Mount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper





The Michael M. Skinner Field House is transformed into a ballroom for the 75th anniversary gala last Saturday evening.

Mount Vernon High School at 75

Mount Vernon High School was transformed into a ballroom on Saturday evening, May 16, for the school's 75th anniversary dinner and gala.

Forty-three members of the school community were honored.

The list included Brittany Amerau, Mickey Bowers, Eric Brent, Suzanne Briar, Larry Carpenter, Eugene Coleman III, William H. Davis Jr., Chadwick Eason, Ken Falke, Dean Gates, Dorothy

he Michael M. Skinner Field House at M. Gricher, Randy Hinson Jr., Thomas Hyer, Gerry Hyland, Eric Hyman, Paul Jenkins, Paula A. Johnson, Joyce H. Jones, Sandy Keim, Albert Lawrence, Ran Lawrence, Edward B. Lowry, Edith Mayo, Phebe Novakovic, Allison J. Ocean, Jennifer Ocean, Bruce Patrick, Scott Perkins, Tony Perkins, Carolyn Pierce, Lea Gabrielle Potts, Scott Price, Jeff Queen, Rex Reiley, Charles Robb, Stan Schoonover, Eric Schwartz, Michael M. Skinner, Mary Jane Thornton, Calanthia Tucker, Jay Walker, Paul A. Wardinski and Justin Wilkes.



Michael M. Skinner talks with former Virginia Gov. and U.S. Sen. Chuck Robb.



Eric Brent with Michele and Michael Brown.



Lenora Sellers, Pammy James, Dietra Jones surround Tony Perkins at the gala dinner last Saturday evening.

District Rivals

At forums, four candidates seek to differentiate themselves.

By Gerald A. Fill The Gazette

ount Vernon residents have not experienced such intense political competition to choose a Democratic nominee for an elected local office in a generation. The reason: Democratic Supervisor Gerry Hyland's decision to retire after 28 years in office.

The open seat on the Board of Supervisors has attracted four Democratic candidates with a variety of backgrounds and experience. Candice Bennett, a resident since 2008 and a business consultant, lives in the Lorton area and this is her first run for elected office. Jack Dobbyn, a native son, attorney and Woodlawn youth league coach is a self-employed businessman and current advisory committee appointee of Hyland's. Previous to this he ran unsuccessfully against Republican Del. David Albo of Springfield. Tim Sargeant, a current Hyland appointee to the Fairfax County Planning Commission, works in community relations for Dominion Power. He lists among his accomplishments playing a central role in the Lorton area redevelopment and having a hand in developing the plans for numerous other development projects throughout the county over the years. Dan Storck is a small business owner and the current elected Mount Vernon District representative to the Fairfax County School Board.

This past week these four candidates took time out from campaigning to participate in not one but two debates just a few days apart, signaling that the heavily contested Democratic primary election is just around the corner — on June 9.

First, the candidates attended a Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce-sponsored debate at the Belle Haven Country Club on May 14. After brief introductions, candidates responded to written questions prepared by the Chamber members in advance.

All four candidates supported placing a meals tax on the ballot as a referendum, although Bennett SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 18



Seated from left are candidates for the Democratic nomination for Mount Vernon District supervisor: Candice Bennett, Jack Dobbyn, Tim Sargeant and Dan Storck. Chamber of Commerce member Gavin Carter is the moderator.

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Expanding the Fountain of Knowledge

Mental health, excessive police force and civilian oversight dominate public forum.

The Gazette

eborah Moronese of Vienna said a disagreement with her son over his use of Wi-Fi in their home prompted him to call Fairfax County Police. When officers arrived on a night in January earlier this year, Moronese said they interrogated her, followed her up to her bedroom, handcuffed her, dragged her back downstairs and screamed at her to stay seated.

"I was absolutely outraged," she said, adding that she had "no idea what they were trying to accomplish" and officers "physically, mentally berated me in front of my son." Moronese said she wasn't arrested, nor was anything resolved.

Her story was one of 20 presentations during a May 18 public forum of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Citizens had the option of signing up in advance or on the night of the meeting.

The commission began meeting in March after being established by the Board of Supervisors to review police practices for use of force, the release of information and how officers interact with mentally ill individuals.

The county was facing increasing public outrage over how it handled information regarding the death of unarmed Springfield resident John Geer. Geer was shot and killed in August 2013 by Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres, however Torres' name and details of the incident weren't released until earlier this year.

Remarks from the public speakers followed brief reports from several subcommittees of the commission that have already held public meetings. The concerns of families coping with adult children with mental illness was a recurring theme at the forum.

Commission chairman Michael Hershman said that while the commissioners represent a great depth of experience, "We're not the fountain of all knowledge. We want to hear from the public in Fairfax County, the concerns, recommendations you might have."

George Becerra of Burke expressed concern about the composition of the commission, as well as the tight timespan in which they've been tasked with providing a report and recommendations on a breadth of issues to the Board of Supervisors.

Larry Bussey of Reston asked the commission to examine and make recommendations regarding the "disproportionate contacts of Black and Hispanic youth with the juvenile justice system." Police have "race neutral policies with disproportionate outcomes." Black youth are referred to the juvenile justice system at a rate four times higher than white youth, he said.

Claire Guthrie Gastañaga, American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia executive director, addressed public safety problems from a national perspective, including the over-



Mary Tracy of the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria speaks at the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on May 18. She recommended body cameras for officers, prohibiting arrest quotas, ensuring citizen complaints are heard and a citizen oversight body.

incarceration of people with mental illness. She also spoke about the need to "shift from a culture of secrecy to a culture of transparency." Without a shift in the current paradigm, Gastañaga said, "trust is going to be something that we won't see." Yani Yancey of Reston said, "While it may be true that most people feel safe and protected by police in Fairfax County, there are more who feel the reverse every time there's another incident like the one that inspired this commission. It doesn't help that both the police department and Fairfax County's elected officials appear more concerned with covering up bad acts, bad policies and bad cops than they are with addressing bad acts, bad policies and bad cops."

Carol Bashore of Annandale has an adult son with an eight-year history of mental illness. She spoke about how valuable crisis intervention training for officers "has been invaluable to families like mine that rely on police in domestic situations when my son's behavior rises to the level we need help. Police are the first responders in a mental health crisis." When calling the police during an episode, she said it's crucial to request officers who have had that specific training. "We've been blessed to have them respond each time — each could've had a far different and very detrimental outcome," Bashore said. She continued that she was "repeatedly impressed by the calm demeanor officers who've helped us many times have used." Bashore called for additional training for officers because "the skill of communicating with someone in a psychotic state does not come naturally."

Joanna Walker of Oakton is the mother of a 27-year-old with bipolar disorder. "We've had many experiences, some includ

SEE COMMISSION, PAGE 8

New Wegmans Dedicated on Armed Forces Day

embers of the Hayfield Second ary School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps not only faced the pressure of raising the flag for the first time at the soon to be open Alexandria Wegmans. They also had to figure out the pole's hidden crank mechanism located behind a locked door.

But when the time came on Saturday morning, May 16, Armed Forces Day, the team's training and preparation helped the ceremony to go off without fault.

The group's Cadet Captain, senior Matt Bour said the experience was all about "honoring America." Bour, junior Nia Moore, junior Sasha Cunnane, freshman Bryan Landin and junior Jazmine Henderson were hand-picked from the school's 172 cadets for this ceremony.

The Pennsylvania-based grocery store chain is scheduled to open this Alexandria location at the corner of Telegraph and Beulah Roads in June. The third branch in Fairfax County, it will anchor an all-new shopping destination called Hilltop Village

Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander Col. Michelle Mitchell was on hand to assist with



From left, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 member WJ Leonard of North Springfield visit with Hayfield Secondary School **Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps** members junior Sasha Cunnane, freshman Bryan Landin and senior Cadet Captain

the dedication.

"It is fitting that Wegmans would choose to raise their flag on Armed Forces Day, symbolizing their commitment to the community and their support of our military, veterans and their families," Mitchell said in



From left, Fort Belvoir Garrison Com-Mike Dempsey and CSM Scott Guillory like Wegmans to organize pichelped dedicate the new grocery store nics and other community

mander Col. Michelle Mitchell, Wegmans Alexandria store manager and celebrate Armed Forces Day.

her remarks. "Whenever the flag is raised,

we are reminded of our unity and our com-

mitment to ensuring liberty and justice for

all. We are honoring our country and the

hard-working men and women who have

served and defended it."

With the new store being a close neighbor with Fort Belvoir, Mitchell said its arrival is well-anticipated" on post and expects it to be "great for business, bringing a lot to the local economy."

Gary Kelch of Burke and WJ Leonard of North Springfield, members of the Springfieldbased Post 7327 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, were among honored guests for the morning's dedication.

"It was a very nice ceremony," said Leonard. "We like to coordinate with people projects."

Kelch agreed that "It's nice to see a community business do such an honor."

The Hilltop Village Wegmans is scheduled to open June 14.

— Tim Peterson

News

The Fight for the 45th $\,^{Democratic\ primary\ candidates\ vying}$ to replace Krupicka lay out priorities.

By Vernon Miles The Gazette

s with most candidates in a primary, the Democrats campaigning to replace Robert Krupicka as delegate for Virginia's 45th District which includes parts of Alexandria, Arlington and Mount Vernon, don't vary greatly in their positions on political issues. Where these candidates do vary is their experience and priorities.

Krupicka won the seat in a 2012 special election after Del. David Elgin's resignation. In the 2015 legislative session, Krupicka proposed 21 bills, seven of which passed. In March, Krupicka announced that he would be retiring to focus on operating Sugar Shack, a branch of a Richmond-based doughnut company that Krupicka opened in January.

There are five candidates running for the Democratic nomination: Larry Altenburg. Craig Fifer, Julie Jakopic, Mark Levine, and Clarence Tong. Many of the Democratic candidates cited education, pre-kindergarten education in particular, as one of their primary campaign goals. Each of the candidates also acknowledged that it will impossible to pass legislation, as a minority party, without cooperating with their Republican counterparts. Many candidates had different notions on how to accomplish this.

LARRY ALTENBURG

Altenburg's primary focus is on educational reform. Altenburg with two children, ages 6 and 9, said he's frustrated by how test-driven Alexandria schools are.



Altenburg

"The focus has

been testing, testing, measuring performance of students and teachers on testing," said Altenburg. "Curriculum has focused way more attention on how to take tests than learning."

