

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JULY 30, 2015



Christian Klossner, deputy director of the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Complaints and at-large member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement board of directors, was the guest speaker at the July 27 meeting of the ad hoc commission to review Fairfax County Police policies.



Mike Curtis, Manassas resident and vice president of the Mount Vernon area-based Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, asked guest speaker Christian Klossner if an officer-involved death would automatically trigger an investigation by the Washington, D.C. Office of Police Complaints.



Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler reminded members of the community and ad hoc commissioners that he now has a personal scorecard through the Fairfax County website for citizens to rate his performance.



Lt. Col. Tom Ryan with the Fairfax County Police Department said police recognize "the need to get better at release of information," during the July 27 meeting of the ad hoc commission to review Fairfax County Police policies

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Repairing a 'Crisis of Confidence' Ad hoc commission subcommittees report on police policy review.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

It is well past time for the Fairfax County Police Department to start providing timely, honest and effective communications with everything it does."

When former director of Fairfax County public affairs Merni Fitzgerald delivered the final report and recommendations of the communications subcommittee of the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to review

police practices, commissioner Joseph Cammarata responded immediately to those words in report's introduction.

Cammarata wondered aloud at the commission's July 27 meeting if the police members of the subcommittee had read the report themselves. He said if they agreed that the department had been "dishonest" in its past communication, "We've got a real problem. Whoever was giving dishonest communication, those people should be fired."

Some heated exchanges among commis-

sioners followed, including over the fact that the word "dishonest" wasn't technically used.

Fitzgerald, chair of the Communications subcommittee, answered that the report "reflects the views of the subcommittee."

"We're not here to assign blame," said Michael Hershman, chairman of the commission. "That was never the intention."

"Communications in recent high-profile use-of-force and critical incident cases were mishandled, inadequate and untimely, leading to loss of public trust and questions

about the legitimacy of police actions," the report said. The most recent incident was the Aug. 29, 2013 shooting death of John Geer standing unarmed in the doorway of his Springfield home.

It continued: "The failures in both communications and its Freedom of Information Act policies have created this crisis of confidence for the Fairfax County Police Department. If the department had policies that fostered real transparency, it's unlikely the controversies in recent years would have

SEE 'CRISIS OF', PAGE 4

Indictment Coming in John Geer Case? Special grand jury began hearing testimony this week.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Since shooting John Geer dead in the doorway of his Springfield home on Aug. 29, 2013, PFC Adam Torres of the Fairfax County Police Department has remained at work, albeit out of the field, but undisciplined by police and unprosecuted for any criminal wrongdoing.

The next chapter of the nearly two-year-old case began unfolding Monday, July 27 when a special grand jury called by Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond E. Morrogh first met to hear testimony. Unlike regular grand juries that listen to multiple cases, a special grand jury, provided for in the Virginia Code, convenes to make a decision on one specific case.

The purpose of this such group is to decide whether there is probable cause to put Torres on trial.

According to Michael Lieberman, the lawyer who has



John Geer

been representing Geer's family and mother of his children Maura Harrington, the special grand jury has six months to

issue a report after being impaneled. At that point, the judge has discretion to intervene.

At the end of January this year, Fairfax County released 11,000 pages from the police department investigation of the incident, detailing their findings of what took place that afternoon. The report said Torres was joined by four other officers outside Geer's home at the time of the shooting. Geer's best friend Jeff Stewart and father Don Geer were also in the area, close enough to see what happened. They make up the seven witnesses to the shot fired.

Torres claimed to see Geer quickly lower his hands to waist

level after a 40-minute period of talking. During that time Geer had rested his hands on the top of the door frame and reached down to scratch his nose from time to time. Torres said the action he saw provoked him to fire. The other officers' accounts describe Geer's hands moving slowly at either shoulder or ear level and contradict Torres.

Geer's father and Stewart remember the version the other officers described.

Lieberman said he doesn't understand why a special grand jury was needed in this case. "They have seven witnesses," he said. "Six say one thing, one person says another. To me, that's more than enough for probable cause."

Among the witnesses, Morrogh had previously called one of Geer's two daughters Haylea to participate in the special grand jury. The girls had been with Geer that afternoon, when he became upset hearing that their mother and his partner Harrington was planning

to move out of the house. He began throwing some of her belongings out of the house and the daughters called Harrington, who then called the police. When Geer knew the police were coming, he had his daughters go to a neighbor's basement.

Morrogh was not available for an interview, but in an email said that "The daughter is a witness to the events leading up to the shooting."

After Lieberman sent a letter questioning the move, Morrogh decided to not call Haylea after all. "She has nothing to offer — to put her on, to say bad things about her father," Lieberman said. "To me there's only seven witnesses.

Maura's not one of them. Haylea's not one of them. It took place over a split-second."

Stewart, who is one of the witnesses and who remained on the list to testify before the special grand jury, was worried some of the testimony, including his, might be used in "trashing John's character."

"I'm not going to sit there and let them condemn John, try in some way assassinate his character as a defense for an officer shooting him in the chest."

Shortly after the incident, Stewart told investigators he knew Geer had been drinking that day and had told Stewart when he

SEE INDICTMENT, PAGE 5

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Fort Hunt High School Alumni Gather for Reunion

Alumni dedicate engraved memorial garden.

By GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Approximately 250 alumni, teachers, administrators, parents and family participated in dedicating a memorial garden at Carl Sandburg Middle School on July 25 to memorialize the old Fort Hunt High School and those alumni who died. Fort Hunt High School was closed in 1985. The next day, following the memorial garden dedication, about 500 alumni and family gathered at the nearby Fort Hunt Park to enjoy a BBQ, band concerts, taking class photos and talking about the good old days.

According to life-long Fort Hunt resident and Fort Hunt High School Alum Tom Harvey, "Fort Hunt High School was the quintessential community high school that served as the central educational and social core of the Fort Hunt community for 22 years. For many of us, the memory of those days still serves as a never-ending gift, a reminder of good times, dreams, and growing up in a tight knit community that took great pride in our school's academic and extracurricular achievements."

Joe Gililland, president of the Fort Hunt High School Alumni Association, said, "The Memorial Garden Dedication was a salute to the students, teachers, coaches, administrators, and parents of Fort Hunt High School. We loved doing it. Without the old school, we felt like we lost a community center."

