure. Students who were working on counting to 20 at the beginning of the year and who can now break apart three digit numbers and combine them are deemed "not meeting benchmark." We learned that while we would be under even more scrutiny, there was no promise of more support. Even still, we did what we always do. We started thinking about how we could work smarter. How could we find support and resources from the community? How could we streamline instruction to focus more on areas of need? How could we sustain an engaging and meaningful curriculum while covering the breadth of content?

Imagine then, how crestfallen I was to read that the Board of Supervisors voted not to fully fund

FCPS. I am now facing this challenge with even fewer resources than I had this year.

I take this vote as a direct attack, Mr. Hyland. It communicates a belief that the needs of the students aren't being met because school staff just aren't working hard enough, not because they need more help or more resources. It communicates that you don't care about the least of this community, and for the first time, I'm deeply ashamed to be part of this system.

I worked for a principal once who held the mantra, "We do the difficult every day. The impossible just takes a little longer." I put this mantra to you, Mr. Hyland, and to your colleagues. I am a homeowner. I'm willing to pitch in more to support my colleagues and my community by paying a little more. I need you to do the impossible, and convince others that it's time to do the same. I need you to help me do the hard work that I so love.

Kate Kirkland

Get To Know Bennett

To the Editor:

In just over six weeks, Candice Bennett has emerged as a strong

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'The Odd Couple' (Female Version)

Neil Simon comedy has been reinvented as ladies take over roles of Unger and Madison.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Odd Couple" (The Female Version) from now through May 16. Unger and Madison are at it again — Florence Unger and Olive Madison, that is — in Neil Simon's comic classic. The comedy has been reinvented from a different perspective as the women take over the roles of the mismatched couple to give this well-known play a whole new life.

Director Joanna Henry said she wanted to direct the show because it presents life experiences in a humorous way, and the last three plays she's directed were dramas with serious plot points. "This version of 'The Odd Couple' is comical, physical, and fast-paced," she said. "The situations may be exaggerated, but they're based on reality."

What she was trying to accomplish with the play was "that we need to take ourselves less seriously and enjoy our friendships, with all their faults," she said. "By the end of the play, Olive and Florence have both changed a bit and grown a bit — two mismatched friends who accept each other for who they are."

She said her biggest challenge in directing was to keep the pacing crisp. "Neil Simon's dialogue was written to be snappy so when it lags, it's very obvious. We've all worked hard to maintain that fast pace without ignoring the calmer, more subtle moments in the play. Balancing that has been tricky," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she said, "Accept people as they are; love them for who they are." She said the women in the play are forced to agree on one thing — "they may not be the best of roommates, but they still are the best of friends."

Jennifer Pagnard plays the role of Florence Unger, a neurotic neatnik whose 14-year marriage has just ended. "I'm person-



Kat Sanchez (Sylvie), Jennifer Lyons Pagnard (Florence), and Michelle Fletcher (Mickey) star in a reimagined version of "The Odd Couple."

ally not a slob, but I'm certainly not a neatnik," she said. "I actually can relate personally to Olive much more than Florence."

She said the script is one of the funniest she's encountered. "I hope audiences will truly enjoy themselves and be able to relate to the crazy, touching, real life friendship between Olive and Florence," she said.

Michelle Fletcher plays the role of Mickey the cop, a fierce friend who genuinely cares for her gang and is quick to rush to their aid with all of her professional expertise, even when she disagrees with their choices.

Her challenge in playing Mickey was "keeping a straight face while delivering or hearing hilarious lines," she said. "What I hope the audience takes away are aching ribs from laughing and real enjoyment of a great play with a great cast and a great production team."

Philip Krzywicki plays the role of Manolo, the older of the two Spanish brothers from Barcelona. "We've lived in the USA for three years now, but sometimes we struggle with the English language and don't fully under-

stand some of the crazy expressions used like, 'You say tomato, I say tomato, you say potato, I say potato,'" he said.

His challenge was capturing a convincing Spanish accent. "Funny thing is that I can speak Spanish fairly well with a decent accent, but somehow speaking English with a Spanish accent has been difficult," he said. "I hope that audiences will have a blast watching the show and will leave with smiles on their faces, but I hope they also come away with an even deeper love and appreciation for the genius writing of Neil Simon."

Brendan Quinn plays the role of Jesus, a Spanish immigrant living in New York and working for a Spanish airline. "He is not great with the English language, and this often creates a barrier between him and the other characters," he said. "What I enjoy about him though is that this never gets him down for long."

He said the most challenging part of the show was keeping his accent consistent. "That and being sure not to crack up at the other hilarious actors," he said.



PHOTOS BY KEITH WATERS

Kat Sanchez (Sylvie), Elizabeth Replogle (Renee), Gayle Nichols-Grimes (Olive), Natalie Fox (Vera), and Michelle Fletcher (Mickey) star in LTA's "The Odd Couple" (Female Version).

Kat Sanchez plays the role of Sylvie, a chain smoker who's trying to quit and winds up pregnant at the end of the play; she's also sarcastic, dry, funny and thoughtful. "Sylvie has an interesting relationship with her husband, whom the audience never meets. The dialogue suggests that their marriage lacks romance, but at the end, she's pregnant and thrilled to share the news," she said.

She added: "This is a story about friendship, tolerance and acceptance. I hope the audience can appreciate these women, celebrate their friendships and recognize that no matter what the scenario or personality flaw, these are women who rally around their friends."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Odd Couple" (The Female Version) through May 16. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Call the box office at 703-683-0496. Website: www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Email community 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.

ONGOING

"Attics and Alleys." Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at various locations. Guests are invited to take a walking tour through historic sites like Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Apothecary Museum and the Carlyle House in honor of National Preservation Month. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Art Show. Through May 3 at Cove, 805 King St., Alexandria. Cove will partner with ArtSee to open the

doors of its 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.

"The Latin Beat." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. The Potomac Fiber Art Gallery will display an exhibition of Central and South American jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. Free. See www.torpedofactory.org.

"The Addams Family." Through May 2, various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac will present its production of the popular Addams

Family franchise. Tickets are \$10-35. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

"Mosaic" Exhibit. Through May 3, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. The Tag Gallery Presents its first all-member show. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Tempo & Pause" Exhibit. Through May 11, various times at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Find cityscape paintings by Greg Gandy and Valerio D'Ospina. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com.

"The Odd Couple." Through May 16, Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays. The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The LTA presents a twist on the traditional comedy with female characters. Tickets start at \$19. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

"COMPARTMENTALIZED." Through May 17. 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.

Art Exhibit. Through May 31. 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. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Eunsook Lee: "Dispersed Family." Through May 31. Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 North Union St. Eunsook Lee's exhibit of black light threads sealed and laminated alongside images and other materials will be on display. Admission is free.

Visit www.torpedofactory.com.

"MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media." Through May 31 at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists mix two or more mediums for this exhibition collaboration between Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts. See www.TheDelRayArtisans.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 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



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ENTERTAINMENT



From top left: "Evening Light" by Ellen Delaney, "More Than You Have Ever Known" by Kara Hammond, "Taming the Dragon Within" by Erika Cleveland



'Perceptions' Extends Beyond TAG Gallery Doors

The work of street photographer Val Proudki, painter Ellen Delaney, graphic artist Kara Hammond, and 3-D artist Erika Delaney will be on display at the "Perceptions" exhibit, an exploration of perception through material, and technical perspective. The exhibit will run May 3-31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.



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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.

"Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists." Through June 28, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find watermedia floral and landscape paintings. Free to visit gallery. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

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.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-

Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon-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 or call 703-746-4848.

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps.

Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a favorite story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception for family and friends. Tiny Dancers is a program designed for ages 2-12, featuring a performance based ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater curriculum. The Alexandria studio is located at 621 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com for more.

Art League Summer Camps.

Registration for Summer Art Camp 2015 is now open. Art Camps run Monday to Friday, June 22-Aug. 21. Camps are available for ages 5 and older, with morning, afternoon, or all day options. Subjects include: drawing, cartooning, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, fiber arts, clay animation, and Basic Art Camp (a new medium each day). \$155-\$345. Visit www.theartleague.org/content/art_camp for more.

Encore Chorale Summer Choral Institutes. Encore Summer Choral Institute at Washington College in

Chestertown Md. runs from June 14-18 and Encore Summer Choral Institute at Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, N.Y. from Aug. 30-Sept. 4. Sponsored by Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral singing program for adults 55 and older, the institutes attract adult students from all over the country, at all levels of vocal experience, for a week of intensive choral music study. For information and pricing, call 301-261-5747, email info@encorecreativity.org or visit www.encorecreativity.org.

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities'

Summer Fun Guide is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time (residents only) and classic camps. The guide has an index listing camps by week offered and age group. Interested participants may register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

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 or call 703-746-4242.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are

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Port City Playhouse Presents 'Stick Fly'

Play takes a wry but affectionate look at upper-income African-Americans

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Port City Playhouse in Alexandria will present "Stick Fly," Lydia R. Diamond's wry but affectionate look at the experiences of upper-income African-Americans, from May 1 through May 16. The story centers around the LeVay family — a father, two adult sons with their girlfriends, and the housekeeper's daughter, who is filling in while her mother is ill — which gathers at their home on Martha's Vineyard for their annual summer holiday. Personality clashes and revealed secrets make this anything but a relaxing family vacation.