Altenburg said his older daughter is starting to take tests in school and from what he's seen, he's disappointed by how much time in the classroom in spent on teaching for those tests. Altenburg also expressed frustration that partisan differences in Richmond have held back educational reform.

"I appreciate and applaud [Krupicka's] efforts fighting for Democratic values," said Altenburg, "but we need to find areas of common ground to move forward."

Altenburg has served as a member on the Alexandria Board of Zoning Appeals and was previously president of the Del Ray Citizens' Association. Altenburg currently serves as vice president of Rapiscan Systems, a security systems company, and is the CEO and managing general partner at Cyclic Professional Services LLC, a small, Alexandria-based management consulting business. Altenburg cites his experience as a parent and as a local business leader as limiting the influence of his greatest strength.

"I've been involved at the grassroots level," said Altenburg. "I've rolled my sleeves up and I've solving problems locally. Krupicka is a good friend of mine, and seeing that he was stepping away, a number of folks told me they need a parent down there [in Richmond] and someone who knows the community."

CRAIG FIFER

Fifer's campaign priority, which he calls "dignity and opportunity," emphasizes giving children a safe start with access to pre-kindergarten education. Fifer said this experience is, in



Fifer

part, informed by his work as a court appointed special advocate (CASA). Fifer said he worked with children facing abuse or neglect, and convinced him of the necessity of school-based pre-k activities and the long- term benefits of pre-k education.

Fifer shares Altenburg and other Democrats' desire for education reform, but said that legislation is about more than passion.

"In a primary, there's not a lot of differences in the issues, it's the experience," said Fifer. "I've been involved for 20 years. I understand the needs and the legislative process, which is going to be important for a delegate in a minority who's going to have to work with people from different [political groups]."

Fifer referenced his experience as chair of the Northern Virginia Regional Board for the University of Virginia-based Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership. The organization, founded in 1993, is built on strengthening non-partisan government ties. Fifer started working with the organization in 2003, and said that the over a decade of experience with the organization has given him an extensive network of contacts on both sides of the political aisle in Richmond. According to the Sorensen Institute's website, the organization has over 20 members in the Virginia Legisla-

Fifer currently serves as the communications director for the City of Alexandria, a position he has occupied since 2014. Fifer had previously served as deputy director for communications and public information for Alexandria since 2010 and as an electronics communications coordinator for the City of Roanoke between 1996 and 2003, but Fifer said his experience outside of government is as critical to his priorities as a candidate.

Fifer also serves as the president of the Virginia Coalition for Open Government. Fifer said government transparency is a strong area of experience for Fifer and a key piece of his campaign. Despite recent ethics reforms in the Virginia legislature, Fifer said there's still a long road towards money in state politics. In particular, Fifer said he's disturbed by the 76 percent of bills killed in the house without the votes recorded.

"You should expect the General Assembly to say how they voted," said Fifer.

While Fifer said he'd push for private and public mental and medical help for uninsured Virginians, he acknowledged that Medicaid expansion remains a pipe-dream for Democrats.

"Republicans reject Medicaid expansion as Democratic," said Fifer. "It's unlikely without a Democratic majority, and anyone who says this is their top priority isn't being realistic."

JULIE JAKOPIC

Jakopic's campaign centers around affordable housing, the area where Jakopic believes she shows a clear leadership advantage. Jakopic served as chair of the Alexandria Economic



Jakopic

opportunity Commission between 2008 and 2010 and served as chair of the Alexandria Community Services Board between 1997 and 2001. Jakopic also said that her work with the Department of Health and Services, both at a national level and in over 40 states streamlining services, has taught her that decisions on these issues aren't made in Washington D.C. anymore.

Jakopic was endorsed by Krupicka, whose state and city council campaigns she's worked on since 2003. Krupicka was a member of the Community Services Board, an organization Jakopic served as vice chair and later chair.

"You can pull together extremes, the trick is to find common ground where we can all agree," said Jakopic. "You discover that no one has horns and a tail."

Jakopic said the secret to accomplishing affordable housing objectives with hostile neighbors was to turn them into partners in the process.

Like the other Democrats, Jakopic said healthcare reform is important, but says she is primarily focusing on reforming mental health reform. The need for changes to mental healthcare has personal connections for Jakopic, whose father committed suicide when she was 14. Jakopic encouraged conversations to be had about changing regulatory measures, changes Jakopic said can occur without substantial funding changes: specifically regarding availability of beds in medical facilities.

If elected as a delegate, Jakopic said she would attempt to break the power of Do-

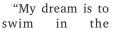


minion Power as well as predatory lenders over Virginia citizens. Jakopic said that she would campaign to increase transparency regarding Dominion's rate setting process.

"I don't think I can walk in and get this all done on day one," said Jakopic. "I think we're as different a primary as I've ever seen. We each have areas of expertise. I've spent my whole career working on [affordable housing and legislation]. If you asked my about wildlife preservation, I'd have no idea, but these are things I've been working on for years and I have the brick and mortar to show for it."

MARK LEVINE

Levine's campaign focus is on environmental issues. In particular, Levine's ambition chief would be to see legislation that would begin cleaning the Potomac River.





Levine

Potomac one day," said Levine. "In 10 years, it's possible. We can start with little things, like preventing raw sewage from being dumped into the river or state compacts with Pennsylvania, who pollutes the river more than Virginia, Maryland, or D.C. This is a big goal, but big goals are just small goals magnified."

Levine said he would also propose legislation that would allow people with solar panels in their yard to sell the excess energy back to Virginia Dominion Power.

"[Virginia] Dominion Power doesn't allow this, but it saves energy," said Levine. Despite 2015 legislation that deregulated Virginia Dominion Power, like the bill that allows the company to bypass financial re

> SEE DEMOCRATS BATTLE, PAGE 5 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News

Democrats Battle in 45th

From Page 4

view, Levine says the passage of similar solar energy legislation in "red states" like Georgia and Arkansas gives him hope for Virginia.

Regarding Alexandria's overburdened and outdated sewage system, Levine wants to offer tax incentives for homeowners who collect and utilize their own rainwater to avoid runoff into the Potomac.

Levine says he's aware that passing environmental legislation can be difficult in a Republican-controlled legislature, but insisted that it's mostly a matter of making the right compromises and alliances.

"The Tea Party is the bane of the Progressive's existence on issues like Medicaid and minimum wage, but there are certain Green-Tea alliances that can help pass environmental legislation," said Levine. Levine said that coalitions with conservatives are about understanding the different priorities, namely a focus on liberty and financial responsibility, two areas he believes his solar panel legislation would be feasible. "And sometimes the best you can do with that is just stopping bad laws, like [ones that allow] fracking. I know how to build a coalition to get people riled up. Do I think we're going to pass a law banning fracking? No. But can we stop a fracking proposal? Maybe. It's about knowing how to work it and who to talk to. People are reasonable once you get past the rhetoric and policy."

Levine describes himself as policy geek who genuinely enjoys reading and analyzing legislation.

"I know how to craft, read, and negotiate laws," said Levine. "I know how to make the right kind of compromises, I've done it for 20 years working inside the system, outside the system, and around the system. Other candidates would be fine legislators and they're nice people, but they don't have the experience I have. If you're going to hire a surgeon, there could be five really nice people, but if only one of them has done operation before, I'd rather have that surgeon." Levine is a Constitutional lawyer and journalist. While Levine had worked on domestic abuse and gay-rights bills as an advocate, most of Levine's policy experience comes from his time in 2001 to 2003 as chief legislative counsel to Barney Frank, a congressman from Massachusetts. During his time with Frank, Levine saw the Democratic congressman work with Republican U.S. Rep. Ron Paul to work on a bill legalizing marijuana. Levine said that seeing two politicians so politically opposite
THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE for the 45th Disworking on a common cause was a large part of his influence to run for office.

CLARENCE TONG

Like Levine, Tong's primary campaign focus is on environmental issues. As delegate, Tong said he hopes to bring more clean energy jobs to benefit the local environment and the economy.

On a local level, Tong has served as a board member of the North Old Town Independent Citizen's Associa-



Tong

tion, and says he's particularly proud of his efforts with the organization to clean the site of the former GenOne power plant in Old Town.

Tong's political experience is primarily tied to environmental legislation. In 2010-2011, Tong worked as a congressional liaison to the U.S. Department of Energy and between April 2012 and October 2014 served as the senior advisor and legislative affairs specialist for the U.S. Department of Energy. Tong said this legislative experience at a national level has given him experience with working on environmental issues while Democrats are a minority.

"Just because we're in the minority doesn't mean we can't move forward," said Tong. "We have to find common ground where we can, but overall, we also have to bring up the environmental impact [of legislation]. I'm under no illusions here. We need more Democratic seats [in Virginia legislature] and I would be fully prepared to work with the Democratic caucus chair to make sure that happens. With 32 Democrats [in the House of Delegates], we won't be able to move bills forward."

Tong cited his experience as former chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee from January of 2014, where the committee donated and helped campaign for Democratic candidates in neighboring districts. Some, like 34th District House of Delegates candidate Kathleen Murphy in Fairfax, were successful. Others, like the campaign to unseat independent John Vihstadt from the Arlington County Board, were

"You win some, you lose some," said Tong, "but as a Democratic chairman in a Democrat rich area, it's important that we were able to reach out and help. We have the numbers in Alexandria, and the Arlington Democrats reached out and asked for our assis-

trict seat will be determined in the June 9 primary.

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PEOPLE

As They Are Church fellowship group caters to people with mental health conditions

By Tim Peterson THE GAZETTE

am McLaughlin of Mount Vernon displays a white paper mask she's painted with a blend of various shades of blues and purples. Dark lines streak from the sides of the nose out to the ears like whiskers.

She used oil pastel to express thinking about water, recalling family trips to Cape Hatteras when she was a child. "It's colors I like and memories of the beach," McLaughlin said, "where all my senses are alive."

McLaughlin has been diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder and suffered a mental breakdown before getting treatment. She said art helps her work through continuing depression issues, more than talking about them. McLaughlin also enjoys coming to weekly sessions of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Agape Reservoir fellowship group.

Each Friday night from September through May, the church opens the doors to its fellowship hall and invites members of the community for dinner, activities and socializing. They specifically cater to people with mental health conditions.

McLaughlin looks forward to it each week because "it's a light, social thing, and the food." But more importantly, she said, "The news says we're violent — here people treat you like a regular person. It's a judgementfree zone."

Dr. Glenn Fatzinger is a member of the church; his late wife Harriet founded the group over 15 years ago as an outlet for their daughter, who is selectively mute, to experience fellowship in an alternative setting to the church service.