The new Fort Hunt High School Memorial Garden and return of the historic cannons to the courtyard are a big step towards 'making things right' for the school's alumni, parents, teachers, coaches and administrators. Fort Hunt lives!"



PHOTO BY PATTI MILLER

Between 300-400 Fort Hunt High School alumni attended the annual All-Class Picnic at Fort Hunt Park.

The two cannons in the memorial garden were acquired in 1965. The Fort Hunt High School PTA president obtained the historic 1854 1,400 lb. bronze cannon barrels and had them placed on concrete pedestals in the school's courtyard to serve as symbols of strength and determination. The cannons remained in place in the courtyard for the next 22 years. When the school closed and the newly named Carl Sandburg Middle School was renovated, the cannons were moved for safekeeping. These icons of the school and community were returned because of the efforts of the 2,500 school alumni who urged that these historic sentinels be returned to their rightful place in the courtyard and now serve as part of the Fort Hunt High School Alumni Memorial Garden.

Brief History of Fort Hunt High School

Fort Hunt High School enrollment dipped below minimum standards for high schools back in the late 1980s. When the school system county-wide boundary study was completed and a contentious debate followed, the Fairfax County School Board voted to support the staff recommendation to close Fort Hunt High School.

The result was Fort Hunt High School was merged with, at that time, Groveton High School, to form West Potomac High School, which contin-

ues today. Despite the closing of Fort Hunt High School 30 years ago, the strong connection and great pride among the alumni students, faculty, and administrative staff in the former school is exemplified by the large contingent who return regularly to reminisce and enjoy the fellowship and common bond of their years while attending Fort Hunt High School. Joe Gililland says that the alumni association now has 2,500 Alumni registrants.



Duel Ballard, Class of '73; Joe Gililland, Class of '73, President, Fort Hunt High School; Don Burke, Charter member, Fort Hunt Sportsman Association who participated in bringing the Fort Hunt High School cannons to the school in 1965; and Don Burke's son, Gary Burke, Class of '73.



PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

From left are Becky Binney Woodruff, Class of '76; Susie Coyle Poole, Class of '80; Anna Marie Lloyd Dougherty, Class of '82; Bob Woodruff (spouse); Keith McCrea, Class of '74; and Leslie McCrea (daughter).



Costa Manolas, Class of '71; Chris Norton, Class of '75; and Rob Hartwell, Class of '74

‘Crisis of Confidence’

FROM PAGE 1

lasted so long and there likely would not have even been a call to form this Commission.”

“It is strongly worded,” said Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova. “We suffered from a lack of candor, that enraged a segment of the community. Not just in the Geer case, but that really brought it to a head.”

Commissioner and Lt. Col. Tom Ryan with the Fairfax County Police department said, “The words don’t hurt us. We recognize the need to get better at release of information.”

“It isn’t easy to have your profession laid open,” Ryan continued, “we welcome that. We want to hear where we’re failing.”

The subcommittee’s recommendations fell under the categories of Maximum Disclosure, Minimum Delay; Community Engagement; Policies, Procedures and Personnel; Freedom of Information Act; Culture of Transparency and Moving Forward. It also proposed future regular review dates for the Board of Supervisors to the recommendations and implementation of input from the commission.

Shirley Ginwright, chairman of the Communities of Trust Committee, president of the Fairfax County NAACP and chairman of the commission subcommittee on diversity, recruitment and vetting of police officers, also shared that group’s final report and recommendations.

Ginwright said that subcommittee appreciated the chief of police’s existing diversity council that “is paying off,” but thought the department could do

more outreach into community forums. The subcommittee, among its recommendations, called for a “diversity goal” for each district commander that would make them independently responsible “for enhancing diversity within the department.”

Once each subcommittee has filed a final report, the commission will assemble a comprehensive final report and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors later in the fall.

Christian Klossner, deputy director of the Washington, D.C. Office of Public Complaints and at-large member of the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement board of directors, was the guest speaker that presented first at the meeting.

“Things are moving away from reactive models,” Klossner said during his presentation, “moving towards more proactive, addressing causes and not just the symptoms.”

When asked about the effectiveness of his organizations, Klossner responded there needs to be better data collection on use of oversight. “The key is building trust,” he said.

The next full meeting of the ad hoc commission is scheduled for Aug. 17 at the Fairfax County Government Center. For the Sept. 14 meeting, commissioners will be at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria.

More information on the police policies review commission, including the full text of final reports and proposals from the communications and diversity, recruitment and vetting subcommittees is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

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Indictment Coming in John Geer Case?

FROM PAGE 1

knew police were coming, something to the effect of, 'The next time you see me, I may have a bullet in my chest.'

"My open-minded discussion of thoughts that day, in shock, had no bearing of basis, or support from the facts," Stewart said. "John didn't want to be shot that day, now we know he said as much."

"I told the FBI John was executed," Stewart continued. "This has nothing to do with whatever his intentions were or weren't. with what I saw that day, he had not made the move yet, to initiate that action. The burden of de-escalating that situation was on the police."

Stewart is also member of the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to evaluate police policies, which was convened largely in response to Geer's death and

the limited, untimely manner in which the police department and county government handled releasing information about the case.

"John's death brought to light a lot of issues," Stewart said.

"The Culosi were brought back out, Masters were brought back out," he added, referring to Dr. Salvatore Culosi and David Masters, two other men shot and killed by Fairfax County police officers. "I guess it's been worth it to this point — I'm still reserving judgment."

For Geer's family, Lieberman said "They're still upset. Now they don't have confidence in the system. They've been through a horrendous experience for two years where people of authority have just let them down completely. Justice was just denied for the longest time."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 6

Business Roundtable Speaker

Series. 8:30 a.m. at the SpringHill Suites, 6065 Richmond Highway. Continuing with the series "Veteran, Woman and Minority-Owned Businesses," learn more about the advantages the businesses have.

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SATURDAY/AUG. 15

Community Health Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Neighborhood Health, 6677 Richmond Highway. Learn about medical care and coverage for the family. Email akrzepicki@neighborhoodhealthva.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Chamber Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country

Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Presentation about updates regarding the MGM Casino at National Harbor. Tickets are \$25. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability Meeting.