Director Kevin Sockwell wanted to direct "Stick Fly" because it was one of the very first plays he had read where the experience of affluent, educated African Americans was presented. "Most plays with primarily black characters focus on drug use, poverty, and so forth," he said. "The family of this story is similar to my background and I was happy to see the unique problems of black affluence presented in a powerful, somewhat humorous way.

"I want the audience to understand some unique aspects of the African American experience while still being able to relate and appreciate the LeVay family as family, not a black family, but a family," he said.

He wants the audience to realize that

one's family is one's family and to embrace it, not resist it. "One can never fully escape what any family experience provides, yet people can be themselves and still thrive in a family," he said. "Equally true, the wishes, desires, aspirations of being in a black family may differ somewhat due to race, but the goals and needs of all families transcend race and are very human to us all."

Chaz Pando plays the role of Harold "Flip" LeVay, the oldest son/brother who is a charming, successful plastic surgeon. "He is well traveled and enjoys the finer things in life," he said. "He is also known to be, as is his father, a womanizer. As they say, 'Like father, like son.'"

He added: "This show is about family and finding yourself, and how some families deal with certain situations, good or bad ... This show will make you laugh, make you cry, and even make you mad, but most importantly, it will make you think. And that is what theater is all about."

Mack Leamon plays the role of Kent (Spoon) LeVay, the younger of the sons. "As the only artist in a family of doctors, he's struggled to find his place, but he's hoping that a recent success will earn him the respect of his father," he said.

He added: "The story at its core is about a family and how families interact with each other The challenge (and the fun) is to find ways to make these moments interesting for an audience.

"I hope they laugh with and feel for the characters. I hope they see some of themselves and their own families on the stage."

Fatima Razi plays the only Caucasian-female character named Kimber Davies, a Peace Corps veteran and African American studies scholar. "She has a social status



PHOTO BY CAL WHITEHURST

In rehearsals for the Port City Playhouse's production of "Stick Fly" are (front row, from left:) Mack Leamon, Kashayna Johnson and Chaz Pando; (back row:) Fatima Razi, Brittany Caldwell and Bill Greene.

equal to the LeVay family yet privy to white privilege, and on some level, apologetic for it," she said.

What she hopes the audience takes away from the production, is this: "People have a desire to maintain this constant positive image of themselves to society. It is human nature that individuals do not 'showcase' their flaws This play teaches us that it is these secrets that can truly harm our familial relationships when honesty and authenticity are cast aside."

Kashayna Johnson plays the role of Cheryl, the daughter of the maid who works for the LeVay family. "She's actually pretty fascinating because she's very bright, self aware, hardworking and unapologetic, yet there's a softer side," she said. "There's a vulnerability — a sense of naivety at the core, and once triggered makes that exterior crumble and fall away."

She said one of the challenges was not

getting trapped in the drama of the play and not judging the characters. "Once I understood and accepted that this was the family's 'normal,' it opened up so many possibilities for me as an actor," she said. "I also had more fun and that's when the true essence of this play, and the humor that's clearly written in this piece came out."

She added: "I hope that audiences see themselves and their own families in this play. And it may not necessarily be the same circumstances, but dysfunction is universal, and I believe the one thing that allows people to function in dysfunction, and go on loving and dealing with each other is family."

Port City Playhouse is presenting "Stick Fly" on May 1, 2, 8, 9, 12, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m.; and May 9 and 16 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16 and \$18. The theater is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. For tickets, visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

CALENDAR

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.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

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 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.

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

Tween Yoga. Thursdays, May 28-July 16. 4-5 p.m. at at 532YOGA, 532 N Washington St. Suite 100. 532Yoga uses yoga to help tweens develop greater self-confidence. The workshop fee is \$125 or \$20 for drop-in classes. Visit www.532Yoga.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 1

Taste of Cinco de Mayo. 6:30 p.m. at Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Food sponsors include South Austin Grill, Los Toltecos and Dos Amigos. The Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble will perform as well as Latin jazz band Ocho de Bastos. Individual tickets are \$5 and family tickets are \$15 in advance, \$10 and \$20 at the door. Visit www.alexandria.gov/webtrac.

"Fly by Light" World Premiere. 6:30 p.m. at the National Geographic Auditorium, 1600 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. Alexandria's 532Yoga will host One Common Unity's presentation of "Fly by Light," a documentary detailing the experience of four young people who participate in Peace Education Program in West Virginia. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.flybylightworldpremiere.brownpapertickets.com to buy tickets.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. During the "MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media" reception, curators Karen Schmitz (Del Ray Artisans) and Judy Gula (Artistic Artifacts) will give several awards for MIX masterpieces and award prizes for best dressed guests in "MIX & Do Not Match" attire. Free.

Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.
Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League, Inc, 105 N Union St. Local mixologists will create cocktails and appetizers based on a piece of art. Tickets are \$45-55. Visit www.theartleague.org.

"Shakespeare's Sister: Women in the Arts." 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 5000 Dawes Ave. This program will feature female voices through music, poetry, prose and visual art through performances by the NOVA Alexandria Band, Community Chorus and Jazz Ensemble, along with art and design work by NOVA Studio. Free. Visit www.facebook.com/events/549230145217810.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School presents musical comedy of six students vying for a spelling championship. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit www.mvhsdtheatrearts.com for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Java Jolt. 10 a.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N Union St. Blair Meerfeld is a master stoneware potter, as well as the current Ceramics Department Chair at the Art League. He will discuss the Germanic influences on early American stoneware craftsmanship. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Genealogy Walking Tour. 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Tour the Alexandria Black History Museum, Charles Houston Recreation Center's Hall of Fame Exhibit, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, and selected sites on Columbus, Alfred and Pendleton Streets. Co-author of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century" Char McCargo Bah will lead. Tickets are \$15 for children under 16, \$30 for adults. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of the area's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

"Secrets of the Paper Garden." 2-5 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt.

Vernon Ave. Learn how to make flowers out of Italian papers. \$35 for members, \$45 for nonmembers, plus a \$15 supplies fee. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Joan & Joni Tribute. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Allison Shapira & Kipyn Martin with Adrianna Naomi will perform a tribute to folk singers Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-3

Revolutionary War Encampment. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt Vernon. View reenactments, attend lectures, and learn more about military techniques from the time of the Revolutionary War. Admission is included in the cost of a general admission ticket. Adult tickets are \$17, youth tickets 6-11 are \$9, children younger than 6 are free and senior tickets are \$16. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

Alexandria's Walk for Animals. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Market Square. Visit exhibits designed for animals and people, and walk to support the

ENTERTAINMENT

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Registration is \$25 in advance, \$40 on-site. Visit www.alexandrianimals.donorpages.com.

Titan Expo. 1-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Titan Expo is a community event featuring carnival games, inflatables, bake sale, Bingo, car bash, used book sale, and music by local musicians. Free. Call 703-824-6800.

Artists Reception and Award Ceremony. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artists participating in the "Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists" exhibit will be recognized by artist and educator Dana Cibulski. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Running of the Chihuahuas. 1-4 p.m. at SW Waterfront, D.C., between 6th and 7th streets. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with food, drink, and a chihuahua race sponsored by Alexandria's On Tap Magazine. Admission is free. Visit www.ontaponline.com/race.

Gallery Talk. 3 p.m. at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Artist Beverly Ress discusses her work. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

New Dominion Chorale. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E Campus Drive. New Dominion Chorale will present a program of Gilbert and Sullivan and Classic Musical Theater to close its 24th season. General admission is \$30, \$25 for seniors; \$5 students and children; \$20 for groups of 10 or more. Visit www.newdominion.org.

MAY 3-31

"Perceptions" 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, Studio 319, 105 N Union St. The "Perceptions" exhibit will feature 3-D artist Erika Cleveland, painter Ellen Delaney, graphic artist Kara Hammond, and street photographer Val Proudtkii. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

MONDAY/MAY 4

"Gadsby's Tavern" Book Signing and Lecture. 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N Royal St. Gretchen Bulova's new book, "Gadsby's Tavern" is hitting shelves and the Tavern is celebrating with a book signing and lecture. Admission is \$10 for Gadsby's Tavern Museum members and \$12 for nonmembers. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

TUESDAY/MAY 5

Tuesday Morning Stroll. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E Monroe St. Residents are invited to visit the garden, receive free seed packets and have their

gardening questions answered by experts. Free. Contact carol_kilroy@comcast.net for more.

Poetry Reading Group. 11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The "Tuesday at 2" poetry reading group will read from their book, "Gathering the Flow and Letting it Go." Free. Call 703-765-4573 for reservations.