The Fatzingers' realized the concept of a free meal and activities, centered around promoting a supportive environment for individuals with mental health conditions, wasn't common in the community.

"Nobody was doing this," Fatzinger said. "No other churches in the area. But it's a Christian concept to extend out and serve



Amanda Girard of Springfield made several paper-based artworks for the show at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Agape fellowship group, including a rose-

others."

So the weekly gatherings were opened to any member of the community. Between September and May, they see an average of 50 to 60 individuals. Though they accept referrals from Fairfax County mental health services and help picking up those without transportation, there's no medical therapy offered.

"The purpose is strictly fellowship," Fatzinger said. "We don't try to remake them into something else, we deal with people as they are."

Every meeting begins with a "friendship circle" where those present share their joys and concerns for the week, if they choose. Then a homemade dinner is served by members of the church, sometimes with help from members from St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria.

Many of the guests have apartments in the community, Fatzinger said, though a few who come are homeless.

"It may be the best meal of the week for some of them," he said.

Next there are organized activities that range from arts and crafts, board games and writing groups to Bible study.



Dr. Glenn Fatzinger (left) and Jon Hansen of Mount Vernon enjoy the fellowship of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Agape meetings each Friday.



Alex Westwood of Mount Vernon depicted a baseball player with "method drawing," focusing on the skill of creating art under a time limit.

"We don't talk a lot about mental health," said Jon Hansen of Mount Vernon, who has been coming almost since the group started. "We talk more about our abilities than our disabilities."

Hansen said writing about his life experiences has been "cathartic and helpful."

For many, the social aspect is a key reason why they continue to come, year after

"I come for the friends and socializing, otherwise it wouldn't get done," said Alex Westwood of Mount Vernon.

"I like the people, the interactions. We lift each other up," said Charles Murphy of West Springfield, who hosts an annual talent show at the group meeting around Hallow-



Members of the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church Agape fellowship group showed off their art at a show on May 15.



Pam McLaughlin of **Mount Vernon** shows of her water-themed mask, painted with oil pastel, made at the Mount **Vernon Pres**byterian Church Agape fellowship group.



Sandra Murphy of Mount Vernon (left) and her brother Charles Murphy of West Springfield (right) stand by some of the artwork Sandra Murphy created at the **Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church** Agape fellowship group.

een with his sister Sandra Murphy of Mount Vernon.

"I come for friends, the camaraderie, something to do on a Friday," said Sandra Murphy, "to get a good meal and the Bible study."

For more information on Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, visit mvpconline.org.

Packing Food for Others

ublic school students receiving free or reduced meals may face food insecurity challenges on the weekend as well.

Some schools in Fairfax County like Woodley Hills Elementary are partnering with Fairfaxbased non-profit Our Daily Bread to help bridge the gap from Friday to Monday.

The "Food 4 Thought" prohealthy non-perishable meals, drinks and snacks - two breakfasts, lunches and snacks in

each pack. School social workers identify students who need food assistance, including those with parents who have lost their income, are homeless or ill.

Student groups including Brownies and Daisies have organized at the school to help pack the donated food. The program is expected to resume in the fall along with public packing events.

For more information, visit gram provides packages of www.odbfairfax.org/Food-forthought.

— Tim Peterson



From left: Zoe Buckles, Giuliana Jones, Isabella Winiarski, Romaine Winiarski, Anna Lee and Natalie Stankiewicz of Brownie Troop 1196 help put together donation packages at Woodley Hills for families that are food-insecure.

News

Suspects Charged in Murder

etectives charged Gregory Brown, 23, of Washington D.C., and Niziah Williams, of Clinton, Md. with the murder of Santos Zelaya that took place March 26.

The two men were taken to the County Adult Detention Center after they were charged on May 15. They're being held at the jail without bond.

Back in March, police reported officers responding to a report of a shot person around the 6100 block of North Kings Highway in the Huntington area. They found Zelaya, 64, inside a residence with multiple gunshot wounds, the report said. He died after being air-lifted to a local hospital.

The police update said the medical examiner concluded Zelaya's cause of death





Williams

was gunshot wound.

The initial report said police were seeking four suspects.

Detectives are continuing to investigate the incident, the more recent report said.

— Tim Peterson

Meeting on North Hill Set for May 28

n 1981, the Fairfax County Redevelopment Housing Authority purchased a parcel of land off Richmond Highway, north of Dart Drive in the Mount Vernon District. A Federal Community Development Block Grant funded the purchase. Though a portion of the land was developed, 33 acres, called the North Hill property, have sat unimproved through the years.

On Thursday, May 28, citizens can meet with CHPPENN I, LLC, a developer the county chose to submit a redevelopment proposal for the property. Fairfax is considering its plan for building a combination of affordable and market-rate housing on the land, while saving a portion for passive use park land

The public meeting is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. in the Mount Vernon Government Center Community Rooms, 2511 Parkers Lane in Alexandria.

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/north_hill or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/downloads/north_hill_mp.pdf.

— Tim Peterson

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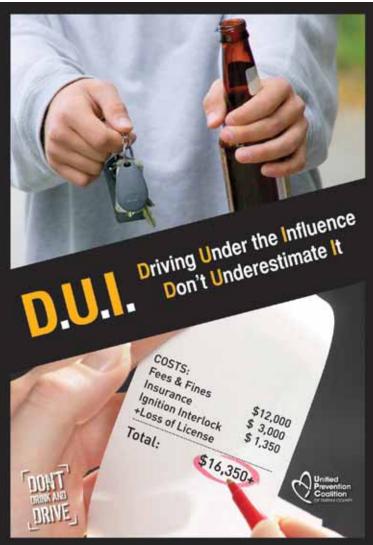
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Funding for this ad is provided by the federal SAMHSA Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework

www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org

Special thanks to CONNECTION

News

Commission Holds Public Forum

ing with the Adult Detention Center and with the police," she said, "some of which could've gone better had people had more training."

Michelle Evans, formerly of Burke, said that she was abused by her husband and then falsely arrested for domestic abuse herself after she called 911. "The Fairfax County Police Department continues to revictimize me in order to protect an officer that made a litany of mistakes then perjured himself in a court of law to conceal his misconduct," she said. Evans called for civilian oversight of the police department and "drastic changes to Virginia's [Freedom of Information Act] exclusions that allow police departments to conceal and withhold information from citizens."

Mary Tracy of Mount Vernon said: "I'm here tonight because I believe our police department is not quite the poster child our leadership would have us believe. We may not have riots on the street, but there's a growing perception the police department leadership is arrogant and out of touch." Tracy recommended body cameras for officers, prohibiting arrest quotas, ensuring citizen complaints are heard and establishing a citizen oversight body.

Michael Pendrak of Annandale advocated for additional crisis intervention training and training tools for police officers. This, he said, would help shift the paradigm "from command and control back to protect and serve."

Phil Boughton of Mount Vernon told the story of Fairfax County Police officers entering his home with guns drawn, looking for his son with bipolar disor-

der who had failed to appear for a court date. "Right now I would invite 98 percent of them over to my house for dinner," he said, referring to officers in his local Mount Vernon district, "so that's not the problem here. The problem is there's a few of those folks who have way too much testosterone, I think they're attack dogs." Boughton is a former Navy pilot. "I didn't fly fighters over Vietnam to be threatened by a Fairfax County police officer," Boughton said, adding that one officer threatened to shoot his dog. His letter to the police chief detailing the incident was never answered. "I wanted to be sure the leadership knows that some of these [officers] are out of control."

Burnette Scarboro of the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria wanted to call attention to "profiling that still exists, particularly for our African American males," she said. "I don't get to sleep until my son reaches his destination. Please don't let this be buried under the more higher profile cases that do ex-

John Lovaas, an alternate Commission member for Nicholas Beltrante, said, "It was a pretty interesting sample, people talking about interactions with officers not interested in protecting and serving but showing power."

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova agreed that "It was a great opportunity, I enjoyed listening, hearing these perspectives."

Bulova said in response to the calls for a civilian oversight body, "I'm interested to hear from the members on models that have have been effective in other

SEE POLICE, PAGE 9



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Photo Gallery

"Me and My Dad"

To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Father'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 email photos, send to: editors@

connectionnews papers.com

News

Police

From Page 9

jurisdictions. It's something our board has been reluctant to do."

Whether the board being provided with strong examples could turn the tide, Bulova said, "That could be the case." She added they would seek incidences of "what would the oversight board look like, how would it work?"

After the final speaker, commission chairman Michael Hershman said the forum, "has been everything I hoped it would be. I've learned a lot. It's given me, my fellow commissioners a lot to think about, a lot to work with."

Hershman continued, saying by the end of the meeting, he hoped citizens "will walk away thinking you still can contribute."

The next meeting of the full Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission is scheduled for Monday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax. All meetings are open to the public. More information, including video of previous meetings, agendas and materials presented, can be found at www.fairfax county.gov/policecommission.

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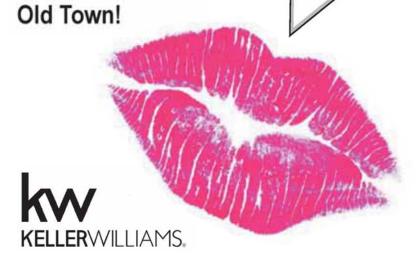
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- Saturday, May 2 or June 6 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at 309 Holland Lane, The Royalton Condos above Whole Foods, in the lounge
- Thursday, May 21 or June 18 from 7 to 8 p.m. at 2331 Mill Road, suite 100 (yellow awning at Intelligent Office) R.S.V.P. at 703-739-4663 or info@StoneWoodTeam.com

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OPINION

Remembering on Memorial Day 2015

On Memorial Day, take at least one minute to reflect on those who have died.

n Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the line of duty in the Civil War, stunningly about 2

EDITORIAL

percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Af-

ghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,800 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Since Memorial Day 2014, with military operations winding down in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced the deaths of two military service members from Virginia. Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat province, Afghanistan while

Monday, May 25, Arlington National Cemetery,

National Memorial Day Observance to honor

a.m., prelude by U.S. Marine Band. 11 a.m.,

Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-

Laving Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown

Memorial Amphitheater. Free and open to the

in the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome

♦ OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE at 12:01 n m

of the Unknown Soldier or seated in the

Center's parking lot from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Soldier, to be followed by an observance program

hosted by the Department of Defense in Arlington's

public. Attendees are encouraged to be at the Tomb

amphitheater by 9:30 a.m. Free parking and shuttle

America's fallen military service members. 10:30

A Few Ways To Pay Tribute on Memorial Day

conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

EVERY YEAR before Memorial Day, The Connection names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and enter-tained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen.'