7 p.m. at The Martha Washington Public Library, Room 104 A/B, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. An advocacy group concerned with discussing actions of the police force meets. Free. Visit virginiaccpa.com.

other volunteer opportunities, call 703-

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OPINION

Executive Interference?

To the Editor:

Following the unjust and unprovoked shooting death of unarmed David A. Masters on Nov. 13, 2007 by Fairfax County Police Officer

David Scott Ziants who was ultimately fired for “improper use of deadly force,”

I organized the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, Inc., as a nonprofit corporation.

The CCPA now has hundreds of Northern Virginia citizens who are demanding accountability and transparency from the Fairfax County police Department. To date, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has ignored our proposal to appoint a Citizen Complaint Oversight Board. As a matter of fact, several county officials have made every effort to defeat our proposal.

Recently the chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova, appointed an Ad Hoc police Practices Review Commission to study the possible appointment of a Citizen Complaint Oversight Board. Unfortunately, several county officials have been working behind the scenes to defeat this proposal. A prime example of this opposition is from Fairfax County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. who attempted to have Supervisor Bulova not appoint me to the Ad Hoc Commission. On Feb. 20, 2015, Long sent an email to Bulova stating “the only issue I see is including Beltrante on the commission. You know he will use the group to push for the police review board and I am not sure you really want to give him this platform. I am sure there are many others from the CJAB [Criminal Justice Advisory Board] that would be good choices.”

Bulova replied, “I’m not sure we can avoid having him on the commission.”

It is my considered opinion that this is clearly a case of malfeasance and should be dealt with appropriately by Chairman Bulova.

Nicholas R. Beltrante

Executive Director
Citizens Coalition for Police
Accountability, Inc.

Face of True Evil

To the Editor:

Sometime prior to July 16 of this year Sully Plantation Historic Site, a Fairfax County park, hosted what it called a World War II “Bivouac.” This re-enactment would have

been harmless enough except that some of the re-enactors portrayed members of the 1 SS Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler, a notorious and fanatic NAZI unit that served as Hitler’s bodyguard. The commander of this unit was found guilty at Nuremberg of having committed war crimes and served prison time. The unit itself was reported to have killed thousands of POWs during the war. Portraying members of this unit is an insult and a slap in the face to the many men and women who served during World War II, yet the Fairfax County Park Authority allowed it to take place. What most concerns me is that I have sent two emails each to Supervisor Gerry Hyland and to County Supervisor Board Chair Sharon Bulova, and I have yet to hear from either one of them. What is needed from them is an apology for having allowed this event to take place and assurances that it will not happen again. What I have received instead is a response from a county PR flack who says it was not their intention to have offended anyone. What an inappropriate and inadequate response.

I was down on the Mall on July 18 at an event at the World War II Memorial at which 30 World War II veterans were honored, and to see these veterans in their wheelchairs saluting when the “Star Spangled Banner” was played brought tears to my eyes. My dad, now deceased, was a combat veteran of WWII, and he and all others who served in that great war deserve better than to be insulted by people who apparently do not know what true evil looks like.

Col. James T. Currie
Alexandria

Understanding Development

To the Editor:

What is there about the simple words “by right” that retired science educator Martin Tillett doesn’t understand [“By Right Development, opinion, July 23-29, Mount Vernon Gazette]. It seems everyone else understands it means you can build it without the government extracting additional requirements not spelled out in local ordinances and regulations. There is not an easier to understand concept in the world of land development. For example, in a R-3 zoning district, it means if you buy a lot subtending greater than 10,500 square feet, you can build a house there as long as you comply with the 30 foot front yard requirement, 12 foot side yard requirement, 25 foot rear yard re-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Mount Vernon teen Will Shute, far right, delivers food donated by Mount Vernon area residents to UCM’s Food Pantry on Fordson Road. Helping out (to his left) is Saint Luke’s Church parishioner David Riley, along with other UCM volunteers. The annual Mount Vernon “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” Food Drive collected more than 2,500 pounds of food and more than \$2,595 to stock the UCM Food Pantry for summer. Saint Luke’s Church hosts the annual food drive, with a teen parishioner taking the lead as coordinator. Shute is a rising junior at West Potomac High School and a Life Scout with Saint Luke’s Boy Scout Troop 654.

quirement and stay at least 15 feet from any floodplain and away from any wetlands. Of course, you must also comply with the 35 foot mean roof height limitation. This is a simplification and there are other requirements spelled out in the law, but the point is you can build your house without being required to submit to public hearings or to offer proffers.

Now suppose you want to build the house closer to the street than 30 feet or reduce the rear yard below 25 feet. Now you have to go to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a variance and withstand a public hearing. Likely you must offer additional concessions such as installing stormwater controls. Now suppose you want to operate a day care business or halfway house in the house. You would have to apply to the Board of Supervisors for a Special Exception or Special Permit. They would likely attach conditions for approval such as requirements for screening from neighbors or off-street parking. This is as it should be.

Introducing the uncertainty of the ability of the government to attach additional conditions to “by right” development not only violates the 5th Amendment to the Constitution, it also would introduce uncertainties in the costs of development that would bring local development to a grinding halt.

The system is not broken. Community activists like and including Martin Tillett must recognize there can be adverse consequences to their activism. Exhibit A is the proposed Kings Crossing Town Center project that fell victim to the adverse effects of excess civic activism. No need to rehash what has been discussed on these pages *ad infinitum*.

Candidates for public office who lack respect for the 5th Amendment’s protection of property owners should be defeated by well-informed voters. The same goes for politicians who do not strike a proper balance between the benefits of proposed developments to the community as a whole and respect for communities most likely to be affected by proposed developments. The views of the latter must be given deference so long as those views are credibly known.

