

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 27, 2015



Olivia Lough (left) and Henry Kohler (right) of the Mount Vernon area take in the view of the Potomac River with Martha Washington as she crafts a seat cover for a chair, doing “work with a needle.”



Brian (left) and Maddie Logue (right) play the “game of graces” at the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon annual picnic.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

## Picnic with the President Mount Vernon Neighborhood Friends raising money to upgrade fire suppression.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**L**orne Campbell was told the historic property he bought on Robertson Boulevard was once part of an area where George Washington liked to have his pigs graze.

“It gives us an excuse to eat like a pig,” said Campbell’s daughter Jasmine. Originally from Australia, Campbell moved to the United

States and became a naturalized American citizen. In 2001 he purchased the property.

As an Aussie transplant, Campbell said he “thought buying a piece of America would be amazing.” The family’s living room is now adorned with two portraits of the Revolutionary War General.

The Campbell’s are part of a community of homeowners with residences on the roughly 500 acres where Washington operated

the five farms of his estate.

For decades, the Neighborhood Friends group has supported the estate, including a program to fund maintenance and restoration projects.

Over the years, those projects have included re-shingling the mansion roof, restoring the windows of the mansion, reconstructing the blacksmith shop and repairing the east lawn slope.

“They really have stepped up to

do the not-so-sexy projects,” said George Washington’s Mount Vernon director of special gifts Carolina Camargo, “but they’re crucial to keeping Mount Vernon going.”

This year, the Neighborhood Friends group has undertaken helping fund a \$2 million endeavor to replace the mansion’s outdated fire suppression system.

In the 1980s, Camargo said, a vacuum system was installed.

Though it was never required to be used, in the case of a theoretical fire, the mansion would be evacuated and the system would suck out all the air, keeping any fire from continuing or spreading.

But the generations-old home, Camargo said, turns out to be full of tiny holes, rendering this process much less effective. The new system, which has already started being implemented, provides a

SEE PICNIC WITH, PAGE 4



Around 1,700 local residents and Neighborhood Friends of George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate gathered for the annual picnic family night to benefit a new fire prevention and suppression system for the grounds.



Friends (from left) Amanda Hail, Tara DePumpo, Ella DePumpo and Rachel Green, all from the Mount Vernon area, check out the George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate fire truck at the Neighborhood Friends annual benefit picnic.

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**Old Town Alexandria \$363,000**

Exciting opportunity to own a condo steps from King Street. Light and bright with bay window, this 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo features Brazilian cherry floors, freshly painted walls, Baldwin brass door knobs, and a KitchenAid range with 2 convection ovens. Garage parking for 1 car for 1 year.

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www.JoySutherland.com



**Alexandria/Mt Woodley \$405,000**

Located on a corner lot surrounded by open green space. Recently renovated kitchen with tons of cabinetry and eat in space. Beautiful deck with great views. Stone fireplace in family room, with walk out to spacious back yard. 2 master suites upstairs, guest bedroom on lower level.

**Pam Cornelio**

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**Alexandria \$559,000**

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**Sue Goodhart**

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**Woodbridge \$525,000**

A stunning home boasting an updated interior with a private backyard, a pool, and a screened-in porch on over one acre. Cherry cabinets, granite countertops, hardwood floors, plantation shutters, and built-in shelving. Backing to a farm, this home is a MUST SEE!

**David Gray**

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## Eagle Project

**Troop 1509 Scouts participated in Andres Warren's Eagle project on Saturday, Aug. 22. The project included relocating bike racks and creating a new and expanded bike area at Fort Hunt Elementary School. The Scouts (from left) include: Scott Lucier, Wrigley Smith, Antonio Warren, Noah Ventura, Max Loker, Timothy Florenzo, Matthew Verich, Colin Wong, Mike Auld, Taj Armstrong, and Andres Warren.**

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED



**Andres Warren with Fort Hunt Elementary School Principal Thomas Fitzpatrick at the end of the day.**

## Coleman Honored At West Point

**E**ugene J. Coleman, III, of Alexandria, was named First Captain/Brigade Commander at the U.S. Military Academy on July 30.

Coleman, a graduate of the Class of 2012 at Mount Vernon High School, is now in his last year West Point. First Captain/Brigade Commander is the highest honor among the 4,400-member Corps of Cadets. In addition, he is president of the Class of 2016.

Because of his active involvement and leadership at West Point, he was one of two cadets selected to represent West Point at the NAACP Image Awards in Pasadena, Calif. in February 2014.

Coleman is a former student representative to the Fairfax County School Board for the 2011-2012 term. At his final school board meeting, he was honored as he received many accolades for his accomplishments while representing over 175,000 students. He was recognized by COTS (Coalition of the Silence) that established an award in his honor. This is an annual award to be given to an outstanding COTS 8th grader who demonstrates the kind of character and leadership that Coleman exemplified as student representative, student leader and community advocate.

By age 18, Coleman had already received many awards for his accomplishments. At his graduation in June 2012 from Mount Vernon High School, he was presented with a resolution from the Virginia General Assembly, House Joint

Resolution 397, recognizing his accomplishments as a citizen and as student representative on the school board. In March 2012,

he was awarded the Harry F. Byrd, Jr. \$10,000 Leadership Award, which recognizes Virginia's top high school students from each congressional district, who exhibit excellence of character, leadership, devotion to duty, and academic accomplishment. He also received an award for student volunteer of the year from the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association. In addition, he has received awards and scholarships from Apple Federal Credit Union, Mount Vernon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Northrop Grumman, The Northern Virginia Urban League and several others.

Because of his leadership in Marine Corps JROTC at Mount Vernon High School, he received the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement at a Marine Corps JROTC Battalion formation in November 10, 2011. The Legion of Valor is the highest award presented to cadets in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. He received the award for his outstanding academic record, leadership, participation in extra-curricular activities and community service.



## Back to School Campaign

**Thanks to many organizations hosting collection drives for United Community Ministries's**

(UCM) annual Back to School Campaign, more than 800 students from low-income families in the Mount Vernon area will get to choose new backpacks and school supplies. Susan Johnson, UCM campaign coordinator (right) is pictured with Inova Mount Vernon Hospital's Margaret Shipp (center) who delivered check donations totaling more than \$1,000, collected from hospital staff. Helping to thank Shipp is UCM Basic Needs Manager Alex Pytel at left. Monetary donations designated to "School" are still being accepted via [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org) or via check mailed to UCM, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



## New Signs for Fire Station

Fairfax County Fire Station 9/Mount Vernon gained new signs thanks to Scout Zachary Cooper of Troop 301. The signs were for the station's Open House, held annually during National Fire Prevention Week. Zac approached the fire station looking for ways to complete his Eagle Scout Project and help his community. Together, he and the firefighters established the idea of creating the new signs for the station. Zac formulated a plan, obtained all the equipment (wood, hardware, paint, etc.), gathered neighborhood friends, and constructed them.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED





Horsedrawn wagon rides were among the activities enjoyed by friends and patrons at the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon annual benefit picnic.

## Picnic with the President

FROM PAGE 1

room-by-room “mist” that should be better able to isolate the fire.

The plan is to install the system throughout the estate’s mansion and then move on to the outbuildings.

In the event of a fire, Mount Vernon staff would be able to rely on detailed digital documentation of every aspect of the house, a project undertaken by the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association, to restore it exactly as it was.

To help raise the money for the new mist fire-suppression system, the Neighborhood Friends hosted its annual Family Night Picnic in the evening on Aug. 23. Camargo said they expected around 1,700 friends, representing 1,600 households in the Mount Vernon area.

Families converged on the East Lawn of the estate overlooking the Potomac River and grazed on food from the new Alexandria Wegmans grocery store and refreshing beverages provided by Anheuser-Busch.

Together with those and other sponsors, Neighborhood Friends dues and other donations, Camargo said \$1.2 million of the \$2 million has already been raised for the fire-suppression system.

The evening’s activities included horse-drawn wagon rides, a chance to explore the estate’s own modern fire truck and play period games like “game of graces” and rolling hoops.

“It’s wonderful the tradition this place has kept together,” said Erik Kohler, who lives in Stratford on the Potomac and whose mother is a member of the Neighborhood Friends group.

First Lady Martha Washington, working a flowery purple seat cushion with a needle



Lorne Campbell (right) and daughter Jasmine (left) wander through the crowd selling raffle tickets. Campbell’s property on Robertson Boulevard in the Mount Vernon area was said to be a place where George Washington grazed his pigs.

and watching over the house while her husband was in at work in Philadelphia and “bringing government to the new city,” said she is grateful for the help of the Neighbors. “We are indebted to all those who offer their love and care,” she said. Though visitors come to the mansion from far and wide, “Non are as precious to me as our Neighbors.”

## Fan Causes House Fire

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Units responded to a house fire Thursday, Aug. 20, at approximately 5:30 a.m., at 5205 Pole Road.

Firefighters encountered smoke and fire coming from the two-story home upon arrival. The fire was contained to the living area on the first floor. The lone occupant was alerted to the fire by a sounding smoke alarm. The occupant sustained a non-life

threatening injury when he jumped from the front porch roof on to the lawn. He was not transported to a medical facility. The occupant has been displaced; however, he has declined Red Cross support. There were no other injuries.

Damage is estimated at \$25,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. A malfunctioning box fan in the living room caused the fire.