MAY 5-JUNE 14

"Living Yesterday Today." Various times at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N Union St. "Living Yesterday Today" is an exhibit featuring photography by Sandy LeBrun-Evans following 150th Civil War Reenactments. Free to attend. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 7

Mini-MIX-Art Make & Take Workshop. 6-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts, a local arts and crafts store, will offer workshops and classes for anyone interested in mixed media. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 7-9

"Anne and Emmett." Various times at MetroStage, 1201 N Royal St. "Anne and Emmett" is an imagined conversation between 14-year-old Emmett Till and 15-year-old Anne Frank, both young victims of racial violence. Tickets are \$35, \$25 for students. Visit www.metrostage.org.

MAY 7-JUNE 1

"Printed Art: The Potomac." Gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N Union St. The Art League presents a series of linocuts by John Gosling depicting the Potomac. Free Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 8-9

Hollin Hall Art Show. 1-3 p.m. on Friday, 12-3 p.m. on Saturday. Senior artists will display and sell their art in connection with the month-long Fairfax County Creative Aging Festival. Also find an intergenerational seed saving American Indian pinch pot workshop. Free. Call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/MAY 8

Not-So-Silent Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Howard Gardner School, 4913 Franconia Road. Find music and buffet dinner at the school's 10th Anniversary Auction to benefit the financial aid program. Admission is free. Cal 703-822-9300 to RSVP.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

Wine Tasting Event. 12-5 p.m. at Balducci's, 600 Franklin St. In honor of Mother's Day, Balducci's will be serving special wine and food pairings. Free. Visit www.balduccis.com.

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This outdoor market will feature the work of more than 25 artists. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.com.

New Hope Housing Spring Gala. 6:30-10:30 p.m. at U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Councilman John Chapman, Del. Scott Surovell, Ms. Capitol Region 2015 Madhu Umashankar, and Dale Fisher will participate in a dance-off at this fundraiser. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.bidpal.net/nhhgala2015.

The Honey Dewdrops. 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N Quaker Lane. Folk singers Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish will perform alongside Buzz Peele. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit www.focumusic.org.

Spring Concert. 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

Genealogy Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Co-author of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the Twentieth Century" Char McCargo Bah will lead a lecture on "What you need to know about Social Security." Admission is \$10. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/MAY 10

Mother's Day Tea. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N Fairfax St. Lounge at the Magnolia Terrace with catered food and learn the "Language of the Fan." Tickets are \$30. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Mother's Day Open House. 1-4 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Learn the history of the fire house and have your picture taken by the in-house photographer. Free for mothers and families. Visit www.friendshipfirehouse.net.

Mother's Day Tours. 1-5 p.m. at Stabler Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 107 S Fairfax St. The Museum is offering free tours to mothers. Admission is \$5 for other adults, \$3 for children aged 5-12. See www.apothecarymuseum.org.

MONDAY/MAY 11

Community Barbeque Bash. 6-8:30 p.m. at The Waterfront Market & Cafe, 7 King St. ACT for Alexandria is hosting a barbeque. Tickets start are \$35 for children, \$50 for adults. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/community-barbeque-bash-tickets-15734049967.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a brief fireworks display will take place as part of a private event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Saturday, May 2,
between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. (3 minutes)

Wednesday, May 6,
between 9:15 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. (5 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to: Events@MountVernon.org.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
MOUNT ★ VERNON

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español)
Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)
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
(en Español); 6:30 pm
Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration
8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org
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Monthly Networking

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

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SPORTS

Festive Start to Fort Hunt Fast Pitch Season

Fort Hunt Softball held its Opening Day celebration on Sunday, April 12, at the Walt Whitman softball complex. Approximately 400 people including players, family members and volunteers attended. The party started off with a picnic, games and dancing.

Cindy Jackson, former Fort Hunt Softball commissioner, was recognized with the Lifetime Volunteer Award. Her contributions to Fort Hunt Softball and the athletes the organization serves includes coaching many teams and volunteering in all aspects from field maintenance to administration.

Roberto Arroyo received the Commissioner's Volunteer of the Year Award for 2014. Arroyo was recognized for consistently volunteering his time to help the players develop. He has coached numerous teams over the years, some with his daughter as a player and many not. He continues to give his time and expertise to Fort Hunt Softball by volunteering at the weekly pitching clinics.

The Presentation of the Teams

Ceremony included three Rookies teams (K-2), five Juniors teams (3rd/4th grade), four Minors teams (5th/6th grade) and two Majors teams (7th grade-and-up). The presentation was kicked off by introducing the West Potomac Varsity and JV softball teams and was concluded with the National Anthem. The ceremonial first pitches of the season was thrown out by both Jackson and Arroyo.

Fort Hunt Softball League Sponsor is Fort Hunt Sportsmen; Field Sponsor is Dr. John A. Schehl D.D.S. and Dr. Melanie D. Allgeyer D.M.D.; Opening Day Sponsor is The Physical Therapy Zone; Team Sponsors are Sew N Luv, Hollin Hall Automotive, Primo Restaurant, Hughes Orthodontics, Dick's Sporting Goods, Village Hardware, Del. Scott A. Surovell, La Prima Catering, DMM Media, Southside 815 Restaurant and Misty Klapper & Associates Court Reporting Services.

FHYAA Softball offers spring and fall softball for girls ages 6 to 18. For more information visit www.FHYAAs softball.org.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Volunteer of the Year, Roberto Arroyo and Lifetime Volunteer Award Recipient, Cindy Jackson, throw out the first pitches of the season.



Cindy Jackson accepts the Lifetime Volunteer Award from Softball Commissioner Kerry Daly.



Opening Day Sponsor, Lori Alexander, owner and doctor of physical therapy of The Physical Therapy Zone, enjoyed the day with Softball Commissioner Kerry Daly and Fort Hunt Softball Board Member Melanie Allgeyer.



Fridays in February Spirit Award Winners Margaret Otto and Riley Cooper.

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/DrBIGT.

- ❖ May 2, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — Math & Science
- ❖ May 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — English Reading & Social Studies
- ❖ May 16, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — Math & Science

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

Scholarship Application Deadline.

Scholarship applications for the 2015 Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce Education Partnership Scholarships are available and graduating high school seniors in Lee and Mount Vernon Districts, who plan to pursue further education in a business-related field, are encouraged to apply for these \$2,000 local scholarships at www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/Education-Partnership.html or call 703-360-6925 to request an application.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

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 or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at

mehook@fcps.edu

- ❖ 10:30 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.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

Wetlands Awareness Day. 12-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Children may participate in a fair with crafts and other activities. Also find wildlife presentations of including raptors. Free. Call 703-768-2525.

TUESDAY/MAY 5

Fall Registration Opens. NOVA Community College students may begin to register for the fall 2015 semester. Registration is open 24

hours. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

Cinco de Mayo Soberride. 4 p.m.-4 a.m. During a 12-hour period residents may call 1-800-200-TAXI for a free ride home.

THURSDAY/MAY 7

Social Media Seminar. 8:30-10 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 6055 Richmond Highway. Speakers will discuss search engine optimization, website best practices, and email marketing. Free. Contact info@sfdc.org to RSVP.

FRIDAY/MAY 8

Not-so-silent Auction. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Howard Gardner School, 4913 Franconia Road. Find music and buffet dinner at the school's 10th Anniversary Auction to benefit the financial aid program. Admission is free. Call 703-822-9300 to RSVP.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

"Fostering Wellness and Resiliency." 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary, 7630 Telegraph Road School. Marc Brackett, Ph.D., the director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence will be featured as the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Community Conversation on Teen Stress: Fostering Wellness and Resiliency. Tracy Cross, Ph.D., Professor at The College of William and Mary and Executive Director of the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development will speak in the afternoon about perfectionism and child and adolescent suicide.

Prayer Walk. 9:30 a.m. at Woodlawn Shopping Center. The City of Hope Worship Center will be having a prayer walk and will pray about

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 19

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPORTS

WP Rides Seven-Game Win Streak to First Place

Wolverines win 9 of 11 prior to Tuesday's loss to Annandale.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Leading off the bottom of the sixth inning, West Potomac right fielder Rocky Iboleon got the fastball he wanted and drove it to deep left.

With Annandale leading 4-2, a home run would have been a much-needed boost for a West Potomac team looking to extend its win streak. On Tuesday night, however, the Wolverines — and Iboleon's fly ball — fell short.

Iboleon's deep drive landed near the fence for a double, but the senior would be stranded at third base. Annandale added a pair of unearned runs in the seventh inning and won 6-2 on April 28 at West Potomac High School.

"I was just waiting for [Annandale pitcher Shawn Courtney] to give me a fastball somewhere in the zone," Iboleon said. "He just kept throwing me curveballs [early in] counts, so I was just waiting for him to throw the fastball."

Did Iboleon think his deep fly ball was gone?

"Yeah, I did," he said. "Just missed it."

It had been one month since the West Potomac baseball team "missed" when it came to the final score. After losing to Paul VI, 12-0, on March 28 during a frigid night in Vienna, the Wolverines won seven straight games prior to Tuesday's loss to Annandale. During the streak, West Potomac staged seventh-inning comebacks against Marshall and South County, thumped Lake Braddock, 11-4, and surged

to the top of the Conference 7 standings.

Jim Sullivan said the 9-2 start was West Potomac's best during his 10 years as head coach, and the seven-game win streak was the longest since he's been with the Wolverines.