H. Jay Spiegel

Mount Vernon

The author has lived in the Mount Vernon District and has owned property there for over 30 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Cornell University College of Engineering and a law degree from George Mason University. He was formerly a member of the MVCCA’s Environment & Recreation committee and is a past chairman of its Planning & Zoning Committee. He represented the Mount Vernon District on the APR Task Force for BRAC and was a vice-chairman of the land use committee of the 2009 Visioning Task Force.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Publisher
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

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Classic contemporary Rambler featuring the open floor plan, large room sizes and high ceilings that characterize this popular model. Kitchen and baths have been beautifully updated. Other features include 2 finished levels, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, gas heat & tankless hot water heater. Unique main level master suite with private porch. Prime location near Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Fab combination of modern amenities with mid-century character. **OPEN SUN 8/2, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd.**



**4831 Stillwell Ave
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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 everything! **OPEN SUN 8/2, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mill; R-Buckner; L-Stillwell.**



**3205 Woodland Lane \$1,550,000
One of a Kind Property—Waterfront!**

Spacious residence, custom crafted to capitalize on natural beauty of its setting. Soaring cathedral ceilings and expansive glass walls bring light, natural beauty of property and water views to every corner of home. Special features include 3 finished levels, 6 BR including 2 master suites (one on main level), 4 fireplaces, spectacular family room off kitchen, walk-out lower level, fabulous screen porch and open deck. Nearby private boat launch. Magnificent property! Impossible to duplicate!



**9412 Ferry Landing Ct \$799,500
Beat the Heat in your Own Custom Pool!**

Uniquely gorgeous property! Custom home in premier setting on quiet cul-de-sac ending at river. Magnificent grounds featuring custom pool, hot tub, expansive decking and large level lawn. Home with numerous features: open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, fabulous rec room over side load, two car garage. Super value-nothing like it at close to this price!



**9312 Heather Glen Dr
\$624,900
Classic Colonial-
Great Price**

Classic three level, 4BR Colonial in premier setting at remarkable reasonable price! Spacious home in absolutely pristine condition & offers many special features including 3 finished levels, fab. floor plan, family room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, spacious master suite & garage pkg. Magnificent grounds with stone walk, patio & gorgeous landscaping. Prime location! **OPEN SUN 8/2, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson; L-Heather Glen.**



**6036 Fort Hunt Rd
\$799,000
True Belle Haven Gem!**

Classic Belle Haven Colonial in prime location on gorgeously landscaped grounds overlooking Belle Haven Country Club. Fabulous property carefully updated throughout in a manner which provides a delightful blend of the home's original character with many modern conveniences. Numerous features include 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, fireplace and garage. Private grounds with outdoor kitchen and brick patio. **OPEN SUN 8/2, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-Belle Haven; R-Fort Hunt Rd**



**8720 Plymouth Road
\$1,599,000
Brand New Home!**

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 large lot-walk to Waynewood School! **OPEN SUN 8/2, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-Belle Haven; L-Fort Hunt; L-Plymouth.**



**8234 West Boulevard Dr
\$1,625,000
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 VA the year it was built! Loaded with features! 3 car gar.! Screen porch! Walls of windows! Upgraded trim detail! Luxury abounds!



**9408 Brambly Lane
\$1,165,000
New Home Feel!**

Spacious Colonial by Wakefield Homes-the area's leading custom builder! Home has striking open floor plan accentuated by high ceilings and large windows which bring light to every corner of the home. Numerous fabulous features include: 3 luxurious finished levels, open kitchen-family room, spacious master suite and oversize 3 car garage. Deck overlooks private wooded yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Impossible to duplicate at close to this price!



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ENTERTAINMENT

Cold Treats for the Summer Heat Gelato, ice cream shops rise to the occasion this season.

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

Tucked half a block off of King Street in what was formerly a private residence at 111 S. Payne St., Casa Rosada's pink-hued façade beckons pedestrians and drivers alike. The gelato café – whose name means “Pink House” in Spanish, an homage to the presidential residence of Argentina, the country where Casa Rosada's owners hail from – has certainly made itself at home in Old Town in its 13 months of life.

The shop is a family affair. Ben and Raquel Umansky co-own the café with their sons, David and Mark. And the love of gelato runs deep.

“My mother and father ... had been making gelato in their own home for a long time,” David Umansky said. In 2014, “the pieces came together” and they opened Casa Rosada that June. In the ensuing months, they've settled into a rhythm: Raquel Umansky manages the day-to-day business of the store, Ben Umansky – a chemical engineer by trade – continues to develop new flavors, and the whole family takes turns running the counter. Recently, the Umanskys hired three employees to share the workload.



Casa Rosada, located at 111 S. Payne St.



PHOTOS BY HOPE NELSON

The dulce de leche gelato is a top seller.

And business is booming, especially in the hot summer months. (In the winter, David Umansky says, the foot traffic slows down a bit.) The restaurant rotates among a total of about 40 different flavors, showcasing about half of them each day. Among the specialty selections: PBJ, banana split, and sambayon, a gelato that contains a marsala-wine blend.

Some less-familiar names also dot the landscape, such as granizado. “It's kind of like vanilla, but layered with melted chocolate,” Umansky said.

But fans of the tried-and-true flavors also won't be disappointed. Chocolate, vanilla, and their allies remain on the menu daily, along

with a rotating cast including pistachio, hazelnut, and mocha.

The most popular flavors, David Umansky says, include dulce de leche, mint granizado, tango, and pistachio. Tango offers tasters a fruity zing, blending strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries, while mint granizado pops as a mint-infused gelato layered with chocolate.

And while gelato is the star of the show at Casa Rosada, sorbets and soy treats play a supporting role. The sorbets are “vegan and made with water” rather than cream, Umansky said, providing an alternative for those who eschew dairy.

Back in the test kitchen, Ben Umansky has just perfected one of the café's newest flavors: Tiramisu. “It took a few trials and errors” to get the flavors right, David Umansky said, but look for the finished product on Casa Rosada's rotating menu.

Trial and error and slow, steady growth

are hallmarks of any successful eatery. From at-home hobby to full-fledged family business, the Umanskys have grown their dream into a reality, one spoonful at a time.

NOTEWORTHY

The Dairy Godmother, 2310 Mount Vernon Ave.

A mainstay in Del Ray, The Dairy Godmother offers some of the best frozen custard in Alexandria. Located right on the neighborhood's main drag, it's within easy reach after dinner at one of Del Ray's restaurants or a stop-off for a midafternoon snack. The menu changes frequently, so there's no telling what will be in store for you upon your next visit, but you can bet it will be an interesting, refreshing, and tasty treat.

Hope Nelson owns and operates The Kitchen Recessionista blog, which can be found at www.kitchenrecessionista.com.