## Unattended Stove Causes Fire

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Units responded to a townhouse fire, Saturday, Aug. 22, at approximately 12:30 a.m., at 8077 Buckman Court.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke coming from the two-story townhouse upon arrival. Firefighters forced entry into the home and conducted an interior fire attack. Despite firefighting efforts, the home suffered major damage; however, the fire was contained to a single townhouse. A neigh-

bor reported the fire when smoke came from their kitchen sink. No one was home when the fire broke out. There were no working smoke alarms in the home. Two occupants have been displaced. Red Cross support was offered but declined by the occupants. There were no injuries.

The townhouse was a complete loss.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. An unattended burner on a gas stovetop was left on and caused the fire.

## Fire Damages Townhouse

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department Units responded to a townhouse fire Saturday, A., 1, at approximately 4:40 p.m., at 8690 Walutes Circle.

Firefighters saw smoke coming from the first floor upon arrival. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire. One occupant was home when the fire started, but escaped un-

harm. Three occupants have been displaced. Red Cross is assisting the three occupants. There were no reported civilian or firefighter injuries. Damage is estimated at \$93,750.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. Combustibles too close to a heat source caused the fire.

## Providing Back-to-School Haircuts

Firefighters will sponsor back-to-school children’s haircuts on Wednesday, Sept. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. Firefighters, local barbers, and beauticians hope to cut hair for 150 youngsters. The

Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department, Fairfax Police, and Virginia State Police will have equipment on display, along with performing clowns, face painting, and moon bounces.

### CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

**TRAFFIC PURSUIT WITH APPREHENSION**, Buckman Road/Janna Lee Avenue, Aug. 21, at about 11:41 p.m. An officer attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation on Buckman Road near Janna Lee Avenue. The driver of the vehicle disregarded the officer’s signal to stop and continued to travel on Buckman Road, attempting to elude the officer. The officer conducted the Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT), and the vehicle was safely stopped with the assistance of other officers. The driver was arrested and did not require medical assistance. A 25-year-old man from Stafford was charged with felony speed to elude, possession with intent to distribute marijuana, possession with intent to distribute cocaine, disregarding a traffic signal, and expired state inspection.

**UNLAWFUL ENTRY/LARCENY**, 8800 block of Badger Drive, Aug. 16. A resident reported property was taken from the residence during day time.

**LARCENIES**  
4000 block of Buckman Road, property from residence.  
8000 block of Candlewood Drive, property from residence.  
3000 block of Fordson Court, merchandise from business.  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchan-

dise from business.  
6800 block of Richmond Highway, bicycle from business.  
4300 block of Ferry Landing Road, property from residence.  
7400 block of Vernon Square Center, merchandise from business.  
2700 block of Arlington Drive, wallet from residence  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, electronics from business  
1900 block of Elkin Street, merchandise from business  
6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, beverage form business  
7900 block of Woodpecker Way, property from residence.  
6600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.  
3100 block of Jackies Lane, cash from residence.  
6500 block of Virginia Hills Avenue, phone from business.  
6000 block of Richmond highway, moped from business.  
**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
7700 block of Fordson Road, 2001 Toyota Camry.  
8300 block of Brockham Drive, 2010 Mercedes C300.





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Front row: Joel Jackson, Matthew Whitesides, Lee Canto, Nick Canto, Steven Canto, John Remmers, and Michael Barbosa. Back row: Alex Elmer, Joseph Beal, and Spencer Parker at the U.S. Department of Education.**

## Helping Celebrate ADA's Anniversary

**B**oy Scouts from Troops 601, 1183, and 1519 provided an integrated color guard for the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) at the U.S. Department of Education hosted by Secretary Arne Duncan.

Scouts with disabilities and without disabilities worked together to present the colors at this gov-

ernment event attended by almost 300.

Participating from Troop 1183 were John Remmers, Spencer Parker, Alex Elmer, and Joseph Beal. From Troop 1519 was Eagle Scout Matthew Whitesides and from Crew 601 were brothers Leo Canto, Nick Canto, and Steven Canto with Michael Barbosa, Crew leader, and Joel Jackson, BSA District Executive.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 3

**Business Roundtable Speaker Series Session 6: Business Franchising.** 8:30-10 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express, 6055 Richmond Highway. Sessions include presentation from Heather Rosen, of FranNet; Barbara Bershler, of Press & Dozier, LLC; and Alicia/Barryl Pryor, of Liberty Tax Service; a light breakfast, and time to network. Free. Visit [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org) for more.

#### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9

**MOMS Club Meeting.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon

Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Attend the meeting to hear about the process of language development from a speech pathologist. Children may attend. Free. Contact Melissa Holmes at 571-217-4171 or [southalexmomms@yahoo.com](mailto:southalexmomms@yahoo.com), or visit [southalexandriamommsclub.webs.com](http://southalexandriamommsclub.webs.com).

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

**Business Breakfast.** 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce September Business Breakfast will discuss upcoming economic development in Alexandria City. Tickets are \$25 per person. Visit [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org).

**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](http://virginiaccpa.com).

#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

**Mount Vernon 2015 Day To Serve.** 9-11 a.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Help prepare meals for the Food for Others program, which provides food to local students on the weekends. Free. Visit [www.heritagechurchva.org/](http://www.heritagechurchva.org/).

**Office Hours.** Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at [Dan.Storck@fcps.edu](mailto:Dan.Storck@fcps.edu) or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at [mehook@fcps.edu](mailto:mehook@fcps.edu)

❖ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 7



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NEW LISTING

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

**Burke/Cardinal Glen \$522,500**  
**6113 Covered Bridge**  
Spacious, 2-story Bunkerhill Colonial in desirable Cardinal Glen. 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs, Newly painted. Large kitchen w/4 yr old countertops, family rm off kit, formal dining rm. MBR w/private bath, walk-in closet & ceiling fan. 2 other BRs have ceiling fans as well. Hdwd flrs entire 2nd level & 1st flr entrance hall. Lots of storage throughout + large unfinished basement w/laundry chute & access to the bkdyd. Great deck, 16x12, overlooks shade trees & lg fenced-in bkdyd. Quiet, well-maintained neighborhood minutes from Fairfax County Pkwy, VRE's Burke Center Station, Pentagon Express bus lot nearby - less than 15 mins from Rte 95 & the Beltway.



NEW LISTING

**Alex/Fairfield \$398,500**  
**4212 Alcott Street**  
"Postcard Perfect" Best describes this lovely 3BR, 2BA, meticulously maintained split with fireplace, refinished hdwd floors, updated kit & baths & over sized 1 car garage. Add a spectacular yard that backs to county land & forest. Beautiful views of wild life, quiet and serenity await your pleasure from this remarkable setting. 8 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Huntington Metro & Old Town Alex. This is a Gem!



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

**Alex./Yacht Haven • \$832,700**  
**4505 Dolphin Lane**  
4,000 sq. ft. of renovated luxury in this 5 BR/4 BA Split - Updates: Kitchen, all 4 baths, spectacular cherry hdwd floors - Great room opens to beautiful sun-room addition that opens to spectacular 35K deck overlooking an unbelievable custom landscaped bkdyd. House designed for independent living on either level. Two updated HVAC systems plus tankless HWH - the list goes on & on. Walk to marina, clubhouse & pool. Nothing better in all of Mount Vernon.



**Yacht Haven Estates • \$574,900**  
**4625 Tarpon Lane**  
Beautiful 4 BR, 3 BA home on 1/2 acre in sought-after waterfront community of Yacht Haven, close to G.W. Parkway, Potomac River, and 5 mins to Ft.Belvoir. Custom-built family room addition with cathedral ceiling is breathtaking - a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship. Hardwood floors throughout main and upper level. Open floor plan. Light floods in thru kitchen and living room skylights. Large kitchen with newly installed granite, sink, and gas cooktop. French doors open to large deck overlooking the lovely backyard with large shed. ATTRACTIVELY PRICED, this home is a winner!



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

**Alex./Sulgrave Manor • \$539,900**  
**4101 Sulgrave Drive**  
Spacious & renovated 3 BR, 2.5 BA Split - Beautifully refinished hardwoods, freshly painted interior & exterior - updated kitchen & baths. Lovely sunroom or formal dining rm addition. Stunning brick FPL in living rm & separate gas-powered wood stove in rec rm. Large spectacular landscaped corner lot w/beautiful stone/brick patio - walkways meander thru the gardens. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town - This home is a treasure!!



**Alex./River Towers • \$219,900**  
**6621 Wakefield Dr. #209**  
This lovely unit has 2 BRs, 2 BAs, & a sought-after Balcony! The bathrms have been updated, the unit freshly painted & new carpeting. Utilities are included in condo fees. River Towers' amenities include a swimming pool, tennis courts, garden plots, picnic grove with grills, beautifully landscaped grounds, & so much more. River Towers has a Metro connector bus out front that goes to the Huntington Metro Yellow Line. Great community & location. Close to G.W. Pkwy, Mount Vernon Bike Trail, Potomac River, & Belle Haven Marina. Less than 5 minutes to Old Town, Alexandria along G.W. Parkway, 15 minutes to Fort Belvoir.



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

**Alex./Windsor Estates • \$459,900**  
**6500 Windham Avenue**  
Beautifully renovated, 2-level Rambler w/2,200 sq ft, 4 BRs, 2 BAs & finished lower level with walkout, on a huge .61 acre lot. Freshly painted, refinished hdwd floors on main level, new carpet on lower level, renovated kitchen & baths & new interior doors. Solid home w/tons of storage, 2 workshops & great community! Great location - Close to Kingstowne Center, Springfield Mall & Fort Belvoir. Walk to Springfield Metro.