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, Va., died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February, 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Va., died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Va., died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Va., died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicki, 24, of Lexington, Va., died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a road-

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National

Cemetery at 12:01 p.m. and urges people across the

country to pause for a national moment of silence to

honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Ceremony - Versace Plaza/Memorial in Alexandria

❖ Arlington - May 25 - Air Force Association's Memorial

Day Ceremony, 9 a.m. commemorative Memorial

Day wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m., at the Air

Observance - Town of Herndon Memorial Day Observance, Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 10 a.m.

Force Memorial. - 1 Air Force Memorial Dr.,

❖ Herndon - May 25 - Herndon Memorial Day

❖ Alexandria - May 25, 11 a.m. - Memorial Day

Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 2701

Commonwealth Ave.

side bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School. Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died

June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan, 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a cham-

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he vas killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C.

Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He vas a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

SEE REFLECT ON THOSE, PAGE 11

Mount Vernon Gazette

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This Memorial Day, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) will lay a wreath before the 10 A Mount Vernon Gazette May 21-27, 2015

OPINION

Reflect on Those who Have Died

From Page 10

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamouski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va.,

died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being been seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

- Military Notes -

Email announcements to gazette@connection newspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

Army Pvt. **Rocy Y. Marquez** of Alexandria has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Army Pvt. **Claudia Kusi Appouh** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. Kusi Appouh is the daughter of George Appouh and Agatha Dwakena of Alexandria.

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Please come out and join us for this eighth annual golf tournament. If you cannot join us, please consider a sponsorship role from the list above.

Proceeds from this year's tournament will be directed to our Bathroom/Concession Stand Upgrade Fund, as well as other athletic funding at West Potomac High School.

WABC and FHSA 9th Annual Golf Spectacular

The Wolverine Athletic Booster Club and Ft. Hunt Sportsmen's Association are volunteer organizations made up of parents and friends who give their time, talents, and fundraise to ensure the success of West Potomac High School athletics. DATE

Thursday June 11, 2015

TIMES
Check-In: 11:30 a.m.
(box lunch provided)
Shotgun Start -1:00 p.m.

BBQ dinner post play

FEE

\$155 per person Bring a Foursome (\$580)

LOCATION

Laurel Hill Golf Club 8701 Laurel Crest Dr. Lorton, VA 22079 Phone: 703.493.8849

CONTACTS

Lee Harrington leeharring@aol.com Rick Genuario





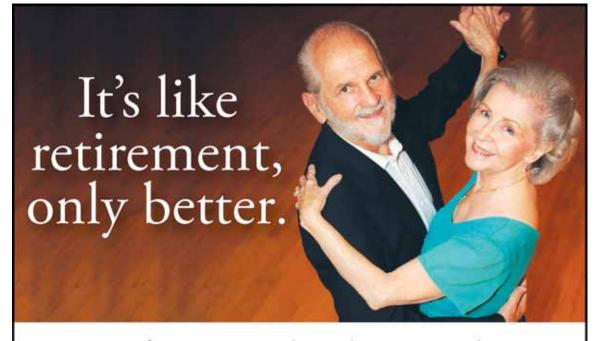
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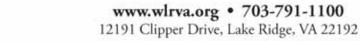
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HISTORY

The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington

Excerpted from "A Son and his Adoptive Father: The Marquis de Lafayette and George Washington" 2006 exhibition at Mount Vernon.

o passionate was the Marquis de Lafayette to join the fight for independence in the American colonies that — at his own expense, against the wishes of family and king, and without the knowledge of his wife — he set sail on April 20, 1777 for a place he had never seen. The inexperienced 19-year-old French nobleman spoke no English but studied the language on his journey. In Philadelphia on July 31, 1777, Lafayette met George Washington, then 45 years old, and the two men formed a life-long friendship despite differences in age and nationality. They were united by a common belief in individual liberty and a democratic society that has set them apart as two of the greatest leaders in modern history. Lafayette found in Washington a father figure (his father was killed in battle when Lafayette was only two). To Washington, who had no children of his own, the courageous Lafayette met his expectations of the ideal son.

Like Washington, Lafayette served without pay, supporting himself and his troops. From Lafayette's initiation on the battlefield at Brandywine to his critical role in bringing France into the war as an ally and the decisive victory at Yorktown, the two men's mutual respect and admiration grew. In a 1784 letter to the marquis, George Washington wrote, "It is unnecessary, I persuade myself to repeat to you my Dear Marqs. the sincerity of my regards and friendship, nor



"Washington and Lafayette at Mount Vernon, 1784."

have I words which could express my affection for you, were I to attempt it."

In the years following the Revolutionary War, the families exchanged gifts and corresponded frequently. Lafayette's strong abolitionist views no doubt influenced Washington's evolving attitudes toward slavery. Lafayette returned to America in 1784 to visit his "family" at Mount Vernon. During the French Revolution, Lafayette fought for the same freedom and equality he had seen in America. As commander of the National Guard in Paris in 1789, Lafayette obtained one of the keys to the infamous Bastille prison, which the French revolutionaries had destroyed. With profound emotion, he sent it to Washington as "a tribute Which I owe as A Son to My Adoptive father, as an aid de Camp to My General, as a Missionary of liberty to its patriarch." Through bankruptcy, prison, and exile, Lafayette clung to Washington's example of character and leadership.

At the invitation of President James Monroe on behalf of the American people, Lafayette returned to the United States as "the Nation's Guest" on Aug. 15, 1824. His landing at Castle Garden in New York was the first of many exuberant celebrations during his 13-month visit. Lafayette received numerous honors and was the first foreign dignitary to address Congress. In Lafavette, Americans saw a living link to George Washington and the glories of the founding era. During the trip, Lafayette reconnected with his American family - the Washingtons. He visited Mount Vernon to mourn at Washington's tomb and to embrace the descendants of George and Martha Washington. Although Lafayette declined a soldier's request to remain in the United States to be buried at his death alongside Washington, Lafayette did return to France with a trunk of American soil for his grave.

Much as France and America had mourned the death of George Washington in 1799, the two countries were brought together again in grief at the loss of Lafayette on May 20, 1834. The chambers of both houses of the U.S. Congress were draped in black. As the years passed, the milestones of Lafayette's life — particularly those he shared with Washington - were memorialized in solemn celebration.

As the Hermione sails past Mount Vernon on June 9, it will pass the "Lafayette bed chamber" on the second floor of the Mansion, which faces the Potomac River. Lafayette stayed in this room during his 1784 visit to Mount Vernon. Today, visitors can pay their respects to the Marquis — the noble "Friend of America" — on a tour of Mount Vernon, where they can see the Key to the Bastille sent by Lafayette and the Lafayette Bedchamber.

Major Paving Operations Set to Start this Summer in 44th District

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL Delegate (D-44)

s the weather warms and we approach the summer, it also means that we are approaching the road mowing and paving season in Northern Virginia, and good news is coming for the 44th District.

From 1987 to 2013, the General Assembly refused to raise Virginia's \$0.17/gallon gas tax to even keep up with inflation. As



salaries, the COMMENTARY secondary road paving was limcost of materials, and infra-

structure needs all increased, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) had to prioritize funds for other critical maintenance needs. As a result, grass

mowing was massively limited, primary and interstate maintenance was prioritized and

ited. Over 70 percent of secondary roads in Northern Virginia

were rated to have substandard pavement quality (secondary roads are roads numbered over 600).

Over the last six years I have been in office, I have consistently received complaints about pavement quality - especially on major secondary arteries like Fort Hunt Road and Sherwood Hall Lane.

As I began receiving annual paving re-

ports from VDOT, I began to question why only a handful of roads, usually totaling less than one mile were being paved in the 44th District. The answer was always lack of funding, but I could not help but notice more activity in others parts of Northern Virginia so I began to be the squeaky wheel.

In 2013, the legislature raised a series of taxes to help fund our roads and maintenance funding was restored. Last year, we saw the first major batch of paving in our SEE PAVING, PAGE 18



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Old Town Commons 815 Alfred Street N, Alexandria, VA
Stunning brick end unit 4-level TH with charming front porch.
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Karen Leonard CBmove.com/AX8634639



Open House, Sunday 1-4 pm Old Town 708 Snowden Hallowell Way, Alexandria, VA LEED Cert. Brick End Unit TH w/Rooftop Terrace overlooking Old Town. Walk 4 blks to Metro. Walk score 90+ to shops, rest. No detail overlooked. Private St. Open 1-4 Sun. 5/24 \$975,000 Fred Marcellus CBmove.com/AX8635655



Just Listed! 6201 Waterlily Court, Alexandria, VA Elegant 4 BR, 4.5 BA Colonial w/2-Car Garage on a quiet cul-de-sac. Gracious Rooms w/Formal LR & DR, Gourmet Kitchen, hdwd floors, screened-in porch, amazing LL Recreation/Media Room. \$929,900 Ann-Marie Grotticelli CBmove.com/FX8630459



Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Dawson Woods 3804 Kings Hill Court, Alexandria, VA Huge Home on quiet cul-de-sac situated in a beautiful area. Walk to MVHS. Rooms are big and bright with plenty of storage! Gourmet kitchen with spacious family room and breakfast room. 2-car garage! Basement is finished with 2nd family room, weight room and 5th bedroom. Media room is a BONUS! Deck off back of home. \$925,000 Eileen Marousek CBmove.com/FX8624851



Warwick Village 2912 Hickory Street, Alexandria, VA
Warwick Village beauty END unit townhome! 3 bed/2 baths, finished
basement, gardens front, side and back! Gleaming hardwoods, open
concept, hardscaping front and back! Gorgeous! \$530,000
Lyssa Seward CBmove.com/AX8365494

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Cameron Station 124 Cameron Station Boulevard, Alexandria, VA Stunning, pristine, end unit TH. Sun-filled open spaces w/gleaming hardwoods on 3 lvls, fresh paint, MBR suite with FP and renovated bath. This home offers privacy and relaxation. \$609,000 Karen Leonard CBmove.com/AX8634639



Wilton Hall 6030 Shaffer Dr, Alexandria, VA
Great close-in location near Metro! Beautiful sunroom overlooking
lush backyard. 4 BR, 3 BA. Updates: baths, HVAC, windows.
www.RitaRealtor.com \$499,000
Rita McCauley-Redmond CBmove.com/FX8633373



Open House, Sunday 1-4 pm Hiddenbrook 7871 Rolling Woods Ct, Springfield, VA Over 55 luxury community. Former model. Main level end unit with 2 bedrooms, den, and garage parking down the hall. 9-ft ceilings, 3 piece crown molding, and plantation shutters \$425,000 Steve Deleyiannis CBmove.com/FX8546383



Huntington 2134 Farrington Ave, Alexandria, VA

Near Metro! Many updates: windows, kitchen, bath, h/w floors. 2 BR, 1 BA, 3 levels, fenced yard. www.RitaRealtor.com \$325,000

Rita McCauley-Redmond CBmove.com/FX8627102



Just Listed River Towers 6631 Wakefield Drive #517,
Alexandria, VA 2 BR/1.5 BA corner unit boasting impeccable hardwood floors, fresh paint & great roof-top view. Nestled in 26 acres of park-like setting just south of Old Town, Alexandria. \$225,000
Heidi Burkhardt CBmove.com/FX8634597

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Entertainment



Susan Lynskey and Michael Russotto star in "The Letters" at Alexandria's MetroStage.