If You Go

Casa Rosada

Address: 111 S. Payne St., Alexandria

Hours: Noon-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday; noon-10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday

Personal favorite: Co-owner David Umansky's favorite flavor is the granizado. “It's the flavor I always got when I was in Argentina.”

Try this: The crema rusa, which is made with walnuts and marsala wine. “It usually wins people over,” Umansky laughs.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Where's Waldo Scavenger Hunt.

Through Aug. 1, throughout Old Town. Waldo will be hiding out in stores around Alexandria. To participate, pick up a Waldo Passport at the front desk of Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Free. Call 703-548-4092.

Exhibit: “Quietly Cutting

Through.” Through Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. Artist Shih K. Rice's exhibit explores North American and Japanese culture through Kirié, a method in which a single piece of paper is cut by hand to create an image. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

“In The Heights.” Through Aug. 15, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The story

of a tight-knit New York community takes the shape of a hip-hop musical. Tickets are \$25 and \$30. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com for more.

Hollin Meadows Summertime

Writing Nights. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays through Aug. 17 at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Families and elementary students kindergarten-third grade can read, write and talk with teachers. Free. Email Hollinmeadowses.KeepInTouch@fcps.edu.

Paintings by Stanley Agbontaen.

Through Aug. 28 at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The Maryland-based international artist's depictions of scenes are painted on oil canvas. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

Leigh Merrill: “Cloud Seeding.”

Through Aug. 30, during gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Texas-based artist Leigh Merrill shows photography and video in her solo exhibition Cloud Seeding. Merrill's work examines the construction of desire, fiction and beauty in urban landscapes by digitally compositing thousands of images and videos into imaginary

spaces. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried

Show. Through Aug. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 10 a.m.-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Studio 18. View parade-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 717-359-7724.

Cool Yoga.

Wednesdays through Sept. 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Participate in group yoga sessions taught by Prasada Yoga's Maureen Clyne and enjoy refreshments provided by St. Elmo's Coffee Pub and other local eateries. Suitable for all levels. Bring mat, towel and water. Free. Call 703-671-2000.

Special Family Museum Tours.

Saturdays through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Flexible tours and hands-on activities provide a deeper experience into the social and political life of Alexandria in the 18th and 19th centuries. Tickets are \$5 for adults (\$4 with AAA card), \$3 children ages 5-12, and children ages 4 and under as well as Alexandria

Public School and Blue Star families receive free admission. Coupons accepted. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Through Sept. 26 at various times. Leaves from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Baseball fans can avoid heavy traffic and cruise along the Potomac to Nationals Park. Tickets are \$20 one-way and \$25 round-trip, Monday-Thursday, \$28 roundtrip Friday-Sunday. Visit <http://www.potomacriverboatco.com>.

Doggy Happy Hour.

Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one's dog. Free. Visit www.jackson20.com.

Water Taxi to the National Mall.

Through Nov. 1, at various times at Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Cruise from Old Town to D.C. on the *Miss Sophie*, while stopping view some of the area's most popular attractions. Tickets are \$28 roundtrip and \$14 one-way for adults. For children under 12, tickets are \$16 roundtrip and \$8 one-way. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery. Tuesday-

Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.

Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703.548.1789.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

ENTERTAINMENT



'Nationwide Tour of Gowns' Hits Alexandria

Brides Against Breast Cancer, an organization dedicated to offering free information to cancer patients, caregivers, and survivors, has launched a "Nationwide Tour of Gowns" to raise funds for outreach programs. On Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 1-2 brides-to-be may shop gowns priced \$75 to \$1,800. Guests may choose to attend the VIP event on Saturday 5-9 p.m. for \$40 for a bride and one guest, and \$25 for each additional guest and get first dibs on the gowns, enjoy live entertainment and food. General admission is on Sunday for \$5, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. All events will be held at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Visit www.bridesagainstabreastcancer.org for more.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps.

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

Art League Summer Camps.

Registration for Summer Art Camp 2015 is now open. Art Camps run Monday to Friday through 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.

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. Register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/

Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

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.532yoga.com.

MONDAY/ JULY 30

Mike Kelly and Friends. 4 p.m. at Two Nineteen Restaurant, 219 King St. Live concert. Free. Visit www.219restaurant.com to make

reservations.

Jane Austen Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 8, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. \$12 per class. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

FRIDAY/JULY 31

"Science Behind Harry Potter." 3-10 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 107 S Fairfax St. Explore the real world of science and medicine behind J.K. Rowling's series Harry Potter. Admission is \$6 per person. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

219 All Stars. 4 p.m. at Two Nineteen Restaurant, 219 King St. Live concert. Free. Visit www.219restaurant.com to make reservations.

Unburied: The Secrets We Keep Closing Reception. 7-10 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. View a collaborative collective of new talent in the art world. spanning various mediums. Visit ourconvergence.org.

Phil Perry. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B artist Phil Perry performs live. Tickets start at \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar for tickets.

BroadSound. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. BroadSound performs '90s hip hop, soul, rock, and latin music. Tickets start at \$20. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. Visit

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Mass Schedule

Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español)	(en Español); 6:30 pm
Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)	Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Sunday 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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ENTERTAINMENT

www.thecarlyleclub.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 1

Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-12 p.m. at Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge, 8717 Fort Hunt Road. Sales go towards charitable work by the community Freemasons. Visit www.yardsales.net/s/PetP.

Yoga at the Market. 8:15-9 a.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Morning Yoga featuring live music by Alex Young. Bring yoga mat and water. Free. Call 703-746-3200.

Sidewalk Sale. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout Old Town and Del Ray. More than 50 shops host promotional events and clearance sales. Free. visit www.visitalexandriava.com/sidewalksale/.

IPA Festival. 12-8 p.m. at Corcoran Brewing Company, 205 Hirst Road, Purcellville. Alexandria's Port City Brewing will be celebrating National IPA Day in Purcellville. Nick Anderson of Port City and other beer professionals will be on hand with their goods. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.squareup.com/market/IPAFestival.

Food Swap. 2-4 p.m. at 311 Beverly Drive. Swap homegrown, handmade or foraged food. Hosted by DIY Del Ray, a blog about small-space living, interior design, organizing, food, arts and crafts and life in the Del Ray. Free. Reserve a ticket at www.eventbrite.com/e/diy-del-ray-alexandria-food-swap-august-1-2015-tickets-17665378623?aff=eac2.