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Belle Haven Country Club

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



# OPINION

## An Obvious Native

14 signs you were born and raised in Alexandria.

BY BETHANY COAN

1. In conversations, you make a clear distinction that you are from Northern Virginia and it is never shortened to NoVa.

2. You grew up on one of George Washington's original pig farms or in a townhouse down the street from Gadsby's Tavern or across Richmond Highway from Woodlawn Plantation.

3. Your parents, friends' parents, and neighborhood adults at large work for the government or the military.

4. You never realized how great the Smithsonian Institute is until you visited or moved to another city and had to pay to explore a portrait gallery or to see baby Asian elephants at the zoo (and most zoos don't even have giant pandas!).

5. Every year in April, you forget which Sunday is the George Washington Parkway 10

Miler until you are forced to wind around the neighborhood side streets due to road blocks.

6. You frequent the reliable 24-hour 7-Eleven on a regular basis whether for a morning coffee, an afternoon energy drink, or a late night drunk snack.

7. You can count on running into friends' parents at Safeway, the Hollin Hall gas station, or Wendy's during lunchtime on a school day.

8. You always thought Mount Vernon Estates was boring and you avoided going there until "National Treasure 2: Book of Secrets" showcased the estates underground tunnels.

9. You know that if you hit a green light right away at the intersection of Gibbon Street and Route 1 and drive exactly 25 miles per hour down Route 1 through Old Town Alexandria, you can cruise the 15 city blocks without stopping at a light.

10. You have been to Gravelly Point on a summer afternoon and laid out in the grass to watch the low flying planes coming and going from

Reagan National Airport.

11. Your house has a dogwood tree planted in the front or backyard and you get a burst of state pride when you see a cardinal land on a full bloom branch.

12. You remember the wonders of Power Video in the Belle View shopping center — rent one classic film, get another classic for free and charge the balance to your parent's account.

13. You love driving down the George Washington Memorial Parkway — you know all the right places to go above the speed limit and where to slow down for hidden police traps.

14. Your little league athletic teams always went to Primo's Pizza after a big win or to celebrate the end of a season.

*Bethany Coan is a travel writing student of Matador Network's online university, MatadorU. When she is not busy writing or bartending in New Orleans, La., she is dreaming of and planning her next worldly adventure. Follow her on twitter @bcalgebre or at www.algebre.tumblr.com. www.matadornetwork.com*

## Schools Need Support at All Levels

TAMARA DERENAK KAUFAX  
LEE DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE  
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

It is encouraging to read in a recent Connection commentary by Jim Corcoran, president and CEO Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce ("Now Is Time to Unite for Education"), that the chamber is taking seriously the funding crisis facing Fairfax County Public Schools. Mr. Corcoran is absolutely right that K-12 spending at the state level has not kept pace with rising enrollments and costs. In fact, Virginia now ranks in the top 10 nationally in measures of wealth, but in the bottom 10 in support for public schools. Virginia ranks 41st out of 50 states in K-12 funding.

After eight years of painful budget cuts, the deep deficit FCPS faces for FY 2017 — perhaps in the range of \$100 million — is certainly due in part to chronic underfunding of public schools at the state level. However, the relative share of state and county contributions

to the FCPS operating budget has not changed in that time. The annual transfer from the Fairfax County government to the schools has also not kept pace with growing enrollments and costs. FCPS is spending \$1,000 less per child, in real dollars, than in 2008 - the state and county governments share this responsibility.

Mr. Corcoran correctly points out that FCPS has received increased funding from the county over the years. It is important to note that during the last eight years, however, enrollment growth and rising costs have outpaced increased revenue by \$500 M. In FY 2015, for example, the county increased the transfer to the school system by 3 percent resulting in an increase in revenue of \$51.5 M. In that same year, FCPS experienced unavoidable cost increases totaling \$78 M: a required increase to the Virginia Retirement System of \$38.9 M; health rate increases of \$19.9 M; and enrollment growth of \$19.5 M.

To balance the cumulative effects of inad-

equated budgets since 2008, FCPS has had to raise class size three times and forego regular teacher step increases four times, budget choices that are simply not sustainable. In that time the relative share of county and state funding has not changed, so both funding bodies are responsible for the very challenging position FCPS finds itself in today.

It is past time for school systems, local governments, PTAs, employee associations and businesses throughout Virginia to join forces and hold the General Assembly accountable for its responsibility to fully fund K-12 education in every corner of the Commonwealth. The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce has an opportunity to lead the business community in that fight.

I hope the chamber also takes a leading role in local advocacy for full funding of FCPS for FY 2017 and beyond.

As Mr. Corcoran has often said, great public schools are the smartest investment we can make in our local economy. We are stronger together.

As to Commonwealth Attorney Morrogh, his long delay in presenting this matter to a special grand jury is inexcusable. He failed in his duty to serve and protect the citizens of Fairfax County. This is just one example of Morrogh's failure to act appropriately as our prosecutor. Hopefully when his term of office comes to an end, he will retire or not seek re-election. We deserve better of our elected officials.

**Nicholas R. Beltrante**  
Executive Director  
Virginia Citizens Coalition  
for police Accountability

## Long Delay Inexcusable

To the Editor:

On Aug. 29, 2013, John Geer was shot and killed by Officer Adam D. Torres of the Fairfax County Police Department as he stood unarmed in the doorway of his home in Springfield. This unjust and unprovoked shooting death caused great concern among the citizens of Fairfax County. Unfortunately, Commonwealth Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh allowed this tragic event to be ignored for nearly two

years. Until recently he impaneled a special grand jury to hear this case. On Monday, Aug. 17, 2015, the grand jury indicted Torres and charged him with second-degree murder. The indictment of Torres in the killing of 46-year-old John Geer marks the first time in the 75-year history of the Fairfax County police Department that an officer has faced criminal prosecution in connection with an on-duty shooting. In Virginia, second-degree murder is punishable by confinement in a state correctional facility for not less than five years and nor more than 40 years. If convicted, Torres deserves an appropriate confinement.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper





# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5  
Room 3.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 14

**Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. The public is welcome to attend. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

**Worship Watch Meeting.** 8:30-12 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Participate in a crime prevention meeting focused on preventing crime targeted toward places of worship. Admission is free. Call 703-360-8928 or e-mail [Robert.urps@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Robert.urps@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

**SFDC Summit: Sustainability & Resiliency.** 9-11 a.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821 Richmond Highway. Attend a program about "green" building, planning for a healthier environment and a more resilient community. Time to network and a continental breakfast will be provided. Free. Visit [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org) for more.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in Alexandria needs a licensed beautician, a social companion and a Spanish-speaking social companion. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions under "Get Involved."

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

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

- ❖ The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** needs instructors for Mosaic Art and Jewelry Making.
  - ❖ The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteer English and Spanish-speaking social companions, and front desk volunteer.
  - ❖ The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** a ballroom dance instructor to teach a class on Thursday afternoons, and an Italian instructor.
  - ❖ The **Gum Springs Senior Center** needs a Spanish teacher.
- Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents** needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/),

or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

**Volunteers needed in Fairfax County** to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## ONGOING

**The Mount Vernon Estate** has released "The Winter Patriots," a video presentation about George Washington crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776. Buy the film for \$4.99 or rent for \$2.99 at [mountvernon.org/winterpatriots](http://mountvernon.org/winterpatriots).

**Telephone Support Group.** 7-8 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "Keeping Organized as a Caregiver: What Works?" Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices).

Band musicians are invited to join the **Mount Vernon Community Band.** Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 12

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**Sunday** 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm  
**Weekday & Saturday Mornings:** 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Jones Makes Biscuits With Own Personalities

Eatery mixes tradition with “Not So Classic.”

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Two women stood with noses pressed to the window at Stomping Ground on Mt. Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. “Oh, no,” one of them said. “I didn’t know it was closed on Monday. I’ve eaten here three times since they opened in May. I love their salads; they are so fresh.” Disappointed, they head down the street looking for a second choice.

Nicole Jones, chef at Stomping Ground, said, “the Farmer’s salad is different every day made with what’s fresh at the market.”

The front window advertises a crab cake sammie (their nickname for sandwich) on a house potato roll with homemade tater chips and pickles. But the mainstay of the menu is biscuits — with homemade peach jelly or plum jam, with sorghum butter, pimento cheese or nutella, all made by the house—or “The Favorite” made with organic eggs, Benton bacon from Tennessee and Hooks cheese from Wisconsin. She said by using the best ingredients they can focus on the basics and don’t need a lot of special sauces. On the other hand, her own favorite is the “Not So Classic” which has fried chicken with za’atar spices, honey, hot sauce, red onion and benne seed tahini.

Jones measures flour into a large aluminum bowl. “I use white Lily cake flour. Southern grandmothers won’t use anything else.” She says she spent her formative years in Georgia. She uses equal parts butter and Crisco. The secret is to have it really cold. “The colder it is, the higher they rise.” Jones uses both baking powder and baking soda. “One mistake people make is to put in too much baking powder to help it rise. But then it has a weird metallic aftertaste.”