"I think we've just had a lot of confidence and we know each other," sophomore shortstop/pitcher Luke Belanger said. "We've been playing together for a while and we know what we can do and we come out and we play hard."

Belanger pitched four innings in relief on Tuesday. He allowed three runs — one earned — on five hits while walking one and striking out three.

"I thought we got a very good pitching performance from Luke," Sullivan said. "I thought he did a very nice job. If it hadn't been for the [seventh-inning] error, he [would] have given up [one run]."

Junior right-hander Brandon Floyd started and suffered the loss. He pitched three innings, allowing three runs on five hits while walking one and striking out two.

Offensively, West Potomac managed six hits against Courtney, who tossed a complete game. Courtney allowed two runs, walked four, hit one batter and struck out seven.

West Potomac left the bases loaded in the first, and left four runners in scoring position for the game.

"Courtney's a good pitcher," Sullivan said. "... He kept us off balance [and] we didn't get the hits when we needed them. We'd get guys over to second and third and then they'd die there and that's not a recipe for success."

West Potomac junior infielder Jamie Sara finished 2-for-4 with an RBI. Sara, a first-team all-conference selection last season, is overcoming an early-season slump.

"Jamie is finally coming around," Sullivan



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

Sophomore shortstop Luke Belanger and the West Potomac baseball team won seven straight prior to Tuesday's loss against Annandale.

said. "He's hitting well."

Senior catcher Tom Nicholson went 1-for-3 with an RBI. Senior outfielder Kent Sullivan, senior second baseman Joseph Ranney and Iboleon each had one hit for the Wolverines.

"They're anxious to try to get back there and win it this time. That's the goal. They really want to win that conference championship and I think they've got a shot. We're in first place right now, so obviously we've got a shot."

— West Potomac baseball coach Jim Sullivan

Tuesday's loss dropped West Potomac's record to 9-3, but the Wolverines remained atop the Conference 7 standings at 6-1 entering Wednesday's game at West Springfield.

West Potomac reached the conference tournament final last season, where they lost to West Springfield. The Wolverines have their sights set on returning to the championship game.

"We don't like to look past too many things, but that winning streak, it has helped with confidence," Belanger said. "We believe we should easily be there. ... I think we can win that championship."

West Potomac will travel to face T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1.

"They're anxious to try to get back there and win it this time," Sullivan said. "That's the goal. They really want to win that conference championship and I think they've got a shot. We're in first place right now, so obviously we've got a shot."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Hollin Meadows Elementary School STEM is seeking donations to help sustain its STEM Lab & Gardens. There are several options:

- ❖ Buy discounted tickets by Friday, May 1 to the Gala, www.biddingowl.com/HMPGALA

- ❖ Bid on auction items at www.biddingowl.com/HMPGALA

- ❖ Go to Unwined in the Belle View Shopping Center and make a donation purchase

- ❖ Make a tax deductible donation to the Hollin Meadow Partnership at www.hollinmeadowpartnership.org.

Fiona L. Carroll has been inducted into Stonehill College's Honor Society Lambda Epsilon Sigma.

Monica Vroomen will study at the University of Oxford this summer in a fellowship sponsored by the English-Speaking Union of the United States (ESU). A junior at Longwood University (Farmville, Va.), Vroomen was chosen for the ESU's British Universities Summer School Scholarship program, which is primarily for high-school English teachers but also involves a small number of college undergraduates.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

All-State Band Members West Potomac High School continues its distinction as a Blue Ribbon School for Music and its Wolverine Band as a Virginia Honor Band. Five West Potomac High School band members were selected to participate in the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association's All-Virginia (State) Band at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, April 9-11: **Phillip Drembus (percussion), Kendell Haywood (percussion), Henry Drembus (trumpet), Erika Larsen (flute), and Mia Genuario (clarinet).** The West Potomac High School Band is under the direction of **Stephen H. Rice.**

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 18
crime and homelessness. Free. Call 703-203-8778.

THURSDAY/MAY 14

Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Citizens may meet the candidates for Mount Vernon District Supervisor. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.mtvernonchamber-leechamber.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

"Staying Home." 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. AARP is teaming up with Mt. Vernon at Home, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, and Fairfax County Building for All Committee for a free community workshop. A panel of experts will share practical tips to minimize the financial costs of home modifications, and how to avoid fraud and scams. Registration is free, but space is limited. Visit www.states.aarp.org/may-16.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 20

Learn About Medicare Part D. 3-

4:30 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org to learn more. Visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions:

- ❖ The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteer English and Spanish-speaking social companions, a volunteer pianist, and front desk volunteer.

ZONE 3: • ALEXANDRIA
• MOUNT VERNON

EMPLOYMENT

703-778-9411

ZONE 3 AD DEADLINE:
TUESDAY 4 P.M.

HELP WANTED

Church Office help, Parish Support Coordinator, Part-time at Messiah Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA. Go to www.job.messiahelca.org for job description and to apply.

St Christopher's Episcopal of Spfld, VA seeks applicants for

Preschool Director

Preschool enrolls 2 1/2-PreK for 3 hour learning sessions up to 5 days/wk. Preferred qualities: early childhood ed. degree; 2+ years as director/asst dir. or 5+ years as teacher with leadership experience; knowledge of Fairfax Cty school requirements; strong organizational skills; friendly & outgoing personality; relates well to children & adults. Position start date: 1 July 15; Job open until filled Submit resumes to preschool@saintchristophers.net with Subject as Director Position

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We are recruiting for Engineering Department Senior Mechanic. Schedule: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Sunday - Thursday with On Call Rotation.

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HELP WANTED

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Busy Internal Medicine office in Burke needs part time front desk staff. Must be able to multi-task. Experience preferred.

E-mail resume to:

patriciabounds@hotmail.com

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The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

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The Burke Connection

The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/

Lorton Connection
Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet

The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection

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The McLean Connection
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21 Announcements

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.

101 Computers

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids 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:
Invitation to Bid No. 00000521, Citywide Sidewalk Connections
Duke Street Pedestrian Improvements
Opening Date and Time: June 4, 2015, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time
Pre-Bid Conference: None
For general inquiries contact Darryl Jackson, Contract Specialist II at 703.746.4298.
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.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-03-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for the provision of Technical Services for Networking and Infrastructure. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-05 Technical Services for Networking and Infrastructure will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 28, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financialservices/purchasing/bids.php> ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-03-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors for the provision of a Network Access Control System. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-01 Network Access Control System will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 12, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php> ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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:
RFP No. 00000524, Architectural Design Services, Engineering Services, and Construction Administration Services for Alexandria Firearms Range and Training Facility Renovation
RFP Closing Date and Time: May 22, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time
Mandatory Site Visit: May 1, 2015, 10:00 a.m., prevailing local time at 5261 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.
For general inquiries contact Peter Tomaselli, Contract Specialist I at 703.746.3892.
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.

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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FROM PAGE 12

contender for Mount Vernon District Supervisor. Candice brings a new perspective, including years of digital and social media experience, which she can leverage to bring together schools, non-profits and businesses to improve our community. She has differentiated herself as someone who's committed to supporting economic development in our district and has clearly articulated her positions on key issues that are critical to our district and our county. She supports the widening of Route 1 and the eventual expansion of the blue and yellow lines, because our district is going to continue to grow, and we don't have the transportation we need for it. She also favors increasing development opportunities for affordable workforce and senior housing, so our residents don't get priced out of our community. For years, I have volunteered alongside Candice and seen first hand her commitment and passion for the Mount Vernon community. I encourage my fellow Mount Vernon voters to learn more about Candice Bennett.

Alvia Smith-Parker
Alexandria

Record of Leadership

To the Editor:

I have known Paul Krizek, who is running to be our next delegate, for years. His record of leadership in the community has always impressed me. As a lifetime Mount Vernon resident, he understands the pressing need for a new system of multi-modal transit on the Route 1 corridor and he worked closely with Scott Surovell to gather nearly 500 petition signatures and recruit 180 people to attend the Northern Virginia Transportation Association (NVTVA) hearing on widening a section of Route 1 as part of that project.

Paul, the first citizen to speak at the hearing, urged the NVTVA to raise Route 1 funding to high priority. Today the county announced that NVTVA has agreed to put \$1 million into widening Rt. 1, a step that will eventually lead to a Yellow Line extension to Hybla Valley and dedicated bus lanes from Huntington to Woodbridge. This \$1 million is a small part of the total amount needed, but it gets us on the list of NVTVA priority projects that will be funded over many years.

With such strategic and hard work and effective results, it is no wonder that Paul has been endorsed by Del. Scott Surovell, state Sen. Toddy Puller and state Sen. Adam Ebbin. I support Paul in the June 9 primary and encourage other 44th District residents of Mount Vernon and Lee to do the same.

I worked hard for Scott over the years and he worked hard for us. Paul is the best person I can think of to succeed him as our delegate.