Ken Fisher Duo Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. An acoustic duo, Ken & Wayne, will be performing. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

Marty Stuart. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Accompanied by His Fabulous Superlatives and the Christian Lopez Band, Marty Stuart performs Tickets are \$35 on Ticketmaster or at the door. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Big Bad Juju. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. The full nine-piece band performs live. Tickets start at \$15. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

Collective Delusion. 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St. Local band plays songs from the 1970s to the present. Admission is free. Visit www.collectivedelusion.net.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 1-2

Brides Against Breast Cancer. Saturday, 5-9 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Brides Against Breast Cancer will be hosting a charity bridal event and trunk show as part of their "Nationwide Tour of Gowns." Dresses will be priced from \$75-1,800. Sign up for the Saturday night V.I.P. event and get first choice of the dresses on sale while enjoying refreshments, entertainment and giveaways. Proceeds will fund free programs for those affected by cancer nationwide. Tickets for Saturday V.I.P. event are \$40 for bride + guest; \$25 for each additional guest; Sunday general admission is \$5. Visit www.bridesagainstbreastcancer.org.

SUNDAY/AUG. 2

Sidewalk Sale. 9 a.m-5 p.m. throughout Old Town and Del Ray. More than 50 shops will host promotional events and clearance sales. Free. visit www.visitalexandriava.com/sidewalksale/.

Bob Schwartz Quartet Performance. 10 a.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Jazz Quartet led by Bob Schwartz.

Members include Oren Levine, Herb Nachmann, David Martin and Nina Schwartz. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com

MONDAY/AUG.36

Alexandria Library's Science in the Summer Program. 10-11 a.m. for rising 2nd and 3rd graders, 12-1 p.m. for rising 4th-6th graders at Alexandria Library, 5005 Duke St. A four-day program with the purpose of educating children about science. Registration is free. Visit www.alexlib.org or call 703-746-1753.

AUG. 3-24

Broadway Musical Dance Workshop. 3:45-4:45 p.m. Mondays at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance class involving jazz and Broadway music. All skills levels welcome. Free; donations accepted. Register by calling 703-765-4573.

MONDAY/AUG. 3

Jorge Drexler 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Uruguayan musician Jorge Drexler performs. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

AUG. 4-SEPT. 7

Art Exhibit: Sultry Colors. 10 a.m- 6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Enamelists at The Torpedo Factory collaborate for an exhibit filled with sultry colors and patterns. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 4

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.

Slingshot Dakota. 7 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Convergence continues an a summer-long all-ages concert series. Tickets are \$7-10. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

AUG. 5-SEPT. 7

Exhibit: "Scapes." 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. View the annual August landscape exhibit juried by Elizabeth Peak. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Exhibit: "Taking Shape." 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. This exhibit features three-dimensional works by Art League member artists. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 5



‘Quietly Cutting Through’

Artist Shiho K. Rice’s exhibit explores North American and Japanese culture through Kirié, a method in which a single piece of paper is cut by hand to create an image. See the exhibit at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St through Aug. 3. Admission is free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Virginia Beer Night. 4 p.m. at Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive., Arlington. Alexandria’s Port City Brewing is celebrating Virginia Craft Beer Month with an evening of live music and beer. No cover charge. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com for more.

Andrew Goldstein Performance. 5 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Singer-songwriter, Andrew Goldstein, will be performing. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

Free Film Series. 6:30-9 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. See the second feature in the Friends of Duncan Library’s free film series, “Screwball Comedies of the 30s and 40.” Visit www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org or call 703-746-1705.

An Evening with Graham Nash. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Musical Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Graham Nash performs. Tickets are \$90.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 6

Tim Cretella Performance. 5 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Singer-songwriter Tim Cretella will perform. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

First Thursday. 6-9 p.m. along Mt. Vernon Ave., Del Ray. Attend a Music and dance festival on Del Ray’s main street. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Kasey Chambers. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Country and country-pop music from Australian-born artist Kasey Chambers. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 7

FLY-Summer Performance. 6 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. 4915 East Campus Drive. The Metropolitan School of the Arts will be performing. Admission is free. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metrofinearts.com.

“Au Naturel” Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. Attend the opening ceremony for the “Au Naturel” exhibit.

ENTERTAINMENT

Admission is free. Visit www.TheDelrayArtisans.org.

Bruce Givens Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Acoustic artist Bruce Givens will be performing. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

Rachel Kline and Oklahoma Car Crash. 7:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 Quaker Lane. Local musicians perform in honor of a tour launch. Tickets are \$5-7. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.

Kim Waters. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Music by Maryland-born saxophonist and jazz performer Kim Waters. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

Four Mile Summer Movie Festival. Movies start at dusk and are shown at the Four Mile Conservatory Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Community Church's Inaugural summer movie festival is co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Film schedule is as follows: Friday, Aug. 7, "McFarland USA" and Friday, Sept. 11, "Cool Runnings." Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.theaterchurch.com.

AUG. 7-30

"Au Naturel" Exhibit. First Thursdays, 12-9 p.m., Thursdays, 12-6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 12-9 p.m., Sundays, 12-6 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. View artwork made in the "Au Naturel" or minimalist style. Admission is free. Visit www.TheDelrayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ AUG. 7-9

Arts on the Horizon presents:
"Space-Bop." Friday -10:30 a.m.; Saturday - 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Sunday - 10:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Join Arts on the Horizon for a sneak peak of "Space-Bop," set to open in February 2016. "Space-Bop" takes place under the stars and employs hip-hop artist help tell a story that will help children appreciate the beauty of the night sky. The show is geared towards infants and toddlers. Tickets are \$3. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org

SATURDAY/AUG. 8

Cooking Event. 10-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Farmers' Market, Market Square, 301 King St. Sample food from Chef Antonio Carluccio, from Carluccio's Restaurant. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/OldTownFarmersMarket.

Canine Cruise. 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. The family dog is welcome to join in on an hour-long cruise through the Alexandria Seaport. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$10 for children. Dogs ride free. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

Irish Festival. 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park. The Ballyshaners of Alexandria will host a full day of Irish music, dance, food and more. Visit www.ballyshaners.org/festival.