One fat goes in first and her hands squeeze it between her fingers until it



Nicole Jones brushes buttermilk on top of the biscuits and will cook them for 12 minutes at 400 degrees, then 5-8 minutes at 350 degrees to brown them on top.

breaks down it into pea size pieces. Jones said, “I like to feel it. With a pastry blender you can’t. The only way to describe it is to smudge it — I guess I just invented a new cooking term.” Next Jones makes a well in the flour mixture and mixes in the buttermilk with a wooden spoon. “The wooden spoon is important. I don’t know why. This is a critical juncture where the liquid hits the gluten; the clock starts ticking.” Then she turns the dough twice and forms it into a rectangle about 1-1/2” thick. Carefully pushing down an aluminum form, she cuts out the biscuits side by side. “This is another place people screw up; they turn the cutter. You have these nice flaky layers,



Nicole Jones has cut out the biscuits with an aluminum form, placing them side by side on the baking sheet, careful not to turn the form and ruin the flaky layers she has created by laminating the dough.

called laminating the dough, and the last thing you want to do is pinch the dough by turning the cutter. “We’re always fighting the tough.”

Jones said making biscuits can be different every day. If it feels on the tacky side you add more flour; if it’s humid outside, you add less buttermilk. It can depend on the thickness of the buttermilk, the weather, the amount of patting you do. She said this can be difficult for restaurants that are in the consistency business. In the beginning the menu was more extensive, but then Jones realized she was just coming up with novel ideas for the sake of making dishes. Now she is focusing on her original goal: good food and good service. She says she encourages the wait staff to sample everything so they can translate it to the customers. She said, “Good food can’t save bad service.” The menu has now expanded to dinner and includes one-dish community dinners on Thursdays and Fridays, fun things like a low-country boil.

Jones spends a lot of time educating. “I take that really seriously.” But she said, “I walk a line between the excited, living and breathing food to something that doesn’t land well with the public.” For instance, she tried sorghum butter with the biscuits. Sorghum is a Southern substitute for molasses and goes back to the slave trade, as do many Southern foods. Cassie Meddis, the manager, said, “They freaked out (in a good way) about the sorghum butter honestly. I love the South. I miss it.” But they have tried to transplant Southern hospitality to Del Ray.

Peach jam cooks all day on a burner next to the biscuit counter. “It’s been all about peach this year because the peaches have been so good.” On an average day the cook makes 400-600 biscuits in small batches so they can be served fresh and warm. Jones says everyone’s biscuits look different but “we’re very comfortable with them if they look unique.” Her grandmother in Lithuania, who made Jones fall in love with food used to say, “You can learn a lot about a person from their biscuits.”

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**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](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter).

**“Au Naturel” Exhibit.** Through Aug. 30, 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](http://www.TheDelrayArtisans.org).

### Leigh Merrill: “Cloud Seeding.”

Through Sept. 7, 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](http://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](http://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.

**“Fields.”** Through Sept. 6, during gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Abstract Artists David Carlson and Pat Goslee make art based on their interests in spiritual exploration and energy fields. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**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 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Art Exhibit: Sultry Colors.** Through Sept. 7, 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/event/sultry-colors/](http://www.torpedofactory.org/event/sultry-colors/) or call 703-838-4565.

**Exhibit: “Scapes.”** Through Sept. 7, 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](http://www.theartleague.org).

**Exhibit: “Taking Shape.”** Through Sept. 7, 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](http://www.theartleague.org).

### 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/](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com/).

**Mount Vernon in 3-D: Then & Now.** Through Nov. 20 during regular operating hours at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visitors will

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## ENTERTAINMENT

# 5 Top Spots to Watch College, NFL Football

A prime viewing location isn't hard to find in this city.

BY HOPE NELSON  
GAZETTE PACKET

The days are getting slightly shorter, the air has a familiar crispness to it, and the dog days of summer have a little less bite. All of this can mean only one thing: The college and NFL football seasons are on the way. From beers to burgers, from wings to Greek delicacies, here are some great places to watch the game all over town.

### Ramparts Tavern and Grill, 1700 Fern St.

The atmosphere you'll find in Ramparts all depends on the door you choose. If you come in via the entrance on the corner, where Kenwood Avenue meets Fern Street, you'll find a quiet, relaxed dining room where you can feast with your

friends and family to your heart's content. If you enter the second door, however — the one labeled "Ramparts Tavern" — you'll find yourself amid a sports fan's paradise. Televisions dot the walls — behind the bar, on the sides of the pub, and behind you — and they're tuned at any given time to half a dozen games. Pull up a chair, ask for a local brew (Port City's always on tap), and when you get hungry, order some chili nachos, wings, or their trademark "hot peas" — flash-fried black-eyed peas that are a finger-food staple.

### Bugsy's Pizza, 111 King St.

To be perfectly honest, no self-respecting list of college-football viewing spots can leave out Bugsy's, a pizza mainstay on lower King Street in Old Town. While the downstairs dining room offers great service and great pizza, the upstairs is where you'll want to go to catch the big (or little) game. The sports bar is cozy but welcoming; you needn't feel like you have to be a regular to sit back and watch your favorite team play. Order one of the restaurant's specialty pizzas — you can't go wrong with the Farmer's Market or Taco pies — and a pitcher of beer with some friends and you'll be in excellent shape. The restaurant's pasta and calzone options are great choices, too.

### Reynolds Street Bar and Grill, 34 Reynolds St.

Situated just off of Duke Street in the West End of Alexandria, Reynolds Street Bar and Grill has plenty of character — and, during games, plenty of characters, too. This eatery is far and away one of Alexandria's quintessential sports bars, sporting



**The Mediterranean on Pita is a hidden gem at the Reynolds Street Bar and Grill.**

plenty of TVs, friendly waitstaff and bartenders, congenial diners, and good food. The menu has plenty of the game-watching foods you'd expect — wings, pizza, burgers, and the like — but be sure to give the Greek items a try,

too: The spanakopita and pita wraps are hearty hallmarks of Greek cuisine.

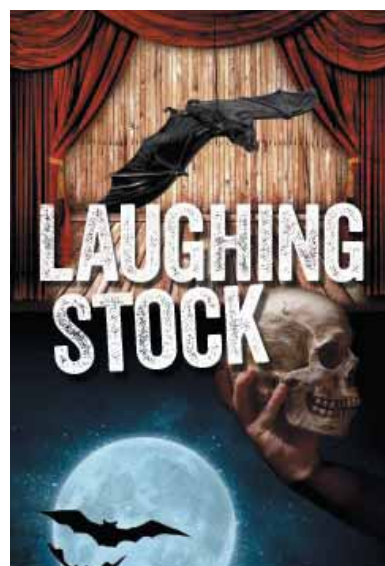
### Southside 815, 815 S. Washington St.

Let's get one thing straight: You'll always find a crowd awaiting you at Southside. But in general, it's a friendly crowd, and there's always one bar stool available just for you. From the time the restaurant opens at 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays until closing time, the sports bar draws a crowd, and the multiple televisions are turned to all the major games. If you're looking for an appetizer to share, you can't go wrong with the Boardinghouse Breadbasket — an array of cornbreads, biscuits, and more — or the Southside nachos, which will surely feed a crowd. If you're looking for hearty meal for one, the sausage biscuits and gravy are offered during brunch on the weekends (perfect for the noon game), and the jambalaya pasta will carry you through in the evening.

### Theismann's Restaurant and Bar, 1800 Diagonal Road

Of course, no football-viewing list is complete without Theismann's, founded nearly four decades ago by Washington football team quarterback Joe Theismann. The bar is a great place to watch the game with no interruptions; the dining room offers a more relaxed viewing experience. (And on nice days, if the game is going poorly you can abandon it entirely and sit outside.) The restaurant offers brunch, lunch, and dinner on the weekends; you'd do well to order the CAB salad if you're feeling virtuous, and the crab cakes if you're not.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com).



A hectic and hilarious look at a ragtag troupe of actors and their backstage mischief as they attempt to stage three repertory productions. Hamlet, Charley's Aunt, and Dracula have never been performed like this!

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

**10th Annual International Juried Exhibition.** During gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. The International Guild of Realism is dedicated to the advancement of realism in fine art. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 21-30

**Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week.** Neighborhood restaurants offer specials and deals for customers. Prices and times vary. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com).

## AUG. 26-NOV. 20

**Young at Art Juried Art Show.** Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older can contribute their artwork for the exhibition. On Thursday, Aug. 20, artists can bring their work to the Durant Center from 10 a.m.-noon to be registered and displayed. Artists must fill out a Entry and Artist/Lender Agreement and pay an entry fee of \$20 for up to three works of art, \$5 for any additional pieces. Entry forms can be found at [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

## THURSDAY/AUG. 27

**FACE It You Can Paint: Paint Your Own Flower Garden.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple brush techniques to create garden paintings. \$45 for 1 adult/1 child and \$15 for additional children. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com) to register.

**Tim Cretella Performance.** 5 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Singer-songwriter, Tim Cretella, will be performing. Free. Visit [www.theblackwallhitch.com](http://www.theblackwallhitch.com).

**Movie Screening.** 6 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Watch "Selma" and engage in a discussion about women's roles in the Civil Rights Movement. Free. Visit [www.nwhm.ticketleap.com/movie-night-selma/](http://www.nwhm.ticketleap.com/movie-night-selma/).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 28

**FACE It You Can Paint: Paint Your Own Flower Garden.** 3:30-5 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple brush techniques to create garden paintings. \$45 for 1 adult/1 child and \$15 for additional children. Visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com).