MetroStage Presents Lowell's 'The Letters'

Psychological, cat-and-mouse drama takes place in 1930's Soviet Union.

By Steve Hibbard
The Gazette

etroStage in Alexandria is pre senting the psychological drama, "The Letters," directed by John Vreeke, Through June 14. The twoperson play written by John W. Lowell, starring Susan Lynskey as Anna and Michael Russotto as The Director, takes place in an office in 1930's Soviet Union. The Director calls Anna, a bureaucratic functionary, into his office, and a psychological cat-andmouse game ensues. It represents a slice of paranoid life under Stalin and the effort to edit, suppress or censor the writings of prominent artists. Based on the real-life Soviet efforts to edit the sexually frank letters of composer Tchaikovsky to his male lover/interest, this is the Washington, D.C. area premiere in MetroStage's intimate the-

"If after seeing one of my plays a person sees the world a little differently, has heard an idea expressed in a way he hasn't heard it expressed before, or has simply laughed at an unusual turn of phrase or been startled by an unusual twist of plot, I feel I have succeeded," said Lowell. "And the greatest feeling is knowing that someone who has seen the play once, might just want to see it again."

He said what began as an exploration of the costs, the dangers of state intrusion into private, personal matters, evolved into a broader indictment of the way corporate structures — governmental or business — contrive to manipulate the truth as a means of enforcing their agendas.

Russotto plays The Director, a 1930s-era Soviet bureaucrat with a military back-

ground in charge of a large ministry tasked with creating a kind of pure cultural history for the Soviet people. This requires the adjustment of certain documents, he says. "He believes whole-heartedly in the ministry's mission, and will do whatever is necessary to accomplish it," he said.

He adds: "He's a rather street-smart man, with a type-A personality, but he has a bit of an inferiority complex, which makes him a bit of a bully, and, on occasion he can seem rather cruel. But all of his actions are performed in service to the state."

As far as challenges, it's an 80-minute, two-person play with a lot of words to keep in one's head. "It's important that these two characters be an even match for each other," he said. "If The Director is too overwhelming, or Anna is too meek, the play becomes predictable, and not very exciting to watch. Hopefully we've sidestepped that pitfall in our production."

He hopes the audience will see parallels with what is happening in the U.S. today. "As our own government invades our lives a little bit more every day, as privacy and personal liberties continue to disappear, as we're told what to think and how to feel by an ever more homogenous media, the play provides a window into what happens with official over-reach," Russotto said.

MetroStage is presenting "The Letters" Through June 14. Show times are Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m.; Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. MetroStage is located at 1201 N. Royal St. Tickets are \$50-\$55. Group Rates are available for groups of 10 or more. Call the Box Office at 703-548-9044, email info@metrostage.org or visit www.MetroStage.org.

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.alexandriaya.gov for more.

Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

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

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.

"Perceptions" Through May 31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m.

"Perceptions" Through May 31, 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 Proudkii. Free to attend. Visit

www.torpedofactory.org.

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. Through May 25, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are on view.

Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Runs through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101
Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor project community-based student-recycled dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW for more.

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

mosaics. Visit www.our convergence.org.

"Living Yesterday Today." Through June 14 at 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.

"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

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 for more. **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.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201
Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every
month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar
and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music
artists.

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

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

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandria archaeology.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps. Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a themerelated 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, NY from 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. Registration opens Wednesday, March 18 for City of Alexandria residents and Friday, March 20 for nonresidents. Interested participants may register online or inperson at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed

Entertainment

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 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 our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

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.532voga.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

Drawing and Painting Lab for Teens. Wednesdays, June 24-July 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Teens ages 13-17 may explore techniques including concepts of shape, line, texture and color blending. The fee is \$77 for four 2hour lessons. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

greenspring. MAY 7-JUNE 1

"Printed Art: The Potomac."

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

MAY 12-JUNE 2

Art Exhibition. 12 p.m.-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. An exhibit of new work by local artists Teresa Oaxaca and Robert Liberace will be on display. Free. Visit www.principlegallery.com/ alexandria.

THURSDAY/MAY 21

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Open

House. 1:30-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center, 8350 Richmond Highway. Suite 137. As part of the Creative Aging Festival take a Tai Chi class for arthritis and hear a bell choir group. Free. Visit www.artsfairrfax.org

Guided Tour of The Winged



'Living Yesterday Today'

Photographer Sandy LeBrun-Evans' new exhibit is a collection of photographs from Civil War Reenactments. "Living Yesterday Today" is on display at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St. until June 14. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.multipleexposures gallery.com.

Bestiary. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The rear galleries of RARA AVIS are devoted to the collaborative work of artist Langley Spurlock and poet Martin Tarrat and their folio: "The Winged Bestiary, an Abecedarium of Feathered Nonsense." Free to attend. See nvfaa.org.

Witness to War & Reunion. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and its aftermath. "The Art of Memorializing the Civil War," by Susan Cumbey, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4994.

West Potomac Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac High School Band Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble will have a spring concert. Free. Contact Sue Genuario at gensure@aol.com

FRIDAY/MAY 22

EMS Memorial Bike Ride. 3-5 p.m. in Old Town on King, Royal and Fairfax streets. Honor EMS workers who died serving their communities. The ride ends at Oronoco Bay Park. Free. Contact Ray Whatley at

ray.whatley@alexandriava.gov. **Family Fun Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages on Friday evenings. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the 'Aqua Challenge' floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. \$4 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280 for

The Retrocessionists. 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Audience members are invited to make suggestions to an improv group. Admission is \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MAY 22-JULY 22

"The Lonely Drone." 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Artist Brian William's

oil paintings on aluminum panel are meant to convey what a drone would see from above. Free. Visit www.schlesingercenter.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 22-23

Eric Roberson Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Eric Roberson's performance will feature jazz, hip-hop, and blues styled music. Tickets are \$39.50. Visitwww.birchmere.com/events/ eric-roberson/.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

"The Lonely Drone" Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 North Beauregard St. Celebrate the new exhibit at the Schlesinger Center. www.schlesingercenter.com.

Grand Reopening Party. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. The Carlyle Club will celebrate their new location with Big Bad Juju, a nine-piece band, and a new menu. Tickets are \$18. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 24

Running Festival. 7 a.m.-12 p.m. at National Inventors Hall of Fame, 600 Dulany St. Start off the morning running the streets of Alexandria on a children's one-mile, 5K, or halfmarathon run. The children's onemile is \$15, the 5K is \$50, and the half marathon is \$80. Prices will rise on May 23. Visit www.mc-coop.org/ alexandria_running_festival.aspx.

MONDAY/MAY 25

Memorial Day Jazz Festival. 1-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince St. The Army Blue Jazz Ensemble will kick off the concert, to be followed by Origem, Hally Shoenberg Jazz Quartet and more. Free. Call 703-746-5592.

TUESDAY/MAY 26

Planetarium Show. 7:15-8:30 p.m. at the T.C. Williams Planetarium, 3330 King St. Each month, families are invited to join Bob Nicholson to learn more about astronomy and space science. Free. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/tcw/

WEDNESDAY/MAY 27

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Entertainment

"The Rehearsal" and "The

Exchange."1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center 1500 Shenandoah Road. As a part of Fairfax County's Creative Aging Festival, Hollin Hall Senior Center Theater Group presents two brief play readings: "The Rehearsal," a comic sketch and "The Exchange," a farce. Free and open to the public. Light refreshments served. Call 703-765-4572.

West Potomac Percussion Concert.
7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High
School Springbank Auditorium, 6500
Quander Road. The West Potomac
High School Percussion Ensemble
will have a spring concert. Free.
Contact Sue Genuario at
gensure@aol.com.

"What a Place I Have Found." 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Paula Tarnapol Whitacre will discuss Julia Wilbur who visited Alexandria as a relief worker for the Rochester Ladies Anti-Slavery Society in 1862. Free. Call 703-746-4706.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. Dance to music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 28

Fairfax County Creative Aging Festival Mandala Workshop. 10

a.m.-12 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Experience the healing power of creating a personal Mandala using guided meditation. All art materials provided. Free and open to the public. Call 703-765-4573

Jane Franklin Dance Troupe at Creative Aging Festival. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Forty+ Dance engages people over 40 of all physical abilities. The performance includes an audience participation portion. Refreshments served. Free and open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 or 703-324-4600.

Fiery Run Concert. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Listen to traditional and original folk compositions. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nyfaa.org/

www.nvfaa.org/. **Trivia Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Port City
Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler
Ave. Test one's knowledge of the
Silver Screen while enjoying food
and drinks with friends. Free. Visit

www.portcitybrewing.com/. **Lafayette Ball Dance Classes.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern

Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn

English country dances from the 18th
century. Lessons are \$12 for one
session and \$30 for three sessions.

Visit https://shop.alexandriava.gov/
Events.aspx.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

School Lunch Bunch Concerts.

12:15-1 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Watch the Immanuel Lutheran School's student choirs sing. Free. Call 703-746-5592.

Art Demonstration. 6 p.m. at
Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Artist
and Art League instructor Robert
Liberace will be giving
demonstrations of his work.
Liberace's work centers around the
study of human anatomy, art history
and technique. Free. Visit
www.principlegallery.com/
alexandria.

West Potomac High School Jazz Band. 7:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac High School Jazz Band will

have a spring concert. Free. Contact Sue Genuario at gensure@aol.com.