One Love Festival. 12-6 p.m. at Braddock Road Field, 400-594 E Braddock Road. This community event is held in honor of Lenny Harris to continue his legacy. Performers and vendors will be on site along with entertainment for children. Free. Visit www.actionalexandria.org/event/one-love-festival or email javierel@verizon.net.

Jane Austen Ball. 8 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Listen to live period music and watch or perform a variety of English Country dances. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/

GadsbysTavern or call 703-746-4242.

SUNDAY/AUG. 9

Performance by Peter Omelchenko. 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. See Peter Omelchenko perform, accompanied by pianist Jonathan Laird. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Visit www.balalaika.org.

Collective Delusion. 7 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Local band plays songs from the past and present. Admission is free. Visit www.collectivedelusion.net.

MONDAY/AUG. 10

Beer Science Class. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Port City World Headquarters, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Take a "mini class" on the principles of yeast and fermentation as they pertain to beer. Admission is \$20. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 12

Levi Stephens Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Singer-songwriter, Levi Stephens, will be performing. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 13

Art Exhibition Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. Texas-based artist Leigh Merrill will be hosting a reception and Q&A at her photography and video solo exhibition Cloud Seeding. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.com for more.

Opening Reception: "Scapes" and "Taking Shape." 6:30- 8 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. Meet the artists. Refreshments will be served. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Listen to traditional New Orleans-style jazz by the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 14

Austin Ellis Performance. 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Artist Austin Ellis will perform. Free. Visit theblackwallhitch.com.

Titan Takeover Teen Night. 7-10 p.m. at Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W Reed Ave. Featuring foods, events and giveaways. Free; food and raffle tickets are available for purchase. Recommended for teens. Text "Titan" to 30644 or email kim.hurley@alexandriava.gov by Aug. 12 to attend.

Dry Branch Fire Squad and Lou Reid & Carolina. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Music by Dry Branch Fire Squad and Lou Reid Carolina. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

Dixie Boys Melody Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Calvary Community Church, 6731 Beulah St. See the Dixie Boys Melody perform. Free. Visit www.mountcalvary.cc or call 703-971-0165.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 15-16

Trunk Show: Candace Edgerley. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St. An artist hosts a meet-and-greet, and displays scarves inspired by a recent trip to India. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/event/trunk-show-candace-edgerley/ or call 703-836-5807.

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West Potomac's Gallagher Commits to Fresno State

Rising junior helped Wolverines reach Conference 7 final.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Martha Gallagher enjoyed her first trip to the West Coast enough that she decided to plan for a lengthy return. Gallagher, a rising junior at West Potomac High School, flew to California for a lacrosse camp at Fresno State University in early July. While there, she visited the campus and stayed in a dorm. The coaching staff had shown interest in Gallagher and she enjoyed the West Coast's "laid back" environment and non-humid weather.

"It was so different over there, but different in a good way," Gallagher said. "I really liked how it was over there." Gallagher was "scared" at first of the idea of going to college on the other side of the country, and her parents voiced their concerns, but Gallagher felt comfortable in the Golden State. On July 22, Fresno State offered Gallagher a scholarship to play lacrosse. Three days later, she verbally committed and hopes to be admitted into the university's honors college.

"I really loved the campus [and] the coach (Jessica Giglio) is very optimistic," Gallagher said. "... I love the school, I love the other girls that are on the team and I love the coach's philosophies."

Gallagher has played for the West Potomac varsity girls' lacrosse team each of the last two seasons. As a freshman in 2014, she earned second-team all-Conference 7



West Potomac rising junior Martha Gallagher is committed to play lacrosse at Fresno State University.

honors. Last year, as a sophomore, she totaled 19 goals, 15 assists, 21 ground balls, 25 draw controls and 11 caused turnovers in 18 games. She received first-team all-conference honors and was honorable mention all-6A North region.

Gallagher, who played Fort Hunt Youth Lacrosse from first through eighth grade, helped West Potomac reach the 2015 con-

ference championship game under second-year head coach Cindy Lopez-Yusuf.

"She's a very driven player," Lopez-Yusuf said. "I would consider her to be a leader on the team."

She's someone who leads by example in terms of play on the field [and] how driven she is. She's definitely an integral part of the team." Gallagher, who also plays basketball for West Potomac, is the second player to commit to a Division I school during Lopez-Yusuf's time with Wolverine girls' lacrosse program (2014 graduate Jordyn Elliott plays for Winthrop). Lopez-Yusuf said players like Gallagher committing to Division I colleges can help build the West Potomac program, and possibly convince local athletes who are considering private schools to attend West Potomac.

"It absolutely is good for the program," Lopez-Yusuf said. "We're in a position where she's kind of trailblazer. Other girls can see her do it and say 'I can do it.' ... Other girls can look up to her. ... Girls considering going to West Potomac or a private school ... they'll see that they can [play Division I lacrosse] by being a part of this program. You can play at the next level by being a part of West Potomac."

Gallagher was also voted to be junior class president for the 2015-16 school year. "We're incredibly proud of her," Lopez-Yusuf said. "She's a player that we know can play at the next level. The fact that she went out and pursued this opportunity and is taking advantage of the opportunity that's given to her ... [is] great."

PHOTO BY JOHN WILLMOTT

Senior Olympics Offers Variety of Events

The 2015 NVSO will be held Sept. 12-25 at 23 venues throughout Northern Virginia. More than 50 events are open to adults 50-plus years of age living in a sponsoring jurisdiction. NVSO is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Prince William.

Other NVSO events include track and field, swimming, diving, cycling, tennis,

table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, eight ball pool, volleyball, pickleball, men's basketball, handball, racquetball, badminton and bocce.

Participants can register online at www.nvso.us or by mail. Registration fee is \$12 which covers multiple events.

Deadlines are Aug. 28 by mail, Sept. 4 online.

For more information, call 703-228-4721 or email, nvso1982@gmail.com.



From left: Sean Wilms, Hayden McCloud, Valentina Lohr, Peter Aronson, Katrina Napora, and Willow Abshire Sims.

PHOTO BY ERIN FRYER

Governor's School Students Complete Research

Six students from high schools throughout Virginia — including West Potomac High School's Hayden McCloud — presented their summer research projects at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science on July 17 in front of an audience of mentors, parents, peers, and members of the VIMS community.