**Red Wine Diaries Performance.** 7 p.m. at Blackwall Hitch-Alexandria, 5 Cameron St. Acoustic band, Red Wine Diaries, will be performing. Free. Visit [theblackwallhitch.com](http://theblackwallhitch.com).

## SATURDAY/AUG. 29

**The Washington School of Ballet Open Auditions.** 9:30 a.m. registration and 10-11 a.m. auditions for 4-5 year olds; 10:30 a.m. registration and 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. auditions for 6-7-year olds; 12 p.m. registration and 12:30-2 p.m. auditions for 8-10 years at The Washington School of Ballet, 3515 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington D.C. This fall, the Washington School of Ballet will be offering Pre-ballet through Level 1A classes at the Athenaeum. There is no audition fee. Visit [www.washingtonballet.org](http://www.washingtonballet.org).

**The General's Tour.** 1 p.m. at the



**Dave Mason's Traffic Jam Tour will make a stop at the Birchmere Music Hall on Thursday, Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$55. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.**

have the chance to travel back in time, and in 3-D, to see how the estate appeared more than 100 years ago through a special photography exhibition. The exhibition is included in the regular admission fee of \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth and free for children younger than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit [www.mountvernon.org/3D](http://www.mountvernon.org/3D).

**"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance.** Thursdays through

Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit [www.stelmocoffeepub.co](http://www.stelmocoffeepub.co).

**Flamenco Show.** Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit

[www.latascausa.com](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film in the company of friends or a date. Free to attend. No RSVP necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**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](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** 12 p.m. 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](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Take a guided walking tour of Lee family homes in Alexandria's Historic Old Town. Locations and stories associated with the Confederate general's life in Alexandria, his hometown from the age of 5 and residence of his "earliest and oldest friends" will be highlighted on the tour. Admission is free for museum members, \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) for more.

## AUG. 31-OCT. 18

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show: "What I Did On My Summer Vacation."** 10-5 p.m., 10-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 18. View summer vacation-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 1

**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](mailto:carol_kilroy@comcast.net) for more.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

**Big Chalk Draw 2015.** 8-10 a.m. at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. School supply donations are welcome at this chalk art community event. Free. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

**Jonathan Edwards.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Folk artist who has collaborated with Emmylou Harris and Darrell Scott will make a stop on a tour celebrating the release of this new album, "Tomorrow's Child." Tickets are \$39.95. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 5-6

**Labor at Lee-Fendall Tours.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the life and times of the number free and enslaved laborers who inhabited the grounds. Admission is free for museum members and \$7 in advance for others. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) for more.

## TUESDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 8-OCT. 18

**Photography Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursdays at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View the work of photographer Karen Keating, who combines both words and images in her photos to project her voice. Free. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

## THURSDAYSUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 18

**"Angel Soldier Dance Sublime."** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View work exploring femininity and masculinity by female artists from Maine's Blue Hill Peninsula. Free. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 25

**Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition.** During gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Works inspired by the song "Don't Fence Me In," by Cole Porter, will be on display. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

**Second Thursday Live: Rhythm and Roots Experience.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This performance will feature West African music. Admission is \$15. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

**SPARK Health and Fitness Festival.** 4-8 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Hosted by SPARK Physiotherapy, LLC., fun and safe games, competitions, entertainment, raffles and giveaways. Free. Visit [www.sparkphysio.com/home/make-your-health-happen-health-and-fitness-festival/](http://www.sparkphysio.com/home/make-your-health-happen-health-and-fitness-festival/) or email [njbabka@sparkphysio.com](mailto:njbabka@sparkphysio.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 is "Cool Runnings." Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit [www.theaterchurch.com](http://www.theaterchurch.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

**Civil War Walking Tour.** 10 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Discover locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including Robert E.

Lee's departure from his hometown, the occupation of Alexandria, and emancipation. Admission is free for museum members, \$12 in advance, and \$15 on the day of the event. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) for more.

**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](http://www.potomacriverboatco.com).

**Music Festival.** 12-4 p.m. Four Mile Run Park Community Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. There will be live entertainment, local performers, children's interactive games and crafts, food, face painting and various vendors. Free. Call 703-746-5465.

**Book Signing & Reception.** 2-5 p.m. at the Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Joseph and Sharon Scopin will be on hand to discuss their book "As I Remember." The book is about local Civil War veteran Lewis Cass White, whose story and memorabilia was discovered in the authors' basement. Free to attend. The book will be available to purchase for \$35. Only cash or check will be accepted. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) for more.

**Collective Delusion.** 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St. Local band will perform rock songs from the 1970s to the present. Free. Visit [www.collectivedelusion.net](http://www.collectivedelusion.net).

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

**Grandparents Day Celebration.** 12-2 p.m. at Paul Spring Retirement Community, 7115 Fort Hunt Road. Celebrate Grandparents Day with family and friends with family-

oriented activities including pony rides, a moon bounce and a magician accompanied by a traditional picnic lunch and live music from the Mt. Vernon Community Band. A raffle will be held by the resident council. Free. Visit [www.rui.net](http://www.rui.net).

## MONDAY/SEPT. 14

**Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7-7:45 p.m. practice and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Come with or without a partner to learn several classic dance styles from Gary Stephans. Admission is \$15. Email [garystephans@me.com](mailto:garystephans@me.com) or call 703-505-5998 for details.

**History Lecture: Medical Heroism in Alexandria.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn about the Athenaeum's role in the Civil War and medical efforts in Alexandria from historian Tom Shultz. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

**"An Ordinary Hero."** 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Join Joan Mulholland, civil rights activist, and Mike O'Brien, author, for a screening of the documentary "An Ordinary Hero" followed by a Q&A session. The documentary focuses on Joan's experiences in the Civil Rights Movement and at the Woolworth Sit-in. Free. Visit [www.alexandria.lib.va.us](http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us) for more.

**What is a Healthy Forest?** 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park-Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen to geology and forest ecology instructor Joe Marx discuss issues facing Mid-Atlantic forests. Free. Visit [www.vnps.org/potowmack](http://www.vnps.org/potowmack).

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# Mount Vernon's Miller Commits to Old Dominion

BY BONNIE SCHIPPER  
THE GAZETTE

**W**hen Mount Vernon's Jessica Miller was younger, she dreamed about a day when she could compete in college sports. However, up until her sophomore year of high school, she'd never thought that she would be playing Division I field hockey.

"I have been interested in collegiate sports since I was very young; however, my family, friends, and I always thought it would be for soccer," Miller wrote in an email. "I knew I was interested in playing field hockey in college at the end of my sophomore year when I was chosen to represent Virginia in the National Futures Championship."

The National Futures Championship is an annual event hosted by Team USA to help elite players refine their skills and garner interest from collegiate coaches. Miller, who received feedback from multiple coaches, verbally committed to Old Dominion University (ODU) in June, becoming the first field hockey player from Mount Vernon to commit to play at the Division I level in quite some time.

"It's very exciting for me to be able to make a Division I field hockey team. It has been a goal of mine, and I'm excited to be able to represent Mount Vernon High



Mount Vernon senior Jessica Miller is committed to Old Dominion University.

School," Miller wrote. "I am really looking forward to the high level of play and learning from the coaching staff. I have always done well when I am being pushed. I am very competitive and I want to succeed. I still have a lot of work to do regarding my skill and I'm ready to work for my spot on the field."

As a freshman, sophomore, and junior, Miller served as a captain of Mount Vernon's varsity soccer team. After playing soccer for 12 years, and only picking up field hockey once she got to high school, Miller decided to channel her energy into her field hockey career and make soccer her secondary sport. "My sophomore year, I decided to quit my

club soccer team and do the Futures field hockey training," Miller wrote. "After that I knew field hockey would be my main sport. I ... just got tired of [soccer]."

Miller will not return to the school's soccer program this spring.

The two-time all-region selection and second-team all-state defensive midfielder didn't find the recruiting process easy. To catch the attention of ODU's coaching staff, Miller attended numerous camps hosted by the school, participated in an Olympic development program, and competed on a select team, Capitol Pegasus.

"The recruiting process is not a fun process to say the least," Miller wrote. "There were many weekends that I would wake up at 4:30 a.m. and have to be down in Virginia Beach by 8:45 a.m. and have a weekend of training for 14 hours. Many college coaches go to the tournaments to scout. One week a coach will email you and then the next week they won't. It is a very frustrating process."

Miller's coach was able to provide a letter of recommendation to the coaches at ODU, which helped Miller get the attention she needed.

"Coach [Jessica] Edwards inspires me to do my best because she has believed in me from the start," Miller wrote. "She has put so much time and effort into me and the rest of the team every season and I don't want to let her down."

PHOTO BY CAROLINE DONNELLY

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**Mount Vernon  
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## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

Vernon Road. There are no auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or [www.mvbands.com](http://www.mvbands.com).

**Alzheimer's Association support groups** provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns throughout the Alzheimer's journey. Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at [www.alz.org/nca](http://www.alz.org/nca).

**Training Courses.** The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$90-\$110. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [redcross.org/takeaclass](http://redcross.org/takeaclass).