Mary Paden
Alexandria

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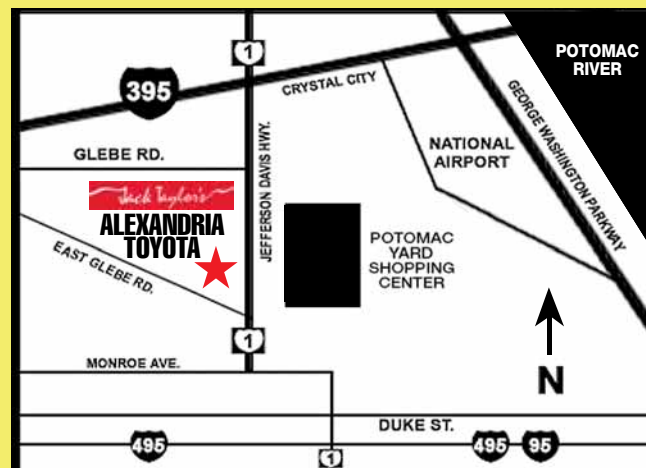
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8315 Old Mt Vernon Rd \$849,000
True Custom Home!
Classic Georgian exterior with stunning open floor plan. Three luxuriously finished levels, high ceilings throughout, elegant trim detail, chef's gourmet kitchen, "Andersen" thermal windows. LL with outside entrance, ideal in-law suite. Magnificent property offers combination of size & custom amenities rarely found in homes under \$1 mill!



3705 Carriage House Ct \$798,500
Stunning Riverwood Renovation!
Wow factor abounds! Better than new featuring dramatic open floor plan, breathtaking white kitchen with gas cooking, 3.5 beautifully updated baths, gorgeous newly stained hardwood floors. Extensive recessed lighting, 4 bedrooms, brand new thermal windows, newly finished lower level with full bath. 2 car garage. Prime cul-de-sac location.



1209 Falster Ct \$649,000
Updated Throughout!
Nothing like it on market—totally updated Collingwood home on quiet cul-de-sac for remarkably reasonable price. Major updates include: kitchen, baths, windows, electrical service, roof and basement. Four bedrooms, 3 baths. Large deck overlooks fenced backyard. All the work has been done—just move in! Prime location and Waynewood School attendance area. Don't walk—run to this outstanding property! **OPEN SUN 5/3, 1-4! Fort Hunt and Collingwood: S-Fort Hunt; L-Falster Rd to Falster Ct.**



9413 Brambly Lane \$899,000
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9201 Cherrytree Drive \$564,950
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Cool Spring Dr \$549,900
Pristine Home—Prime Location!



8720 Plymouth Road \$1,719,000
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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!



8106 Orville St \$505,000
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Summer 2015 Camps

Education & Activities



Mount Vernon Gazette

Summer Fun for Adults

The region offers a wide range of programs for adults.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Summer fun is no longer reserved for children. Whether one's interests lie in exploring nature and hiking in the woods or immersed in history, art and literature on a university campus, the region abounds with warm weather opportunities.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University offers its members a chance to satisfy their intellectual and cultural curiosities. Want to read and discuss the "Iliad" or play Symphony No. 5 on the piano? Classes in Homer's writings or classical music are available in Fairfax, Reston and Sterling, Va. \$375 gives members access to more than 400 trips, courses and clubs ranging from memoir writing to French cooking.

"This summer you can get outside with OLLI trips to the National Gallery of Art, the Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens,

and The Franciscan Monastery," said Jennifer Disano, OLLI executive director.

From oil painting to soap making, Arlington County is offering a diverse smatter of classes for adults. "We have a smorgasbord of programs and really cool classes where you can learn about nature or go on hikes," said Susan Kalish, a spokeswoman for the county.

Potomac residents who want to distinguish an amethyst from an iolite are in luck this summer. A gemology class is among the most popular adult classes at the Potomac Community Recreation Center.

"We've got a host of different programs from tai chi, yoga and karate," said Peter Selikowitz, the center's executive director. "There's even a laughter fitness class which is a fun way to reduce stress."

For those wanting to learn how to avoid internet scams, Marymount University has teamed up with City of Falls Church to present "Living Better with the Internet." The series of five classes is designed for seniors and will be held at the Falls Church Community Center this summer. "The best news of all is that the classes are free," said Odette Shults, a spokeswoman for the University.

Educators say that an uptick in interest among adults, particularly seniors, has lead



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Many organizations offer summer fun and educational programs for adults.

to a diverse offering of learning opportunities. "There is an absolute trend and evidence-based research is driving the trend," said Andrew Carle of George Mason University. "Adult activities are being reinvented. What used to be arts and crafts and

now their being called wellness and enrichment and address the physical, cognitive, social and spiritual needs of adults. We're seeing people being given more choices on how to improve their lives rather than just giving them activities."

Play Unified

BY RICK JEFFREY
PRESIDENT, SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA

In my 20-plus years in Special Olympics I still, on occasion, make the same mistake. I miss the boat. I underestimate the abilities either cognitive or physical of our Special Olympics athletes; athletes with intellectual disabilities. But by continually making this mistake, I, in essence, pretty much make them like everyone else; just another person, available to be judged and limited by what we see or what we think we see. You see, the limitations that all of us place on each other determine how we perceive each other, treat each other, like each other, fear each other, raise each other up or marginalize each other.

Ask most coaches out there and they will tell you that the biggest limitations on any student athlete are the ones coaches place upon them, among which might be too slow, not big enough or not tough enough. It might not be much different in the classroom where teachers might see a student as too lazy, too distracted or not interested. And these are just student athletes in any sport, in any classroom, at any high school in Virginia.

Now compound that with Down syndrome, autism or an undiagnosed disability resulting in a student's inability to keep up with peers. In most cases, the limitations in a school environment, an environment that moves all too fast, are enormous. And even in schools with wonderful inclusive classroom environments, the opportunity to



interact and really build friendships and relationships remains limited.

These students with intellectual disabilities are, in most cases, not receiving an opportunity to really participate in sports; an activity that, at its heart, teaches teamwork, trust and communication; an activity that at its core promotes competency, credibility and caring; the building blocks of human relationships. Sports and sports teams are probably more conducive to building relationships and creating friendships than possibly any other school activity. Plus throw in the opportunity to "wear the colors" and represent your school and you create an emotional bond that may be the most inclusive opportunity for any student.

IMAGINE A PARTNERSHIP between Special Olympics and high schools throughout Virginia. Imagine the opportunity for a student with an intellectual (or any) dis-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Rick Jeffrey

COMMENTARY

ability to play alongside his or her peers without disabilities in a Unified Sports team environment; to rely on each other, to communicate with each other, to believe in each other, to become Champions Together.

Imagine no more because Champions Together is here. In fact, it's right here in Fairfax at Robinson Secondary School and Robert E. Lee High School – and in 22 other high schools in Virginia.

This partnership with the Virginia High School League is aimed at bringing together youth with and without disabilities to build the first unified generation, a generation where youth will build upon the friendships and life lessons learned through sports and the Special Olympics movement so, later in life, they will not be afraid to live, work and THRIVE alongside their peers with different ability levels.

Champions Together high schools will form inclusive track and field teams this spring that will compete against other local high schools. Other components of the program include an inclusive student-led leadership team that will organize an awareness event to promote respect and inclusion, and promote philanthropy to support the future of the program.

AT SPECIAL OLYMPICS, we dedicate ourselves each day to building communities more respectful in their conduct, more inclusive in their makeup, more unified in their fabric. And each day the Virginia High School League is promoting education, leadership, sportsmanship, character and citizenship for students by establishing and maintaining high standards for school activities and competitions.

A new, young, energetic base of athletes and volunteers, which could include the sons or daughters of many reading this op-ed piece, will eventually transition from the schools into our communities and help Special Olympics Virginia and the Virginia High School League continue to achieve our missions.

The Champions Together program is new, and as it develops, we will learn a lot about how to build it, refine it and make it the best that it can be for everyone. And do you know who we will learn this from? We will learn it from our young people with and without disabilities who, through their participation and their ownership of this inclusive program, will prove to us that they are the future.

Let's Play Unified!

Rick Jeffrey has been the President of Special Olympics Virginia since 2000. He has served on many national and international committees for Special Olympics, and is currently serving on the United States Leadership Council where he is chair of the Sports Committee.

Preparing for Summer Camp Away

Many emotions arise when a child leaves for camp.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Julie Kaminski remembers the language from her desperate letters to her parents: “I love you. I want to come home now!” She recalls penning a dramatic plea to be rescued from residential summer camp more than 40 years ago. Today, Kaminski is preparing for her daughter’s first camp experience away from home this summer.

“Looking back, I can see how going away to camp helped me become more self-sufficient, self-confident, self-reliant and taught me how to get along with so many different kinds of people,” said Kaminski, a local mother of two children.

“Of course I didn’t think that at the time. I was extremely homesick even though it was my idea to go to sleep away camp in the first place.”

A child’s first residential summer camp experience can be fraught with emotions that run the gamut from excitement to terror. While glee at the thought of a summer filled with sports, swimming, crafts and new-found friendships can be the dominant feeling, the thought of an extended period of time away from home can cause sadness and anxiety for both parents and their children.

An American Camp Association study showed that 96 percent of children who attend sleep away camps experience homesickness at some point during their stay. While these emotions are normal, parents can help children tame the pre-camp jitters. The life-long lessons gained from such camps make it worth the effort.