VIMS Governor's School — administered alongside a similar program at NASA Langley and provided in cooperation with Christopher Newport University — hosts six students who have demonstrated interest in and aptitude for marine science. The four-week program has provided high-achieving high school students with experiences in marine research since 1993.

The students worked with faculty and student mentors at VIMS on a variety of research projects focused on everything from the effect of seagrass habitat on predator-prey interactions between blue crabs and

clams, to exploring the relationship between the El Niño Southern Oscillation and Peruvian anchovy fisheries.

Valentina Lohr, a rising senior at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology in Alexandria, completed an internship at Maryland's Institute for Marine and Environmental Technology prior to coming to VIMS.

This summer, Lohr worked studied how declining seagrass coverage might influence blue crab and clam populations. Joining Lohr in the VIMS program were Peter Aronson (Blacksburg High School); Hayden McCloud (West Potomac High School); Katrina Napora (Broadway High School); Willow Abshire Sims (Franklin County High School); and Sean Wilms (Ocean Lakes High School).

McCloud researched "Exploring the Relationship between El Niño - Southern Oscillation and Peruvian Anchovy Fisheries."

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Alexandria residents **Brendan Michael A. Bowe, Charonda Brown, Heather A. Forrest, Brady J. Jernigan, Laura M. Kellermann, Matthew J. Rosales, Ysabel M. Trujillo** and **Ruth M. Walston** received scholarships on July 22 from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation at the Truman Crawford Hall at the Marine Barracks Washington in Washington, D.C. The foundation awarded more than \$7 million in scholarship funding to a 2,300 Marine children for the 2015-16 academic year. Of those, 170-plus recipients are from Washington, D.C., Maryland

or Virginia.

Kyung Lee received a National Merit Scholarship at Emory University (Atlanta, Ga.).

Jack Skopowski received a National Merit Scholarship at George Washington University (Washington, D.C.).

Stephanie Restifo was named to the dean's list for the spring 2015 semester at the University of Delaware (Newark, Del.).

Emily Deller was named to the dean's list for the spring 2015 semester at University of the Sciences (Philadelphia, Pa.).

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Notice is hereby given that the following watercraft has been abandoned for more than 60 DAYS on the property of: Belle Haven Marina, #1 Belle Haven Road, Alexandria, VA (703)768-0018

Description of watercraft: Creekmore Boats (Custom), ~35ft, 1979, white hull, NC1540WU

Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 if the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of first publication of this notice. Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Invitation to Bid No. 00000548, Citywide Sidewalk Connections Duke Street Pedestrian Improvements

Bid Opening Date and Time: August 26, 2015, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time

Pre-Bid Conference: None

For general inquiries contact Darryl Jackson, Contract Specialist II at 703.746.4298.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

Michael Hauer, CPPO, CPPB
Acting Purchasing Agent

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Cabling and Low Voltage Systems Equipment and Maintenance Services.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-03-03 Cabling and Low Voltage Systems Equipment and Maintenance Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 19, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

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smckenzie1507@gmail.com
Cell 202-498-6169

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide bread products.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 15-07-04 Bread Products will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 6, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. Bid documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPs website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) 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 any bid.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

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were never to
come, it would
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-Dagobert Runes

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Alexandria City Public Schools Annual Public Notice Career and Technical Education

Alexandria City Public Schools' Department of Career and Technical Education offers a variety of career and technical programs to all students at the middle and high school levels. The program areas include the following:

- Business and Information Technology
- Health and Medical Sciences
- JROTC
- Technology Education
- Family Consumer Sciences
- Trade and Industrial Education
- Marketing

Dual enrollment credit for high school Career and Technical Education is available through an agreement with Northern Virginia Community College whether the student is pursuing a post-secondary education and/or entering the workforce. For more information about these programs call Sherri Chapman, Coordinator of Career and Technical Education, (703) 619-8020.

Alexandria City Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities. Please direct all inquiries regarding Alexandria City Public Schools non-discrimination policies to the Executive Director of Human Resources, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 619-8020.

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Zones 1, 5, 6 Mon @ noon

Zones 2, 3, 4 Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to: classified@connectionnewspapers.com or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

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The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
Zone 2: The Springfield Connection
The Burke Connection
The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/
Lorton Connection
Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

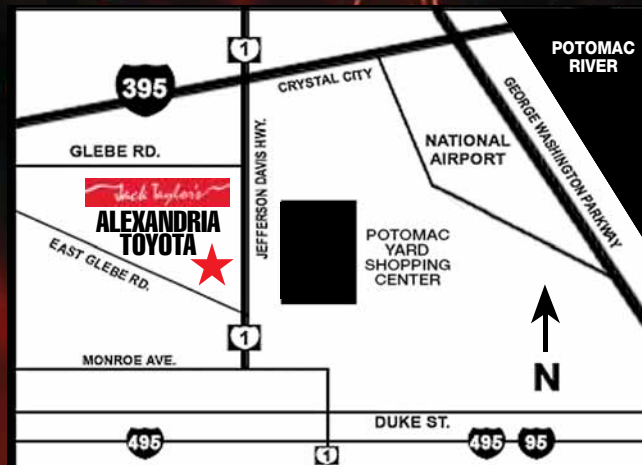
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Centre View South
Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
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Connection
The McLean Connection
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adjust drive belts, tighten fittings, check condenser fins &
check system for leaks.

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LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL

\$34.95 **\$44.95**

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Includes: Change oil (up to 5 qts.),
install Genuine Toyota oil filter,
inspect & adjust all fluid levels and
complimentary multi-point inspection
with print out.

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

Includes: Inspect suspension,
ball joints, struts & shocks, tire
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

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Places**



**Fairfax County Supt. Karen Garza on the
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“... the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has failed to fully fund Fairfax County Public Schools. This is extremely **disheartening** - we entered this budget year making a good faith effort to work collaboratively ... and in the end they **did not deliver**. Supervisors are sending a clear message that they are **unconcerned** about the increasing challenges of our students, our teachers, and our schools ... we face a **devastating** shortfall ... due to years of **chronic underfunding** ... we will not be able to sustain the current quality nor the full range of academic programming we currently offer our students.”

Thank you, Dr. Garza

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