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## 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

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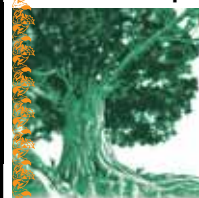
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# EMPLOYMENT

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

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21 Announcements

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117 Adoption

117 Adoption

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Thursday, September 3, between 9:30p.m. and 9:55 p.m. (5 minutes)

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

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## OBITUARY



### GEOFF BALD

Passed away July 22, 2015 He was 44. Geoff was a graduate of WSH, VA Tech and UVA Law School. A memorial service will be held Aug. 15 in NJ. He is survived by his parents, Jim and Nancy, his brothers, Michael and Kevin, and daughters Madeline, Caroline and Jackie. Donations in his memory can be made to the Wounded Warriors Project.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



### Florence E. Sacra

Florence E. Sacra, 92, of Fredericksburg passed away Thursday, August 20, 2015 at Carriage Hill Health & Rehab Center.

Mrs. Sacra was a member of Franconia Baptist Church. She was the widow of Robert E. L. Sacra.

Survivors include her son, Richard Lee Sacra of Fredericksburg; daughter Arlene Sacra George (Dale) of Woodbridge; six grandchildren Eddie Sacra, Holly Martinski (Doug), Tony Sacra (Jennifer), Dana Verburg (Steve), Gloria "Susie" Sacra (Saul) and Marsha Jackson (Frank); 12 great grandchildren; and 16 great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by son, Robert Earl Sacra and her mother, Lula Grimsley.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday, August 23 at Covenant Funeral Service, Fredericksburg.

A service will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, August 24 at the funeral home chapel. Interment will follow at 12:30 p.m. at Mount Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria.

Online guest book is available at [covenantfuneralservice.com](http://covenantfuneralservice.com).

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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### School Age / Camp Director

School age program seeking mature experienced Program/Camp director. Must have supervisory experience in child care field. Position requires CDL or willingness to obtain CDL immediately.

Applicant must be an effective communicator. Children's activity planning required. This is a year round position full time Mon - Fri. Excellent benefits, all fed holidays paid and off, earned annual leave, health and dental insurance, 401K.

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No resume will be considered without a completed application. EOE/AA

## BUSINESS

## Inova Mount Vernon Commended

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has been ranked the No. 6 Best Hospital in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area by U.S. News & World Report. The 2015 ranking is up from No. 13 in 2014. The hospital also ranked No. 15 in Virginia (up from No. 20 in 2014) and earned high performing recognition in Orthopedics again this year. The annual U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings, now in its 26th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients.

For 2015-16, U.S. News evaluated hospitals in 16 adult specialties and ranked the top 50 in most of the specialties. Less than 3 percent of the nearly 5,000 hospitals that were analyzed for Best Hospitals 2015-16 were nationally ranked in even one specialty. In rankings by state and metro area, U.S. News recognized hospitals that perform nearly at the level of their nationally ranked peers in one or more specialties, as well as hospitals that excel in multiple common procedures and conditions.

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has also been rated "high performing" in Knee Replacement in the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals for Common Care ratings. The ratings evaluate more than 4,500 hospitals nationwide on common inpatient procedures and conditions. Only about 10 percent of the hospitals were rated as high performers. The rankings are freely available at <http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals> and will appear in the U.S. News "Best Hospitals 2016" guidebook, available in August from the U.S. News Store.

## Mt. Vernon Jazzercise Supports UCM

Mt. Vernon Jazzercise raised \$350 for United Community Ministries (UCM) by issuing a Plank Challenge during all of its classes during the week of June 15. According to Jazzercise instructor and benefit organizer Mindy LaBruno, UCM will use the donations to help continue their mission of helping low income families and individuals build self-reliance and move towards independence. All of the Mt. Vernon Jazzercise instructors committed to donate \$1 for every minute that each of their students held a plank in their classes last week. This equates to approximately 350 minutes of total planking for UCM with the added benefit of stronger abdominals.

Jazzercise is located at 1500 Shenandoah Road. For a class schedule, go to [jazzercise.com](http://jazzercise.com) or call 703-765-0142.

## BUSINESS NOTES

Email [announcements@gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:announcements@gazette@connectionnewspapers.com) to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

The Agent 711: Revolutionary Spy Adventure app from **Mount Vernon** provides a platform for learning about George Washington's role as the first American spy master. The app allows users to use ciphers and code books to find hidden clues and messages throughout their tour of the estate. Available on Android and iOS smartphones. Cost is \$2.99.

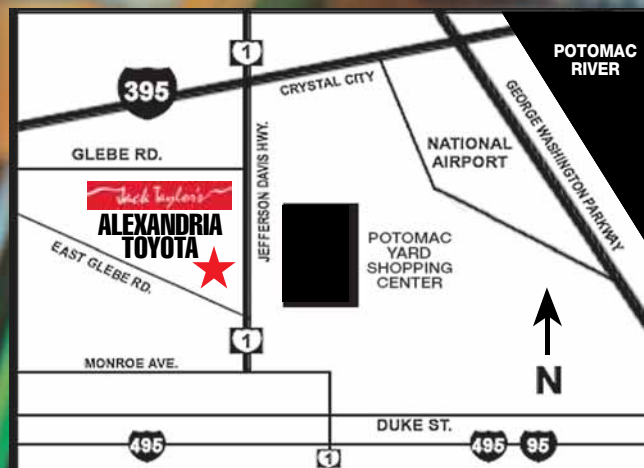


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### BACK-TO-SCHOOL SPECIAL

**\$59<sup>95</sup>**

**Includes:** Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil\*, inspect windshield wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters

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### FALL DETAIL SPECIAL

**\$119<sup>95</sup>**

Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.

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### 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT

**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

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### TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE

**\$159<sup>99</sup>**

Synthetic \$10 More

**Includes:** Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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### EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE! BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL

TRANSMISSION FLUSH **\$189<sup>95</sup>**

POWER STEERING FLUSH **\$139<sup>95</sup>**

BRAKE FLUSH **\$139<sup>95</sup>**

FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH **\$139<sup>95</sup>**

FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE F OR WS FLUID ADD \$80.00. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.

### ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL

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**9312 Heather Glen Drive \$618,500**  
**Classic Colonial - Great Price**

Classic three level, 4 bedroom Colonial in premier setting at remarkable reasonable price! Spacious home in absolutely pristine condition & offers many features including 3 finished levels, fab. floor plan, family room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, spacious master suite & garage parking. Magnificent grounds with stone walk, patio & gorgeous landscaping. Prime location! **Open Sun 8/30, 1-4. GW Parkway S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson Blvd, L-Heather Glen.**



**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! **OPEN SUN 8/30, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd, becomes Ferry Landing Rd; L-Ferry Landing Ct.**



**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 8/30, 1-4. GW Parkway S; R-Fort Hunt Rd; R-Plymouth.**



**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 8/30, 1-4! GW Pky S; R-Belle Haven; R-Fort Hunt Rd**



**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!



**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!



**7107 Richard Casey Ct \$779,500**  
**Victorian Classic-Exceptional Price!**

Stunning value-custom built by Wakefield Homes. Numerous features characteristic of area's leading builder include large room sizes, bright open floor plan, high ceilings, 3 finished levels, chef's kitchen, private master suite and oversize 2 car garage. Distinctive wrap around front porch. Screen porch and deck overlook spacious fenced rear yard. Unique opportunity to purchase Wakefield custom home at fraction of today's prices.



**4327 Ferry Landing Rd \$559,000**  
**Mid Century Modern-Yacht Haven Estates!**

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.



**9227 Allwood Dr \$548,950**  
**Updated Throughout-Move-In Ready!**

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



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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2015-2016

Kwang Kim, of Alexandria, is one of many photographers who come to Green Spring Gardens to capture what they see. The park welcomes nature photography hobbyists.

**Mount Vernon Gazette**

PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE CONNECTION

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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# About the Mount Vernon Gazette

**A**s your local, weekly newspaper, the Mount Vernon Gazette's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to try to make sense of what is happening in your community, to gather information about the best things in and around your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an expanded and updated version of our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, plus information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

The Mount Vernon Gazette is one of 15

## Keep in Touch

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:** Email to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com) or submit online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

The Connection Newspapers have won hundreds of press awards in just the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service, Best in Show for our Insiders Guide to the Parks, first place for our community guides, plus awards in news, art, business, special projects, sports, entertainment, design, photography and much more.

We have staff and contributors here at the Connection Newspapers with remarkable talent and experience, far greater than one might expect. We continue to publish 15 distinct papers every week that serve their communities in distinct ways.

We welcome contributing writers, with the caveat that our freelance pay is nominal; if you are interested in covering news or events in your community, email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). We offer summer and year-round educational internships with information at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/internships](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/internships).

In addition to our weekly coverage, we have monthly special focus pages on Wellbeing; Education, Learning, Fun; and HomeLifeStyle, plus other seasonal specials including Real Estate, Senior Living, Fall Fun, Food and Entertainment (also Winter, Spring and Summer), a twice annual Pet Connection, and others. If you have story ideas for these, email [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com); if are interested in marketing, email [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com).