“Becoming comfortable with your child being away at summer camp, perhaps the first extended separation you have had, is a matter of trust,” said David Kaplan, Ph.D. of the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, Va.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Summer camp experiences can help children become self-confident and self-reliant.

“Trusting your child that they can handle themselves without your supervision. Trusting that they can handle relationships with other children. Trusting that they can get up in the morning, take a shower, wash their clothes, and change their sheets without your prodding.”

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT homesickness is normal and many campers experience it, can help children accept and cope with their emotions.

“Expecting to miss home and feel somewhat anxious helps children feel less surprised and overwhelmed when it occurs,” said Barbara Meehan, Ph.D. executive director, Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

A child’s apprehension can be eased when parents share their own camp experiences,

particularly positive memories.

“Don’t let your child get caught up in your own anxiety about leaving for camp,” said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. “Kids sometimes worry about the parents they left behind. Be positive, but not sad that your child is leaving.”

Meehan says that developing a few soothing activities like playing outdoors or reading is one strategy for helping children deal with feelings of missing home. Identifying people with whom young campers can share their emotions is another means for dealing with homesickness.

“Talking to a camp counselor and even peers can help ease the difficult feelings and often they will learn they are not alone,” said Meehan.

Encouraging a child to make friends and become involved in camp activities will put

the focus on the positive aspects of camp. Packing letters and stamped envelopes and developing a plan for letter exchange can help a child feel connected to their families.

“Isolating and avoiding what feels hard can often worsen anxiety and homesickness,” said Meehan. “Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful.”

There are times however when a child might not be ready for residential camps. The American Camp Association reports that while most cases of homesickness subside, there are cases — if a child is not eating or sleeping, for example — when it could be time to seek help. “Consult with camp professionals about resources if your child’s anxiety worsens or persists,” said Meehan.

Camps&Schools●Notes

Mariner Sailing School at Belle Haven Marina

At the Mariner Sailing School at the Belle Haven Marina, children learn to sail in an atmosphere where fun, safety and responsibility are paramount. Children gain confidence around the water by learning safe sailing skills. Wearing lifejackets in 14-foot Sunfish sailboats, they learn to sail confidently while having an all-around great time. On light air days, campers are taught how to safely paddle canoes or kayaks through the beautiful Dyke Marsh surrounding the marina.

The 2015 season will start June 8, and morning and

afternoon sessions will be offered weekly through July and August. Students can opt to participate in both daily sessions. See www.saildc.com/instruction/course-rates-schedule

Summer at Massanutten

Each year, Massanutten Military Academy offers a five-week intensive summer school program, an opportunity for students to get ahead in their learning, make up for bad or failing grades, or increase their knowledge and participation in their JROTC leadership skills. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp through a combination of classroom time and weekend activities.

The program is offered June 27-Aug. 1, 2015. Credit for academic courses is transferable to the student’s current school. JROTC leadership credit equals one high school course credit.

STEM CAMP Massanutten offers STEM Summer Camp, two two-week camps running from June 29-July 10 and July 20-31, open to students grades 7-12. This summer camp offers students the chance to explore the many facets of STEM education including hands-on experiences. Upon completion of the STEM Summer Camp, students will receive a certification of completion. Massanutten Military Academy offers the safety of a structured learning environment, as well as the fun of a summer camp. Visit www.militaryschool.com/summer-school-2015.asp.

Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

By STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Scores of local camps in Northern Virginia that offer many opportunities for summer fun and learning. Here is a sampling of diverse camps that range from art to theater to field trips to swimming, tennis and music. There's even a camp for aspiring musicians who want to form a band.

ROAM Rock Camp

ROAM Rock Camp gives children the opportunity to build communication skills and confidence through the language of music. The camps are designed to focus on why each participant wants to be in a band, why they love music and what they want to get out of it. The goal is to create an environment or band that children will thrive in. They will hand select each member to create a group that best fits their age and or experience. During the camp, groups will learn three to four of their favorite songs or even write songs if they wish. At the end of the week they will record the group and give them a CD to take home to show off their progress.

"The best thing about these camps is that we are able to show these young musicians from first-hand experience how to be players and performers. I wish I had something like this when I was growing up," said John Patrick, owner/director, who is the former co-founder of the national touring act Virginia Coalition.

Camps are offered from June 1 to Aug. 28. To register, contact ROAM to let them know every week your child would be available to do a camp. Deadline for registration is June 1.

Contact info: Rock of Ages Music, 114 E. Del Ray Ave., Alexandria VA 22301; call 703-838-2130. Email Roam.rockofagesmusic@gmail.com.

Burgundy Farm

Burgundy Farm offers two summer camps: a day camp at the 25-acre Alexandria campus in eight week-long sessions, and a sleep-away camp in three sessions at Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in Capon Bridge, WVa. Both camps are great options for children excited about learning in the outdoors with dedicated counselors. Day campers swim every day, and programs include sports, science and performing and visual arts. Sleep-away camp provides a mix of structure and freedom, fostering a respect to the natural world through greater knowledge of nature and self.

"At Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp, our campers enjoy all the benefits of a sleep-away camp with the convenience of a day camp, including swimming, animal encounters, nature exploration, forming strong bonds and friendships with other campers and counselors, and the opportunity to build self-esteem and confidence in a fun and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Campers enjoy the rock climbing wall at Burke Racquet and Swim Club's Sports Camp.

friendly environment," said Hugh Squire, director of auxiliary services.

Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp is located on the Alexandria campus of Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Lower and upper divisions, grouped by age and interest, for children ages 3-years-8-months to 12 years old. Camp runs Monday, June 15-Friday, Aug. 7. Register at www.burgundyfarm.org/summer-programs. Contact Hugh Squire at hughs@burgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0480.

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Camp is located within 500 acres in a secluded valley near Capon Bridge, WVa. Overnight junior session (age 8-10) for one week in August - currently waitlist only; senior sessions (11-15) for two weeks in June, July or August; adult weekend (21+) in July. Register at www.burgundycenter.org. Contact Michele McCabe at michelem@burgundyfarm.org or 703-842-0470.

Burke Racquet and Swim

Burke Racquet and Swim Sport Camp has been a hidden treasure in Burke for more than 27 years. Tucked behind the Kaiser Permanente Building in Burke, the indoor camp is the ideal setting for children who want to do a variety of sports. It offers swimming, tennis, and rock climbing daily. It also offers Zumba, soccer and camp games.

All of the Sports Camp staff has been back-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Girls Junior Elite enjoy soccer camp at the Soccer Academy at E.C. Lawrence Park in Centreville and Patriot Park in Fairfax this summer.

ground checked through Fairfax County; they are CPR/AED trained.

The camp offers full day (\$280 per week) and half day mornings or afternoons (\$180 per week). There is before and after camp care for working parents. The first week of camp begins June 22 and goes through Aug. 28. Call Burke Racquet and Swim Club at 703-250-1299.

Soccer Academy Inc.

The Soccer Academy offers a wide range of innovative, state-of-the-art programs that meet the interests and playing abilities of all players and teams. It caters to individuals and teams of all ages. All residential camps include a goalkeeping camp. Day camps include E.C. Lawrence Park in Centreville and Patriot Park for ages 5-14. Residential Camps at University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg and Randolph Macon Academy, Front Royal, for ages 9-18. Visit www.soccer-academy.com for camp locations, costs, dates and times. Call 703-393-7961 or email soccer@soccer-academy.com.

Kenwood Summer Day Camp

Kenwood Summer Day Camp makes it their mission to provide campers with new experiences and lasting friendships each summer. "Whether it's watching a baseball game, riding a roller coaster, or seeing knights joust from the front row, we take pride in giving them these opportunities and watching them share it with their new friends," said Justin Elcano, camp director.

Kenwood Summer Day campers can go on daily field trips to exciting destinations including water parks, mini golf, roller skating, amusement parks and more. Campers

also have a wide variety of activities to keep them entertained while they are on campus. There is a large wooded playground that is home to many kickball, capture the flag, and basketball games. They have five themed rooms that hold arts and crafts, video games, board games, ping pong, air hockey, and movies.

Kenwood summer day camp is open to children who have completed kindergarten through 8th grade. Camp starts June 15 and goes through Sept. 2. Visit the website to find a calendar with a schedule for each week at www.camp.kenwoodschool.com. Call 703-256-4711 or email camp@kenwoodschool.com.

Metropolitan School of the Arts

Metropolitan School of the Arts offer pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps. It also offers a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts, including mini camps for the youngest students, ages 3-5, youth camps for students in grades 1-6, and intensives for students age 8 and up. Private summer music lessons are also available for piano, voice, guitar, violin and drums.

"MSA summer camps are the perfect way to try something new and a great way to keep young bodies active and develop new friendships," said Melissa Dobbs, president of Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton and Alexandria. "Whether your child is passionate about the performing arts or just looking to have some fun, MSA camps offer creative programs for all skill levels."

The Lorton campus is at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, and the Alexandria Campus is at

Northern Virginia has scores of local camps for summer learning and fun.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FCPA Camps and the Rec-PAC Program camps take place all over the county.