West End Alexandria Call 703-746-4554.

Joe Ely. 8:30 p.m. at 7 3701 Mt. Vernon Av appointed Texas Sta

Bake/Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-3081.

ASA Soccer Fest. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate the end of ASA's spring season by playing and watching soccer. Free. Contact Ann Clark at asasoc1@alexandria-soccer.org.

3rd Annual Croquet Day. 12-4 p.m. at Hensley Park, 4200 Eisenhower Ave. Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) is hosting a croquet tournament to raise funds for their efforts in Northern Virginia. Those who choose not to play will find other lawn games including bocce ball, life-size Angry Birds, bean bag toss, etc. Tickets are \$15 for spectators, team registration for 3-4 people is \$150, and family teams are \$75. Visit www.scanva.org.

www.scanva.org.

Orchestra. 7 p.m. at The George
Washington Masonic Memorial
Theatre, 611 King St. The Symphony
Orchestra of Northern Virginia
presents "Symphonic Tap" with
Capitol Tap. Visit
www.sonovamusic.org for more.

"Broadway Goes Choral!" 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Lane. The Symphonic Chorus, Master Singers, Concert Choir, and soloists, will perform alongside a symphony orchestra. Find works from shows by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Stephen Sondheim, and more. Tickets are \$10-40. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

Collective Delusion. 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St. Local band plays rock songs from '70s to present. Admission is free. Visit www.CollectiveDelusion.net.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

"Spandex in the Narthex." 9 a.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. The church is raising funds for pastor Jason Micheli with a Fun Run/Walk, cookout and live music. An entry for the fun run is \$16 for an individual and \$50 for a family. Plates are \$7 plus a \$5 donation. Visit www.aldersgate.net.

Bright Young Things. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Party like decadent members of the elite in 1920s. Tickets are \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Salon With James Madison. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. "President James Madison" will discuss The Treaty of Ghent and its aftermath. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school and college students. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

Concert. 4-5:15 p.m. at George
Washington Masonic National
Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The
Virginia Bronze community handbell
ensemble will perform pop favorites.
Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for
seniors, \$5 for students and \$20 for a
family. Visit www.vabronze.org.
A Brahms-Schumann Soirée. 5-7

A Brahms-Schumann Soirée. 5-7 p.m. at the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Enjoy a chamber music ensemble performing pieces composed by Brahms and Schumann. Free, donations accepted. Visit www.apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=10460.

MONDAY/JUNE 1

"Who Are Those Guys?" 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Kim Holien, a professional U.S. Army historian will discuss Civil War figures whose names are on some West End Alexandria streets. Free. Call 703-746-4554.

Joe Ely. 8:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Newly appointed Texas State Musician for 2016 Joe Ely will perform his "alt-country" music. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 2

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. "Wicked Northern Virginia." 6-8

"Wicked Northern Virginia." 6-8
p.m. at Morrison House Hotel, 116 S.
Alfred St. Local author Michael Lee
Pope will discuss the dark side of
Northern Virginia including the
brothels in Alexandria and the Aryan
Nations of Arlington. Free. Visit
www.alexandriava.gov.

T.C. Williams Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School Auditorium, 3330 King St. Awardwinning high school choirs will perform. Free. Call 703-625-4291.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Private Gardens of Philadelphia. 7

a.m.-7 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Travel to Philadelphia for a day-trip an visit private gardens. Tickets are \$138 for the bus, tours and lunch. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring

greenspring.

"Love Note." 7 p.m. at the
Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Love
Note" is an original play by Louise
Schoettler detailing the story of her
marriage to her late husband Jim.
Tickets are \$15. Visit www.conta.cc/
Hm2uoK.

Author Talk. 7-8 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Local poet Neva Herrington, discusses her poetry and shares readings from her new book, "Open Season." Free. Call 703-746-1768.

"June 6, 1944: The Beginning of the End." 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave. The Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee will present a lecture by Thomas Christianson, Senior Historian for the Secretary of Defense. \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.ddaylecture2015.eventbrite.com to RSVP.

Artist's Talk. 7 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Bridging Worlds" artist Lori K. Gordon will discuss the inspiration for her exhibit. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/gordon.

JUNE 4-JULY 19

"Saturate." Gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Six artists use different mediums to convey moisture. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Flamenco guitarist Ottmar Liebert will perform with his band. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

JUNE 5-28

"Building Bridges." gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2701 Mount Vernon Ave. The gallery will unveil an exhibit that is the result of a partnership with Six Degrees Consortium. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

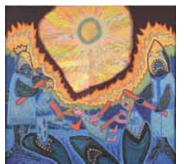
Butterfly Container Gardening

Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to create a butterfly container garden to attract and feed butterflies and other pollinators. The

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

ENTERTAINMENT





left: "Summer" by Mary Holmgren, and "Sharks Family" by Julia **Dzikiewicz**

'Dimensions' Opens June 1

The "Dimensions" exhibit at the Torpedo Factory's TAG Gallery, 105 N. Union St., will include the work of four artists who work invaried media. The exhibit is on display June 1-28. Admission to the gallery is free. See www.torpedo factory.org.

fee is \$35. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring. **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. Family Fun: Worm Workshop. 1-2

p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to build a 10-gallon bin with newspaper bedding, food scraps, and live worms that will recycle garbage into rich compost. The program alone is \$6 and \$15 for the program and worm kit supplies. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring.

Live Jazz Concert. 7-10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Keyboardist Marcus Johnson takes the stage for the benefit of Virginia Music Adventures, Inc., a non-profit educational organization that promotes jazz music through performances by young musicians. Admission is \$35. Contact abby@vamusicadventures.org or call 703-919-3323.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

"Fashion and Invention." 1-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist and collector Caroline Hottenstein will present a timeline of tools, inventions and innovations that have influenced changes in fashion and fibers over the centuries. View pieces from Caroline's antique clothing collection that showcase the historical connection between fashion and technology. The program is \$38 with afternoon tea and \$15 without tea. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

greenspring.

Family Fun: Strawberry Tea Party. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Walk through Green Spring Gardens to see how strawberries and other fruits grow, then have tea and a snack. The program is \$15. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ greenspring.

"Saturate" Opening Reception. 4 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate the opening of the new exhibit in which six artists use diverse media to convey "watery wetness." Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org

SUNDAY/JUNE 7,14, AND 28

Cook For Your Pet. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Pet Sage, 2391 S. Dove St. and Southern Kitchens, 2350 Duke St. Take a three-part course on cooking for your cat or dog. Each session is \$25, or \$60 for all three. Visit www.petsage.com.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 10-12

French Tall Ship Hermione Tours

11 a.m.- 4 p.m. on Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday and Friday at the Alexandria Marina. Explore Hermione, an exact replica of the ship that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to George Washington with news of full French aid in 1780, turning the tide of the American Revolution. Tickets are free, but are limited. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 10

The ASO Garden Party. 6:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cauley Deringer, 1198 Janneys Lane. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra celebrates their annual garden party with a jazz theme. Individual tickets are \$150. Visit www.alexsym.org. **The Manhattan Transfer.** 7:30 p.m.

at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Jazz ensemble will perform. Tickets are \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Witness to War & Reunion. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and its aftermath. "Remembering the Civil War," by Caroline Janney, Purdue University. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 12-13

Wine and Dine on George

Washington's Lawn. 6-9 p.m. at 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. George Washington's Mount Vernon invites visitors to sip wine and taste local and historic culinary fare while watching the sunset at the Mount Vernon Estate. Admission is \$20 per person. See mountvernon.org/summerescape.

Teenage Hero: Marquis de

Lafayette Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Harlow Giles Unger has been a frequent speaker at Mount Vernon and on radio and television. Tickets are \$10. See

www.shop.alexandriava.gov/ Events.aspx or call 703-746-4994.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

George Mason Day. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Commemorate the June 1776 ratification of Mason's Virginia Declaration of Rights by joining the color guard in procession to Mason's tomb for a wreath laying, and more. Free. Visit

www.gunstonhall.org. **Balsamic Vinegar Tasting Party.**

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the history of balsamic vinegar and how to determine genuine balsamic vinegar from fake vinegars. Admission is \$30. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/



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Candidates Seek Primary Victory

said she objected to the tax. The current Board of Supervisors has already turned down Hyland's Meals Tax proposal; therefore, it will not appear on the ballot this

Sargeant, similar to the others, supports affordable housing in the North Hill area but added that he would want to be assured that sufficient transportation and other infrastructure was in place or planned prior to approving a plan for affordable housing.

When asked if they would work full-time as a supervisor if elected, each said they would keep their present jobs, Sargeant at a part time level, Dobbyn and Storck work for themselves and have flexibility to adjust their schedules. Bennett said if elected she would work full-time as a supervisor.

A question came up from the audience about lack of adequate senior citizen transportation services that threatened seniors to go into a seniors facilities and prevented them from aging in place in their homes. All conceded this was a need but a complicated issue. Storck suggested that more attention should be given to co-locating of services, and use Uber transportation. Dobbyn stressed the need to develop or redevelop communities that are more walkable, and to promote ridesharing as an option. Sargeant also stressed the need to plan more walkable communities through improved community planning.

Widening Route 1 came up as a concern that it has the potential to wipe out some small businesses. Would the candidates support an economic impact analysis as part of the widening planning? All supported such an analysis while also saying they support moving forward without delay in the Route 1 widening effort.

In their closing remarks each provided the audience with their personal brand of experience that they viewed as what best qualified each of them for the job of supervisor. Bennett approached the qualifications from the point of view that she is a newcomer but will not be looking to the past for answers and will be a creative thinker. Her proposed partnering with the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority to award small business incubator micro

Dobbyn, a lifetime resident who lives with his wife and children in an area where his daughter attends a school with classroom trailers and is in need of upgrading, made the case that improving the academic performance of his daughter's school and the other schools in the region would be a very high priority. He added, win or lose, he said is here to stay and is committed to helping the Mountt Vernon community long term.

Storck, who has stood for election successfully several times as Mount Vernon representative on the Fairfax County School Board said that he is dedicated to the community, having raised his children here and has been working for many years in the school system first as a PTSA leader and a youth league coach and then as a School Board member. He said his success as a taxpayers money and promoted innovative approaches to education programs, and demonstrates that he will be an effective supervisor who will get things done.