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— MARY KIMM,  
[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM),  
[@MARYKIMM](https://twitter.com/MARYKIMM)

## Who Runs the Community

### Supervisor

Mount Vernon District  
Gerry Hyland (D)

### School Board

Mount Vernon District  
Daniel Storck

### Delegate

Scott Surovell (D-44)

### Senator

Linda "Toddy" Puller (D-36)

### Associations

Sean O'Connell, chairman, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce  
Holly Dougherty, executive director, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce  
Paul Schray, president, Mount Vernon Civic Association

## Preview of November Elections

### Delegate

44th District  
Paul Krizek (D)  
[paul@paulkrizek.com](mailto:paul@paulkrizek.com)

[corbett.sanders@verizon.net](mailto:corbett.sanders@verizon.net)  
W. Anthony Stacy (I)  
[friendsofanthonystacy@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofanthonystacy@gmail.com)

### Senator

36th District  
Scott Surovell  
(D) [ssurovell@gmail.com](mailto:ssurovell@gmail.com)  
Gerald Foreman @  
[gmforeman@comcast.net](mailto:gmforeman@comcast.net)

### At-Large

Robert "Bob" Copeland (I)  
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Omar Fateh (I) [fateh4sb@gmail.com](mailto:fateh4sb@gmail.com)  
Jeanette Hough (I)  
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Manar Jean-Jacques (I)  
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Peter Marchetti (I)  
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\*Ryan McElveen (I)  
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\*Ilryong Moon (I)  
[ilryongmoon@gmail.com](mailto:ilryongmoon@gmail.com)  
Burnette Scarboro (I)  
[friendsofburnette@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofburnette@gmail.com)  
\*Theodore "Ted" Velkoff (I)  
[tvelkoff@cox.net](mailto:tvelkoff@cox.net)

### Board of Supervisors Chairman

\*Sharon Bulova (D)  
[sharonbulova@gmail.com](mailto:sharonbulova@gmail.com)  
Arthur Purves (R)  
[arthur@votepurves.org](mailto:arthur@votepurves.org)  
Glenda Gail Parker (IG)  
[ggailparker@cox.net](mailto:ggailparker@cox.net)

### Clerk of Court

Bettina Mary Lawton (D)  
[bettina@bettinalawtonforclerk.com](mailto:bettina@bettinalawtonforclerk.com)  
\*John Frey (R)  
Marisa Wissar (I)  
[mariwissar@gmail.com](mailto:mariwissar@gmail.com)

### Commonwealth's Attorney

\*Raymond F Morrogh (D)  
[rmorrogh@cox.net](mailto:rmorrogh@cox.net)

### Supervisor

Mount Vernon District  
Daniel Storck (D)  
[danielgstorck@gmail.com](mailto:danielgstorck@gmail.com)  
Jane Gandee (R)  
[jane@janegandee.com](mailto:jane@janegandee.com)

### School Board

Mount Vernon District  
Karen Corbett Sanders (I)

### Sheriff

\*Stacey Kincaid (D)  
[kincaidforsheriff@gmail.com](mailto:kincaidforsheriff@gmail.com)  
Bryan "B.A." Wolfe (R)  
[fairfaxwolfe@yahoo.com](mailto:fairfaxwolfe@yahoo.com)

### Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District

Scott John Cameron (I)  
[scott.cameron@verizon.net](mailto:scott.cameron@verizon.net)  
\*George Lamb IV (I) [gwl@cox.net](mailto:gwl@cox.net)  
Gerald "Jerry" Peters, Jr (I)  
[gowen.green@verizon.net](mailto:gowen.green@verizon.net)  
Stephen Pushor (I)

\*denotes incumbent

## Mount Vernon Gazette

## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

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# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## Commercial, Residential Projects Reshape Area

### “Embark Richmond Highway” to meet Sept. 21.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

#### Towne Place Suites by Marriott

Baywood Hotels is planning to break ground this fall on a 92-room hotel in the Woodlawn area.

#### Penn Daw area of U.S. Route 1

The former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center was rezoned as part of a 2012 Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Penn Daw area and is set to be replaced by a mixed-use development. The development will feature 400 apartments, 41 townhomes and ground-level retail. The Shelby, a luxury apartment community at 6200 N Kings Highway, has already been built out by Insight Properties. The project team is hoping to break ground by the end of 2015



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST  
FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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

#### North Hill area

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST  
FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**Gold's Gym TKTK \$2 million expansion of its U.S. Rt. 1 location.**



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST  
FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

**The Parker residential development is going up adjacent to the Huntington Metro station.**

A number of the units would be designated households with lower incomes.

#### New Fairfield Inn & Suites

6421 U.S. Rt. 1

The Hersha Group has finished with demolition of the Fairview Motel and obtained construction permits to move forward with a new 108-room development renamed Fairfield Inn & Suites. Construction is moving forward.

#### Gold's Gym

7770 U.S. Route 1

Once the site of Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, Gold's is undergoing a \$2 million expansion while continuing to operate. No completion date has been released, however work is finished on a new saltwater pool and construction is nearly finished.

#### Widening of Richmond Highway Still Underway

3.5 miles of U.S. Rt. 1 between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Telegraph Road

The \$180 million project to widen Route 1 from four to six lanes, while also accommodating mass transit, bicycles and walking, is expected to be completed in 2016.

#### “Embark Richmond Highway” transportation and land use planning team for Route 1, Bus Rapid Transit and Metro Expansion

The team is a collaboration of Fairfax County staff from various departments and agencies working with a 13-member citizen advisory group to help coordinate community input. The next meeting is open to the public and scheduled to take place Sep. 21 in the South County Government Center at 8 a.m.

#### The Parker at Huntington Station

Adjacent to the Huntington Metro on Huntington Avenue.

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

#### Lennar multi-family housing development “Huntington Crossing”

The project team has just applied for re-zoning for the 6.3 acres site adjacent to the Huntington Metro and right up against the water. The draft plan calls for five stories and approximately 360 units, however hearings are not yet scheduled.

#### Wegmans at Hilltop Village Center

Hilltop Village Center (corner of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street)

The long-awaited grocery experiencing destination opened June 14 The 126,000-square-foot store includes a full-service “Pub” bar-restaurant.

*Sources: District Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) and land use aide, District Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide, and Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.*



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

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



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Welcome to the Best District in Fairfax County

Dear Mount Vernon residents,

My name is Gerry Hyland and I have served as the Mount Vernon District supervisor for 28 years. I welcome you to the Mount Vernon District which is the best district in all of Fairfax County because of the wonderful people and the resources we have here.

Mount Vernon is blessed to have all the infrastructure necessary to serve its citizens to include recreation centers, parks, trails, the best farmers' markets in Fairfax County, the INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital which ranks in the top 10 hospitals in the metropolitan area, just to name a few.

The function of your supervisor and staff is to provide assistance in your dealing with Fairfax County, such as stormwater management, zoning issues, human service problems. We act as a liaison with permitting questions and transportation issues when involving the Virginia Department of Transportation.



portation. The bottom line is: If you need help with the county, you need to call the supervisor's office and we will respond to you and assist with what you have requested.

As to what we have here in the Mount Vernon District, we have George Washington's wonderful Mount Vernon Estate, which is the most notable historical site in the county.

In addition, on the Woodlawn Estate property we have the Pope Leigh House, an example of Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture, and the Arcadia Center which has a demonstration garden used to teach people how to farm and enjoy agriculture. Then there

is Gunston Hall, home of George Mason, the author of the Bill of Rights, located on Mason Neck where we also have a Federal Reserve, a state park and a regional park. Then there is the Workhouse Arts Center located on the historic D.C. prison property; also located there is the championship Laurel Hill 18-hole public golf course. Then we have two recreation centers — one located near the Belle View Shopping Center and the other located across from Mount Vernon High School; two off leash dog parks, one at West Grove on Ft. Hunt Road and one at Grist Mill Park located on Route 235. And, my favorite, Wegman's Grocery, is located at the end of Jeff Todd Way and Telegraph Road. (I love to cook.)

Finally, it is my strong belief that for government to work, it must be bottom up versus top down and that means citizens' input on issues that concerns their quality of life must be communicated to their supervisor. In that respect, we have civic associations, neighborhood watch, the Mount Vernon Civic Council Association, South

County Federation (located in Lorton) and an active Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, Ventures in Community, a collaboration of churches in the Mount Vernon community, Southeast Health Planning Task Force, and numerous boards and commissions which have representatives appointed from the Mount Vernon District. As your supervisor, I strongly encourage you to participate individually or join those organizations so that your voice will be heard — resulting in decisions made by Fairfax County government that will benefit from your input and will represent your best interest.

Again, I welcome you to the Mount Vernon community and sincerely hope you enjoy an eclectic community that truly has something for all the people.

It has been a pleasure and honor to represent you as your Mount Vernon District supervisor.

YOURS IN PUBLIC SERVICE,  
GERRY HYLAND

# Welcome from Fairfax County Police Chief Roessler

Dear Community Members:

The Fairfax County Police Department was established on July 1, 1940 and today we have an authorized strength of 1,372 sworn law enforcement officers who protect and serve the communities of the County. On average, officers respond to over 400,000 calls for service each year. As we engage with the communities we serve, we understand our profession must always assess our services and constantly strive to challenge each other to re-engineer how we deliver essential law enforcement services in a community that exceeds 1.1 million residents. We are fortunate to have an engaged community which continues to assist us in preventing and fighting crime, increasing the culture of safety to preserve the sanctity of life for all, and keep pace with rapid urbanization.

Your Police Department proactively undertook an independent review of its use of force training, and related policies and procedures. The review, conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum, proposed 71 enhancement recommendations. The core theme of change is adopting the philosophy of the sanctity of life in all we do. We have initiated policy changes and embarked on many training programs which embrace state-of-the-art decision making models and best practices for de-escalation and escalation techniques and new initiatives to safely interact and divert from jail those suffering mental illness. Currently 43 percent of our patrol officers are certified in Crisis Intervention Team training and all



**Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr.**

recruits now receive parallel training.