5775 Barclay Road, Kingstowne, Va. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Langley School Summer Studio

The Langley School Summer Studio features more than 70 classes that allow for the personal, social, and intellectual growth of each camper in preschool to 8th grade. Innovative and engaging academic and STEM programs stimulate with math adventures, robots, and Raspberry Pi. Exploration abounds as campers take exciting field trips to become field scientists who investigate the Chesapeake Bay, cyclists who traverse local mountain bike terrain, and magicians who create illusions. The spotlight also shines on experiences that get campers "in the studio" with a Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer or the lead choreographer and dancer for MC Hammer.

"Each year, we look to add to our diverse roster of classes while growing the perennial favorites to ensure The Langley School Summer Studio offers the best possible experience for our campers," said Director of Auxiliary Programs Jennafer Curran. "Whether taking part in one of many field trips, exploring a new interest like soccer or dance, or refining math or reading skills, our campers develop academically, socially, and emotionally ... and have a great time in the process."

The Langley School Summer Studio will run in six weekly sessions from June 15 - July 31, for students in preschool to grade 8. Classes are held at The Langley School in McLean, and take advantage of the 9.2-acre campus, featuring a wooded nature area, state-of-the-art athletic center, artificial turf field, computer labs, and age-appropriate



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Children participate in Field Day at Kenwood Summer Day Camp in Annandale.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Art League's Summer Art Camps in Alexandria includes Fiber Art Camp.

playgrounds. Visit www.langleyschool.org/summerstudio for details or to register online. Call 703-356-1920 or email summer@langleyschool.org.

Bishop Ireton Camp

Bishop Ireton High School offers campers the opportunity to participate in sports and/or theater while developing individual and group skills and fostering a love of the activity. It offer boys camps (baseball, basketball, lacrosse and football); girls camps (basketball, lacrosse and volleyball); and coed camps (soccer, theater). Age ranges for the camps are rising 1st graders to rising seniors depending on the camp. The 17 camp sessions are conducted by the school's coaches or teachers and assisted by student counselors. Lunch is provided for full day camps by the cafeteria at no extra cost.

"Last year we had nearly 600 campers attend one of our sports or theater camps. The camps are a great way for youngsters to get to know us and for our coaches and theater teachers to get to know them," said Peter Hamer, summer camp director.

The camp brochure and sign up form can be found under the athletics tab at www.bishopireton.org. Contact Peter Hamer at hamp@bishopireton.org or 703-212-5190.

SEE PAGE 6

Have a BURGUNDY summer!

Nature and nurture in two great camps.



Burgundy Farm Summer Day Camp

- For children 4-12, on the 25-acre Alexandria campus of Burgundy Farm Country Day School
- Runs Monday, June 15-Friday, August 7. Come for one, several, or all eight weeks!

Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies Camp

- 500 acres in a valley in Capon Bridge, WV
- Sleepaway junior session (age 8-10) for one week in August **waitlist only!**; senior sessions (11-15) for two weeks in June, July or August; adult weekend (21+) in July

Get all the details and register at www.burgundyfarm.org/summer-programs



Burgundy Summer Camps
3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria
Day Camp 703.842.0480
BCWS Camp 703.842.0470



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Diverse Camps Offer Summer Fun

FROM PAGE 5

Centreville Dance Academy

Summer Camp at Centreville Dance Academy is a great way for a child to experience dance in a fun and safe atmosphere. It offers a Princess Party Camp, Broadway Bound Camp, Glitz & Glam Camp, and Me & My Doll Camp. Dancers will enjoy pretending to be their favorite characters, dressing up, and creating fun crafts. On the final day of camp there will be an in-studio performance for family and friends.

"Summer camp is a great way to expose your child to all that dance has to offer. Dance camp is a wonderful place to build lasting memories and relationships with the CDA teachers and new friends. We love seeing the dancers grow each year," said Kathy Taylor, owner/director.

Princess Party Camp offers The Little Mermaid from July 6-10; Frozen from July 27-31; Princess Ballerina from Aug. 3-7; and Frozen from Aug. 17-21.

Broadway Bound Camp is July 13-17. Glitz & Glam is July 20-24 and Aug. 10-14. Me and My Doll is June 29-July 13.

Register on the website through the Parent Portal. Centreville Dance Academy is located at 14215-G Centreville Square, Centreville. Visit www.centrevilledance.com, call 703-815-3125 or email office@centrevilledance.com.

Park Authority and Rec-PAC

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers more than 1,400 summer day camp options at 100 locations plus the six-week theme-based summer Rec-PAC programs at nearly 50 elementary schools every summer.

Camps are held at RECenters, historic sites, lakefront parks and schools and offer a variety of camp titles. Both camps and Rec-PAC offer children a chance to have fun, build friendships and have a safe and rewarding summer experience. The Rec-PAC program runs June 29 through Aug. 6 from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily and is open to children in Fairfax County who are rising first graders through those who finished sixth grade.

Registration begins April 27 online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recpac. There is an \$8 discount per week for those who register before June 12. Partial scholarships are available for those who qualify through free and reduced lunch program. The large summer camp program begins early June with camps for preschoolers and later in June for school age campers.

From crafts and games to high-tech and high adventure, the Park Authority has something for everyone. Many camps offer swimming at RECenters each day as well as

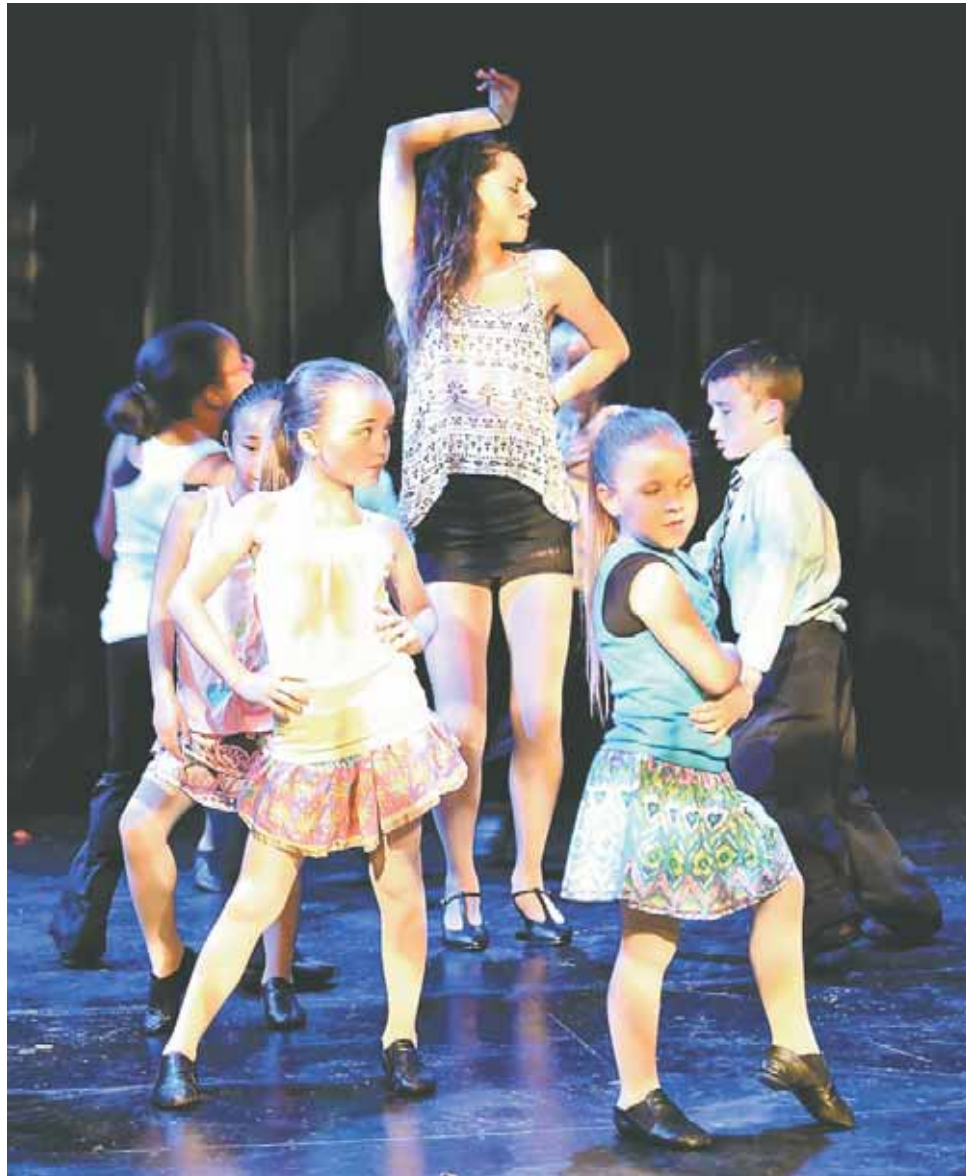


PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENN COOK

Students enjoy summer camps at Metropolitan School of the Arts in Lorton and Alexandria; musical theatre camps are just one of the many camps offered.

extended care for working parents. Sports enthusiasts can choose from an array of skill-development camps, including British soccer, basketball, football, baseball, cheerleading, archery, lacrosse or extreme sports programs. Enjoy the outdoors? Then check out the boating, fishing and biking camps. Specialty camps such as Young Chef's Cooking, Chess, Geocaching and Girls Leadership allow for exploring new interests or developing a new skill. There is also an array of STEM programs that stimulate cognitive development and enhance critical thinking. New camps are available in 2015 and include Ninja Stars, Longboarding Camp, Brazilian Soccer, Overnight Camps, Stand-Up Paddle Boarding, Kayak Fishing, fun new art camps, tons of new engineering camps and many more. The search and browse options on the website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/camps) make it easy to narrow choices by location, age of children, type of camp and week of summer or check out the 2015 Summer Camp Guide.