Sargeant pointed to his many years on the Planning Commission and his record of community leadership in a variety of planning projects such as the Laurel Hill development area among several other development projects. He expressed his concern that seven Mount Vernon schools of the 17 schools county-wide not fully accredited were within the Mount Vernon District and that it would be one of his top priorities to turn the schools around and restore them to full academic accreditation. He also committed to establishing a satellite office for the School Board member in his own governmental center office so that the two of them could more closely collaborate on strategies to improve the academic performance of the Mount Vernon schools.

Storck countered then and several days later at the Democratic Committee debate that the problems require more money and teachers to improve academic performance. He argued that turning around these schools is far more complex than it might

Two days later, at the Democratic Committee Political Forum, this issue was raised once again. Dobbyn, and Sargeant both weighed in on the issue and said improving these seven schools would be a high priority on their agenda if they were elected supervisor. In response, Storck said timprovement is definitely needed and repeated that more money is needed to improve and expand teaching programs at these seven schools.

At the Democratic Committee debate, a list of nine questions was prepared prior to the debate by the debate organizers. The moderator, Kris Amundsen, kept tight control on time. The bulk of the attention was devoted to six questions as follows:

❖ Did the candidates support the creation of an independent citizen police oversight board? Three of the candidates support creating an oversight board, the fourth, Storck, said he would await the recommendations of the current ad hoc police practices commission before deciding. Attention has been devoted to this issue since 2009 when the police shot and killed an unarmed victim, David Masters, who was fleeing the police following the theft of flowers from a store on Route 1. Masters was shot and killed while sitting in his car near the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Route 1. This

leader on the School Board has saved the police shooting and several other police shootings, including a recent shooting of an unarmed Springfield man, John Geer, prompted the Board of Supervisors, facing mounting criticism, to form an Ad Hoc Police Practices Commission. The commission is now reviewing police policies and practices and is scheduled to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in Oc-

> * Reacting to a quote from the superintendent of schools that "we cannot cut our way to excellence," each candidate was asked to respond to what they would do about the budget shortfall in school funds if elected. Each had a slightly different take on the strategy; but all conceded that financially shortchanging the school system was a bad idea and they supported full funding. The discussion, directly and indirectly, focused on the poor performing schools in Mount Vernon. All the candidates believed that the county has to do something about providing additional money for education. Focus was on addressing the small contribution from the state due to a state allocation funding formula that punishes the county and candidates said that it should be revised. Sargeant also referred to the need for improved collaboration with the School Board.

> ❖ Would the candidates support a meals tax; increase in property taxes; and/or state authority to tax other sources such as a sales tax on non-food items. All four candidates supported a referendum on the meals tax. Bennett supported placing it on the ballot but said she personally did not support a meals tax. All the candidates supported looking for alternative sources of funding.

> In the two debates, the candidates generally agreed on the greatest overarching issues facing Mount Vernon: the county's financial strains and over-reliance on property taxes, the need to turn around the poor performing public schools in Mount Vernon, and the need to continue the momentum to widen Route 1 and extend mass transit programs to cope with the traffic mess.

> June 9 is the date of the primary election to determine who will be the Democratic nominee on the ballot in the November general election. Virginia primary elections are open to all, whether a Democrat, Republican, or independent.

Candidate websites are:

- Bennett: Candice electcandicebennett.com
 - ❖ Jack Dobbyn: www.jackdobbyn.com
 - Tim Sargeant: www.timsargeant.com
- Dan Storck: info@danstorck.org

– Bulletin Board

Email announcements to gazette@connection newspapers.com.

Electrons Saturday. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discard of electronics so that they can be recycled according to environmental standards. No fee for most items, \$10 for TV/ monitor, \$5 for certificate of data destruction for computers. Call 703-799-0830.

Car Wash. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Belle View Elementary School. Support West Potomac Band students. Donations accepted.

SUNDAY/MAY 31

Mount Vernon CROP Hunger Walk. 12:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. CROP Hunger Walks are neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger and poverty. Visit www.churchworldservice.org to register.

Paving

From Page 12

community as the direct result of this. VDOT tries to bid out paving projects on need and geographic location. Contractors may provide competitive bids when projects are conducted all within compact areas. This is why VDOT usually does not repave random streets miles apart (there are some exceptions). Also, typically not but always - roads in entire neighborhoods deteriorate at the same rate.

This is why last year, the rest of Fort Hunt Road was paved along with Sherwood Hall Lane which was also restriped for bike lanes, and paving was completed nearby neighborhoods including major areas of Hollin Hills, Bucknell Heights, Bucknell Manor, Mason Hill, Hollindale, Hybla Valley Farms, along with a few roads in Wellington.

This year, much more is planned aided in part by a mild winter (less money spent on snow removal). The short version is that if you live in between U.S. 1, Fort Hunt Road, and Little Hunting Creek, plus the Belleview/New Alexandria area, your road is getting repaved if it did not happen in the last two years. VDOT also plans to pave all of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway from U.S. 1 down to the Mount Vernon Estate and then back out to Woodlawn.

We will also be getting new bike lanes after repaving on Fordson Road, Quander Road, Hinson Farm Road, Parkers Lane/Collingwood Road, and Beacon Hill Road/Belleview Boule-

If you would like to see a more detailed map including your specific street you can go to my online newsletter, The Dixie Pig scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

I am pleased that VDOT is finally taking steps to properly maintain our roadways, but VDOT still has a huge amount of catchup to play. Nearly every secondary road in the 44th District has substandard pavement quality and after this summer, 50 percent of the 44th District's roads will still be in need of repaving. You can look at the entire map in Northern Virginia at www.virginiaroads.org and see that we are very lucky to be getting the attention this summer that we are.

Our experience over the last two decades is a basic lesson in the consequences of starving basic government services. If we do not keep our revenues commensurate with our needs, infrastructure and quality of life will suffer. In 2013, taxes were raised and you are now seeing the results and that the results will consequently save your family a couple alignments or a tire or two.

HISTORY

Spring Bank During the Civil War

BY MARTIN TILLETT

n the pedestrian area next to Richmond Highway between the Pizza Hut restaurant and the Kings Crossing Shopping Center is a Virginia Historical marker for the Union army defensive forts once in this area of Mount Vernon. All are gone except for Fort Willard, a Fairfax County park in the Belle Haven community. The largest was Fort Lyon located where the Huntington Metro Station is today.

Unmentioned in the historical marker was the presence of a large camp for Union soldiers located in the present day Spring Bank Community. The first Union soldiers to occupy this patch of land were from the 2nd Vermont Volunteers. In a book, "Army Life In Virginia, The Civil War Letters of George G. Benedict" edited by Eric Ward, there is information about a camp built on land that belonged to Spring Bank Manor in the fall of 1862

George G. Benedict, a Vermont newspaper editor, enrolled with the 2nd Vermont Volunteers as a private and was sent to Washington D.C. The 2nd Vermont spent time at camps in D.C. and Virginia and then received orders moving them two miles south of Alexandria, Va. The soldiers christened the camp "Vermont." It reminded them more of Vermont than Virginia as they were in a snowstorm, upon arriving, that left 5 inches of snow on Nov. 7, 1862.

The Benedict account is a detailed record about Union army life from the perspective of an enlisted man describing the daily regimen of camp life. Thinking they would be here through the winter, they built a solidly constructed camp of log structures with canvas tents serving as roof tops, makeshift stoves for heat and a mess hall, kitchen and infirmary. He mentions the sloping hillside by a stream of good water close to the Spring Bank Manor mansion. This area is



part of the former Fairchild property located today behind the WalMart at Kings Crossing with Quander Brook being the stream of good water.

Soldiers from Camp Vermont assisted with the construction of the nearby forts and some were posted as sentries on the Occoquan River rotating back and forth from the camp every few days. Upwards to 5,000 soldiers were encamped at different times in this area. The Vermont Volunteers later joined Union forces participating in numerous campaigns and battles of the Civil War. Camp Vermont was occupied throughout the war by other Union Army units from different states.

Benedict rose in rank to 2nd Lieutenant and he and others in his unit received the Medal of Honor for their role during the Battle of Gettysburg, inflicting heavy casualties on both flanks of the Confederate forces under command of General Pickett as he led his famous charge on the third day of battle.

During the Civil War, Charles Henry Quander, a slave at the Hayfield Plantation, provided food to a unit of Union soldiers from Pennsylvania assigned to Camp Vermont. According to the Quander family oral history, Henry asked the soldiers to teach him to read and write in exchange for the food. Henry may have provided the soldiers with food from a kitchen garden next to his

cabin or with food from his owner's fields at risk to himself.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, Dennis Weston Johnston, Henry Quander's owner, did not free his slaves. He continued to hold his slaves thinking they were unaware that they were free since they could not read. Having learned to read in exchange for the food given to the soldiers, Henry later approached his owner and declared, "I know freedom has come." Johnston acknowledged, "Yes Henry, freedom has come, take your freedom and tell the others they may also take their freedom".

Henry Quander was freed; however, he continued to work for Johnston for wages. He saved his money and began purchasing property from the widow, Elizabeth Downey, owner of Spring Bank Manor. He purchased land in parcels, until he acquired 88 acres that were once part of Spring Bank Manor. On that land he developed a milk

dairy and produce farm selling milk in the Mount Vernon District and the city of Alexandria as well as produce in the old Alexandria City Market.

The Fairfax County Park Authority continues to not take transfer ownership of the property donated by Elizabeth Fairchild in 2009. Spring Bank seeks your support to urge and aid the Mount Vernon supervisor to convince the Fairfax County Park Authority to take this donated land under their control for future master planning as they have done for other communities in the Mount Vernon District. Please show support by viewing and signing our online petition at http://www.ipetitions.com/petition-to-the-mount-vernon-supervisor-to

By googling "Army Life In Virginia, The Civil War Letters of George G. Benedict" edited by Eric Ward, interested readers can locate an electronic version of Mr. Benedict's accounts about Camp Vermont beginning on page 63.



Join in Pantherlon 5K

This year the Carl Sandburg Middle School Pancake Pantherlon 5K run will partner with the Carl Sandburg Health Fair to provide a family friendly

morning of "good for you" fun. On June 6, the front of the middle school will be filled with heath care professionals like Dr. Curtis Reinkemeyer with Phase 3 Chiropractics as runners and walkers of all ages set out to complete the 26th Annual Pantherlon 5K. All participants and volunteers will be treated to a pancake breakfast after the run. Spectators can purchase a breakfast for \$5 the morning of the race, but tickets will be limited. Registration can be done online at: http://www.active.com/alexandria-va/running/distance-running-races/26th-annual-pancake-pantherlon-2015 or pick up a paper registration from the front office of Carl Sandburg Middle School. To volunteer, email Cindy Anderson at Ride4thefunofit@gmail.com.

Sports Briefs



Senior Maddie Miller and the West Potomac softball team defeated Woodson 15-5 on May 19 in the Conference 7 tournament quarterfinals. The Wolverines secured a berth in the region tournament and advanced to face South County in the conference semifinals on Wednesday, after The Gazette's deadline.



Junior pitcher Jamie Sara and the West Potomac baseball team suffered a season-ending 12-5 loss to South County in the Conference 7 tournament quarterfinals on May 19. The Wolverines finished the season with a 12-8 record.



Senior attackman Louis Martin and the Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse team beat Wakefield 14-0 in the Conference 13 tournament quarterfinals on May 15. Four days later, the Majors beat Falls Church 15-5 in the semifinals. Mount Vernon will face Marshall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 21 in the conference championship

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— Amy L. Best, Ph.D.,

George Mason University

without your teen

finding ways to talk

Suggestions for talking to teens about staying safe.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Gazette

raduation, prom and the summer before heading off to college are some of the highlights of a teen's high school experience. While the season brings landmark events, it can be marred by the consequences of engaging in harmful

Parents can play a pivotal role in keeping teens safe. The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County reports that teens cite their parents as the leading influence for them not to drink, and say that it is not difficult to get alcohol from their family

home, older siblings or friends. Initiating a dialogue with teens about the dangers of unsafe behaviors such as drinking and drug use can be daunting for some parents.

"We know that teens who receive consistent messages from their parents about their expectations that their child not use alcohol are much less likely to use," said Diane Eckert, deputy executive director, Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County.

The season brings celebratory activities and less supervision, and therefore more opportunities to take chances, said Eckert. It's critical that parents "sit down with your teens and talk with them about your expectations," she said.

"With less structure and more excitement, teens can find themselves taking more risks, so it's important for parents to be involved."

Conversations about safety during activities where teens will have more freedom can be difficult to navigate. "For sure those are hard conversations," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor of Sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax.

"Parents want to be careful not to drown out the fun times that prom and graduation also represent. It's about finding balance. Part of it is about finding ways to talk about the risks without your teen walking away feeling hyper-vulnerable and disempowered."

The dialogue should be factual and non-threatening. "Ask open-ended question about what is going on at school and with their friends," said Best. "It easier to open those conversations when you're not talking about your child, and you're collecting information about what is going on at school and with their friends." Best is author of "Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture" (2000 Routledge), which was selected for the 2002 American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award.

Difficult conversations are made easier if there is a history of open, honest communication between a parent and child. While parents should make their expectations for their child's behavior clear, Best warns against lecturing or talking down to a teen. "The prom should not be the first time that these conversations occur," she said. "It's really important that kids to be able to express their feelings and have an active role in the conversation. Trust has to be

built into the relationship in order for that to happen."

A concrete plan for ensuring safety should be part of the conversation. "Kids are often in situations where alcohol is being consumed and they may not be the ones consuming it," said Best. "So safe driving arrangements are important.'

"The good news is that a lot of kids are opting out of drinking and greater awareness around the potential for sexual assault," said Best. "The message has to be communicated in advance and schools have a role to play in that."

In Arlington, School Resource Officers are collaborating with local high schools to focus on alco-

hol use prevention and awareness programs now that prom and graduation season is underway. Programs such as "Drive to Stay Alive" and "Prom Promise" are in place to educate students in having a safe and fun prom season. One of the roles of the officers is to provide positive guidance to students "and to act as positive role models both inside and outside the school environment."

Kathy Ely, spokeswoman for Connelly School of the Holy Child, an all-girls school in Potomac, Md., says her school, as well as most schools, have safety plans in place. "We understand the pressures that these girls are under, and work hard to educate them about effects not just now but for their future," she

Tips for Keeping Teens Safe

Help make prom and graduation night safe for teens by following

- Do not serve or allow alcohol at any party you are hosting; an adult who provides alcohol to a minor is breaking the law and risking that teen's life.
- Know where your teenager is attending a party; verify there will be parental supervision, and that it will be alcohol-free.
- Make it clear to your teen(s) that you do not approve of their drinking alcohol.
- Report underage drinking parties by calling the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency number: 703-691-2131. Your call can be anonymous and may prevent injuries or a fatal car crash.
- Educate your family on the risks associated with underage drinking and its proven harmful effects on the brain. The legal drinking age is 21, and students who wait until their early 20s to drink are 84 percent less likely to develop an addiction than those who start
 - Make sure your teen has a plan for

the night and that you know what it

- · Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.
- Know who is driving if it's a limo, check their policy on not allowing any alcohol in the vehicle and driving any teen who clearly has been drinking.
- Encourage your senior to attend their school's All Night Graduation
- Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-04-07

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for Grocery & Non-Food Supply Items.
Sealed Bids with the notation ITB # 15-04-07, Grocery & Non-Food Supply Items will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, June 23, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be read on the names of the firms responding will be read.

opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us,

Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals.

All questions must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., June 12,

2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in

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Public Notice - Environmental Permi

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comments on a draft permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a facility to manage hazardous waste as well as two (2) Statement of Basis (SB) regarding proposed remedies for site-wide corrective action, located on the Fort Belvoir facility in

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: May 21, 2015 to July 6, 2015.

PERMIT NAME & NUMBER: Hazardous Waste Management Permit for Storage and Corrective Action; EPA ID No. VA7213720082

PERMIT APPLICANT: U. S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir (For

FACILITY NAME & LOCATION: U. S. Route 1, Fort Belvoir,

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Fort Belvoir applied for a renewal permit to operate a facility that manages hazardous waste on April 21, 2014. One hazardous waste management unit (HWMU) is permitted, known as HWMU 1490, which is Build-ing 1490 that stores hazardous waste in containers. The per-mit also includes RCRA site-wide corrective action

mit also includes RCRA site-wide corrective action activities, where Fort Belvoir may be required to submit various plans, studies, and reports in accordance with a Project Management Plan and Schedule Requirements approved by DEQ and EPA Region 3. DEQ has prepared a Statement of Basis (SB) dated October 20, 2014, on its proposed final remedies for 192 Solid Waste Management Units (SWMUs), which include either No Further Action, No Further Action with Administrative Closure, or Land Use Controls and a second SB dated October 31, 2014, on its proposed final remedies for 5 SWMUs designated as A-05, A-08, A-09, A-11, and A-12, that have completed Corrective Measures Studies located on the Fort Belvoir facility. The draft permit will allow the facility to continue to operate Building 1490, the hazardous waste storage facility, and implement RCRA site-wide corrective action activities.

age facility, and implement NCHA site-wide corrective action activities.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by hand delivery, e-mail, fax, or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may also write to the contact person at the address below to be added to the facility mailing list. The public also may request a public hearing. To request a public hearing, the request must be in writing; must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing; and must be made within the public comment period. The public may review the draft permit, fact sheet and application at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315 or the DEQ Northern Regional Office at 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193. Copies of the permit documents are also available at DEQ Office of Waste Permitting, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS, AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Angela J. Alonso, Environmental Specialist II _ DEQ Office of Waste Permitting & Compliance _ P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218 _ Phone: (804) 698-4238 _ Fax: (804) 698-4234 _ E-mail: Angela.Alonso@deq.virginia.gov

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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 Ave-nue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of un-claimed 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.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Elsie's Magic Skillet, Inc trading as Elsie's Magic Skillet, 8166 Richmond Hwy, Alexan dria, VA 22309. The above es tablishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises: Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcohol beverages. Mazen Bakr

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov 800-552-3200.

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8234 West Boulevard Dr

One of Area's Most Admired Properties!

Award winning classic Victorian combines exquisite period detail with dramatic open floor plan. Painstaking attention to detail and its design led to this fabulous home winning the award for being the best custom home in its category for all of Northern Virginia the year it was built! Numerous special features include: three finished levels, dramatic open floor plan, soaring cathedral ceilings, upgraded trim detail throughout, welcoming two story fover, family room with dramatic high ceiling and fireplace with floor to ceiling stone profile. Unique turret shaped living room and bedroom. Sumptuous master suite with luxurious bath, princess suite and third and fourth bedrooms with Jack N Jill bath. Custom screen porch and three car garage, Glass walls capture natural beauty of grounds and bring light to every corner of the home. Prime location on spacious grounds off GW Parkway just minutes from Old Town. A uniquely attractive property!



8300 Midwood St \$569,000 Looks Like New Home!

Absolutely everything has been done on this fabulous property. All you have to do is move Features include: updated kitchen, gas

cooktop, beautifully updated baths, gorgeous hdwd firs, 2 fireplaces, and four large bedrooms. Exceptionally attractive setting on large landscaped lot. Fenced backyard and large deck. A truly special property. OPEN SUN 5/24, 1-4. GW Pky S, R-Collingwood; L-Fort Hunt Rd; R-Cool Spring; L-Midwood on comer!



9315 Ludgate Dr \$1,249,999 **Estate Caliber**

Property—Near River! No expense was spared in creating this magnificent sustom Colonial designed to be seller's ultimate dream home. Stately,

classic exterior combined with bright, open floor plan. App. 5721 sq ft of luxuriously finished space. Includes all the new home bells and whistles & virtually every upgrade and modern amenity. Exquisitely landscaped



4831 Stillwell Ave \$565,000 Absolutely Adorable!

Curb appeal abounds in this classic cape in gorgeous setting on landscaped half acre lot in quiet neighborhood

surrounded by country club grounds and parkland. Many features include: 4BRs, updated kitchen, hardwood floors, thermal windows. Prime location offering quiet tranquil environment yet convenient to



8720 Plymouth Road \$1,695,000 **Brand New Home!**

\$1,625,000

Spectacular Wakefield home loaded with virtually every custom upgrade & amenity in fabulous Plymouth Haven! Three levels of luxury! Fabulous features include striking open floor plan, high

ceilings, designer kitchen, luxury baths, hardwood floors, sumptuous master suite, fabulous screen porch and 3 car garage. Prime location on arge lot-walk to Waynewood School!



9413 Brambly Lane \$899,000 Custom Home with Main Level Master Suite!

Custom home built by Wakefield Homes in 2010. Fabulous "new home" amenities

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



9357 Mount Vernon Cir \$1,500,000 Mt Vernon on the Potomac!

1209 Falster Ct \$649,000 Updated Throughout!





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