For more information about Rec-PAC or camps, call 703-222-4664 Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Art League's Summer Art Camps

The Art League's Summer Art Camp provides children ages 5-15 a wonderful introduction to visual art. In the regular art camp, each day brings a new project that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, or sculpture. Projects vary from week to week, so campers can always come back for more. The specialty camps, like Drawing Camp or Painting Camp, focus on immersion in one particular medium.

"Inspiring young artists and helping them discover the joy of innovation is a big part of our mission. It's as rewarding for us to see what the campers create as it is for them," said Executive Director Suzanne Bethel.

The Art League's Summer Art Camps are



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY PETER HAMER

Bishop Ireton Cardinals summer camps in Alexandria are gearing up for their eighth year of sports and theater camps.

held weekly. Half-day and full-day camps include regular art camp, painting, photography, jewelry, ceramics, sculpture, fiber, drawing, cartoons, and more. Camps run weekly from June 22 through Aug. 21, 2015 at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison Street in Alexandria. Register and find details online at www.theartleague.org. Contact The Art League at school@theartleague.org or 703-683-2323.

SummerTimes

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes SummerTimes programs offers campers ages 3-18 an enjoyable and enriching experience with programs designed to stimulate curiosity and creativity, develop talents, and encourage exploration and personal growth. Most of the camp directors are SSSAS teachers and coaches, supported by alumni and students. Operating on three campuses with state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of Alexandria, the camp strives to inspire campers all summer long.

"At SummerTimes, your child will have the opportunity to see new sights in Washington, D.C., to expand artistic horizons in an art or filmmaking camp, learn about computer programming or jewelry making, challenge their abilities in one of our many sports camps, try their hand in TechPlay, or participate in a variety of fun activities in our traditional Day Camp. We pride ourselves on offering camps that will spark an interest in your camper, and will encourage them to create and try new things on their own in a safe and nurturing place," said Jim Supple, Director of Summer Programs.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes summer programs run from June 15-Aug. 14, offering nine weeks with a variety of camps. With more than 145 different camp sessions to choose from, there is something for campers of every age. Visit www.summertime.org to view camp offerings, pricing, registration procedures and more. Email summerprograms@ssas.org or call 703-212-2777.

Celebrating 75 Years

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Congressional Schools of Virginia in Falls Church marked its 75th anniversary with a week end-long celebration on April 24 and 25, with events attended by hundreds of students, staff, alumni and friends of the school.

The festivities began on Friday, April 24 with an on-campus celebration featuring a keynote address by Linda Ward Byrd, a Congressional alumna from the Class of 1968 who recounted her memories as a Congressional student, a school where she said “everyone knew my name.”

The School’s founding family was hon-

ored in a tribute by Tina Trapnell, a former member of the School’s Board of Trustees, and former Mason District Supervisor who detailed the family’s 75-year history, from the school’s founding by Malcolm and Evelyn Devers in 1939 to today. The event also included student performances, the dedication of items selected by students for a time capsule, and a community photo on the front steps of the school.

The on-campus celebration was followed by a Golf Tournament at Reston National Golf Course, and the celebrations culminated with a 75th Anniversary Gala on the evening of April 25, attended by more than

250 parents, faculty, alumni, sponsors and friends of the school.

“Our 75th Anniversary is a wonderful opportunity for the community to reflect upon our achievements as a school. From our modest beginnings in 1939 as a small preschool, to our current standing as a leading independent early childhood, elementary and middle school in the D.C. area, we are proud to have touched the lives of so many children. We are a community shaped by a strong group of supporters, and look forward to continuing to provide excellence in education for generations to come,” stated Janet Marsh, Congressional’s Executive Director.

The Congressional Schools of Virginia is an independent school on Sleepy Hollow Road in Falls Church, offering a challenging and comprehensive educational program to students from Infant through 8th Grade. The family spirit that lives on the



Linda Ward Byrd '68

Congressional campus all year long is continued throughout the summer months in a 10-week summer camp program.



Celebrating a 75th anniversary.



Mount Vernon Gazette

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—Abraham Lincoln



**PHOTO
GALLERY!**
“Me and My Mom”

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

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Mount Vernon Gazette, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,”
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don’t send us anything irreplaceable.



Beginning Sunfish classes sail from the dock on a summer morning to practice the day's maneuvers.



Sailors rig the Sunfish in preparation for beginning the day's lesson at Youth Sailing Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina.

Summer Sailing Camp: Outside, Hands-On, Empowering

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

Amy Zang has just returned from a week sailing the British Virgin Isles with nine members of her extended family ranging from her 78-year-old, legally-blind father to her brother's 4- and 6-year old children.

"I was the captain of the 46-foot catamaran, but I had to get used to it. It is the biggest boat I have sailed. You use the same sailing skills but adapt the technique when the boat is this large."

Zang is the director and owner of the Youth Sailing Day Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina. The Washington Sailing Marina camp offers six different youth sailing classes in the summer with the Sunfish for beginners and the Flying Scot for intermediates. The advanced class uses a Hobie Cat. The racing class sails a Collegiate 420 that is a fast, maneuverable boat allowing campers the chance to work on boat balance and roll tacks.

Adventures on a Big Boat sails a Catalina 25. This group has a picnic lunch under anchor on Thursdays and they, along with the intermediate boats, sail to Old Town for

lunch on Fridays. Other groups get smoothies on Friday "so everyone gets a treat."

Sailing students must be certified before moving on to the next level. Some campers come for one week and others move up the skill level over successive weeks at camp. Windsurfing is also offered.

The camp opens June 1 and runs weekly through Aug. 22, and is already over 50 percent full. The classes run from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and are open to rising third graders-15 years of age. She thinks children choose sailing for summer because "it is different, it is outside, it is hands on and they get immediate gratification." They walk away with a life skill that they can carry into adulthood, she says.

Sailing class is empowering, Zang says. Children don't have much in their lives that they can be fully in charge of. "I give them trust, here is a boat, and you can learn to sail it and they give trust back. They learn responsibility and it is a huge confidence builder for both male and female students. Sailing isn't about strength." She adds, "When kids come they love it and keep returning year after year." She said word of mouth is powerful and she has had a number of children for many years.

Classes are systematic, beginning with a 10-minute "chalk talk" about what they will be doing that day. Then on to a drill such as a figure eight on the water followed by docking. The routine gets instilled with a game like "stick, stick, capsize." Sailing students practice docking, sailing to the dock where an instructor awaits them. If they do a perfect docking, they get a paint stick and they sail back to a buoy not too far off, switch positions (crew moves to skippers position) and sail to the dock again. If they do a good docking they get a second paint stick, and from there they sail out into the lagoon where a safety boat is stationed. They hand in their two paint sticks and get

to do a capsize, the reward for two good dockings.

She calls each day "controlled chaos" where she has to be mentally two steps ahead watching weather, keeping track of the boats at all times and supervising the instructors as well as tending to children who may need special attention. "Every single cog in the wheel has to work." Zang describes herself as a big communicator and sends group email updates to parents during the week. If there are specific things to pass along she emails the parents directly.

During the school year, Zang provides home-bound school instruction for students with illness or special needs that keep them from attending traditional school.

At this time of year, Zang is interviewing

staff, rescheduling returning staff, reviewing insurance policies and other business, organizing buses, getting boats ready for the season "putting a screwdriver to every screw, washing out boats and getting them in the water."

Zang offers bus service pickup from Bethesda. This year, a mom organized a group of 24 sailing campers from Chantilly so "I am sending a bus there to pick up the kids that week." Sailing students come from all over the metropolitan area and some are visiting relatives and attend sailing camp for a week or two. About half come with a friend although she tries to match everyone up with a buddy if they don't. "We have a lot of diplomat kids, too, a nice diverse population."

The staff includes more than 40 full-time summer counselors; many started in sailing camp themselves a number of years ago. "I have one counselor this year who started camp when he was 9." She has better than a 1-6 ratio of staff to campers.

"It's a good job for high school and college students, getting a tan, learning valuable skills and how to work with kids."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE



Amy Zang, Director and Owner of the Youth Sailing Day at the Washington Sailing Marina, starts checking the boats in April and "putting a screwdriver to every screw" before camp opens June 1.



Summer counselors at National Marina Sailing Camp give the sailors a safety lesson each day before heading for the Potomac.