Other recent policy changes include the concepts of being able to hold and contain events in order to develop successful resolutions to each call for service when possible.

In 2014, the Police Department began a self-assessment process to align all of its policies and procedures to comply with several hundred national standards established by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The on-site assessment, required to obtain accredited status, is scheduled for early 2016 and will be conducted by assessors from outside the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Department continues to maintain its accredited status from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission.

During the last year the Department's social media presence has continued to expand in efforts toward sharing more information with the community. Recently the Department posted 10 years of officer-involved shooting case summaries and data on our public web site. Our goal is to share information on officer-involved shooting cases in order for the community to better understand the investigative processes of

these events and to engage in dialogue on these matters.

In 2013, the Department created a Chief's Council on Diversity Recruitment. Its strategic mission is to assist the Department to increase the cultural diversity of the sworn, civilian, and volunteer workforce to better reflect the diversity of the communities we serve. When visiting the Chief's web site you can view the diversity scorecard accountability measure, read the Council's strategic plan document, and learn about the varied volunteer opportunities you can engage in with the Police Department.

Several community members have graciously volunteered time from their busy personal lives to establish and serve on a Communities of Trust Committee which is comprised of all public safety agencies and reports directly to the chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. This effort aligns well with recommendations from the Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Many forums have been held throughout the community and numerous initiatives are in development to increase public engagement with the community to build upon mutual trust.

The Police Department, along with the Community Services Board, other public safety agencies, and mental health advocates have partnered to develop additional crisis intervention programs, including a drop off center which will provide a viable jail diversion alternative for those in mental health crisis. We look forward to achieving this critical strategic goal.

In recent years a majority of our homicides have been domestic related. On July 1, 2015, the Fairfax County Police Department launched a Lethality Assessment Program in which all patrol officers have been

trained to administer an assessment to provide resources to victims of domestic violence which are available 24/7. This program truly demonstrates engagement with many partners who share our goal in increasing services and eliminating domestic violence.

In early 2015 another community engagement endeavor was launched with the creation of the Ad Hoc Police Policy and Practices Commission. This Commission is comprised of five sub-committees which are conducting reviews of the Police Department as related to use of force; communications; recruitment, diversity, and applicant vetting; and independent oversight and investigations. The Commission will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors this fall. The Police Department is highly engaged with all of the community members serving on the Commission and we look forward to positive change recommendations to better serve all of Fairfax County.

The Police Department values technology advances and we are migrating to a new records management system to assist all personnel in achieving an intelligence led community policing model. The Department is also preparing to institute an electronic summons system for issuing traffic and criminal violations. Our patrol cruisers are equipped with in-car video recording devices and we are exploring the viability of body worn cameras with community stakeholders.

To learn more about the Fairfax County Police Department, please visit

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/>

Welcome to Fairfax County, a great place to live, work, play and grow old.

— CHIEF EDWIN C. ROESSLER JR.



# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) is responsible for animal services in the City of Alexandria, and also trains dogs, operates an animal shelter and provides humane education classes for children. According to Megan Webb, Executive Director of AWLA, the group has 27 full- and part-time staffers and over 150 volunteers.

AWLA takes in animals that have been rescued by the city, as well as animals that have been surrendered by their owners. In the year 2013, AWLA adopted out 1,041 pets to families.

AWLA cares for wild as well as domestic animals, from deer to possums to raccoons. The group also works closely with local vet clinics, who provide medical services to sick or injured animals who need care before they are ready for adoption. Opportunities to foster puppies and kittens are also available through AWLA. For more information or to learn how to volunteer with AWLA, visit [www.alexandrianimals.org](http://www.alexandrianimals.org), or call 703-838-4774.

## Fairfax County Animal Shelter

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter (FCAS) estimates that between 4,000 and 5,000 small animals come through its doors each year, according to its website. The shelter deals primarily with dogs and cats, but also other small animals like rabbits and

birds. A foster program is available through FCAS for the care of dogs and cats, and families who wish to be part of the foster program must go through a training session before taking animals into their homes. Other volunteer opportunities with the shelter range from telephone assistant to pet groomer and bather to cat socializer. Potential volunteers may submit an online application at [fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter), and must attend a volunteer orientation. For information on volunteering or adopting a pet, visit the website or call 703-830-1100.

## Humane Society of Fairfax County

The Humane Society of Fairfax County (HSFC) has a main office in Fairfax and a farm in Centreville. The farm is home to horses as well as nearly 30 dogs, according to HSFC Corresponding Secretary Marlene Hammer. A full-time manager lives at the farm to take care of the animals there.

The HSFC's main office is also home to the cats available for adoption through the group. Rather than being housed in crates, the cats are allowed to roam around in rooms at the shelter.

The Humane Society operates almost entirely on a volunteer basis. Aside from sheltering animals, they offer a pet food pantry as a service to the community and operate a thrift shop next door to the Fairfax location. Aside from one paid staff member, all proceeds from sales at the thrift shop go toward the shelter's operating costs. Visit [www.hsfc.org](http://www.hsfc.org) or call 703-385-7387.

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Falls Church, VA

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# PARKS

## AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN THE AREA

### National Parks

#### GF Great Falls National Park

9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean  
www.nps.gov/grfa

Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, spring through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

#### GW George Washington Memorial Parkway

www.nps.gov/gwmp  
703-289-2500

The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to wildlife preserves. Join a ranger for a free program or explore sites independently. Some park sites, including Turkey Run Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Great Falls Park, etc., close at dark. The Parkway itself remains open 24 hours a day to vehicle traffic.

#### WT Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

1551 Trap Road, Vienna  
www.nps.gov/wotr/

The only national park dedicated to presenting the performing arts. From May through September, multiple amphitheatres in the park present musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Explore the park without the crowds from October - April. The Barns at Wolf Trap offer indoor entertainment through the winter months.

### State Park

#### MN Mason Neck State Park

7301 High Point Rd. Lorton  
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\_parks/mas.shtml#

703-339-2385 or 703-339-2380 (visitor center)  
masonneck@dcr.virginia.gov

The park's visitor center was expanded in 2010 to include a new exhibit room, gift shop and meeting room. There are several exhibits in the center, and with a view of Belmont Bay. Visitor center staff can answer questions and provide information on park trails, facilities and local points of interest. Pond study, bird watching, canoe trips, nature walks and talks, and GPS adventures are just a few of the exciting programs offered by park rangers.

### Regional Parks

#### BR Bull Run Marina Regional Park & Atlantis Waterpark

7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville  
www.nvrpa.org/park/bull\_run/  
www.atlantisbullrun.com/  
703-631-0552

Main park open all year for picnicking, hiking and family camping. Bull Run Public Shooting Center open all year. Group Camping open daily Jan. 7 through Nov. 11. Mini and disc golf open April through October. Hours vary. Atlantis Waterpark features pools, a giant dumping bucket, waterslides, and fun-filled activities for all ages. Atlantis is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and is a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority family of Waterparks. Neptune Reef snack bar sells food, beverages and sweets.

#### CR Cameron Run Regional Park/Great Waves Waterpark

4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria  
www.nvrpa.org/park/cameron\_run/  
www.greatwaveswaterpark.com/  
703-960-0767

Cameron Run Regional Park offers a variety of recreation facilities in an urban area, including Great Waves Water Park. Catch a wave in the wave pool, twist and turn down four-story water slides, take a plunge down speed slides, play with friends in the shallow waters of the play

pool. The park also features a deluxe miniature golf course, a nine-station batting cage, picnic shelters, and a special events pavilion.

#### CH Carlyle House Historic Park

121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314  
www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle\_house\_historic\_park/  
703-549-2997

The historic Carlyle House was completed in 1753 by British merchant John Carlyle for his bride, Sarah Fairfax of Belvoir, member of one of the most prestigious families in colonial Virginia. Their home quickly became a center of social and political life in Alexandria and gained a foothold in history when British General Braddock made the mansion his headquarters in 1755. On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House is architecturally unique in Alexandria as the only stone, 18th-century Palladian-style house. Daily tours of the house, programs for schoolchildren, special events, exhibits and lectures explore the life and times of John Carlyle in pre-Revolutionary Alexandria. The site may be rented in the evenings for private functions and weddings.

#### FH Fountainhead Regional Park

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station  
www.nvrpa.org/park/fountainhead/  
703-250-9124

The observation deck of the Marina Building at Fountainhead commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include catfish tournaments, children's fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.

#### HO Hemlock Overlook Regional Park

13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock\_overlook/  
800-877-0954; 571-281-3556;  
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education. Programs at Hemlock Overlook are open to the public and groups by reservation. Only the hiking and horse

trails may be used without prior arrangement.

#### MBG Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna  
www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark\_botanical\_gardens/  
703-255-3631

This 95-acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections is open year round and include walking trails, lakes, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, irises, peonies, an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage. The Atrium's indoor tropical garden setting is a popular meeting, reception, wedding and workshop location. Interpretive displays accompany a restored 18th-century cabin.

#### OR Occoquan Regional Park

9751 Ox Road, Lorton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/  
703-690-2121

This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-County Trail. Kayak rentals. One hour Tour Boat Rides on the Occoquan River to Belmont Bay and back. Offered Saturdays noon-5 p.m., Sunday 1-8 p.m., April 2 through Nov. 27. \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, under age 4 are free.

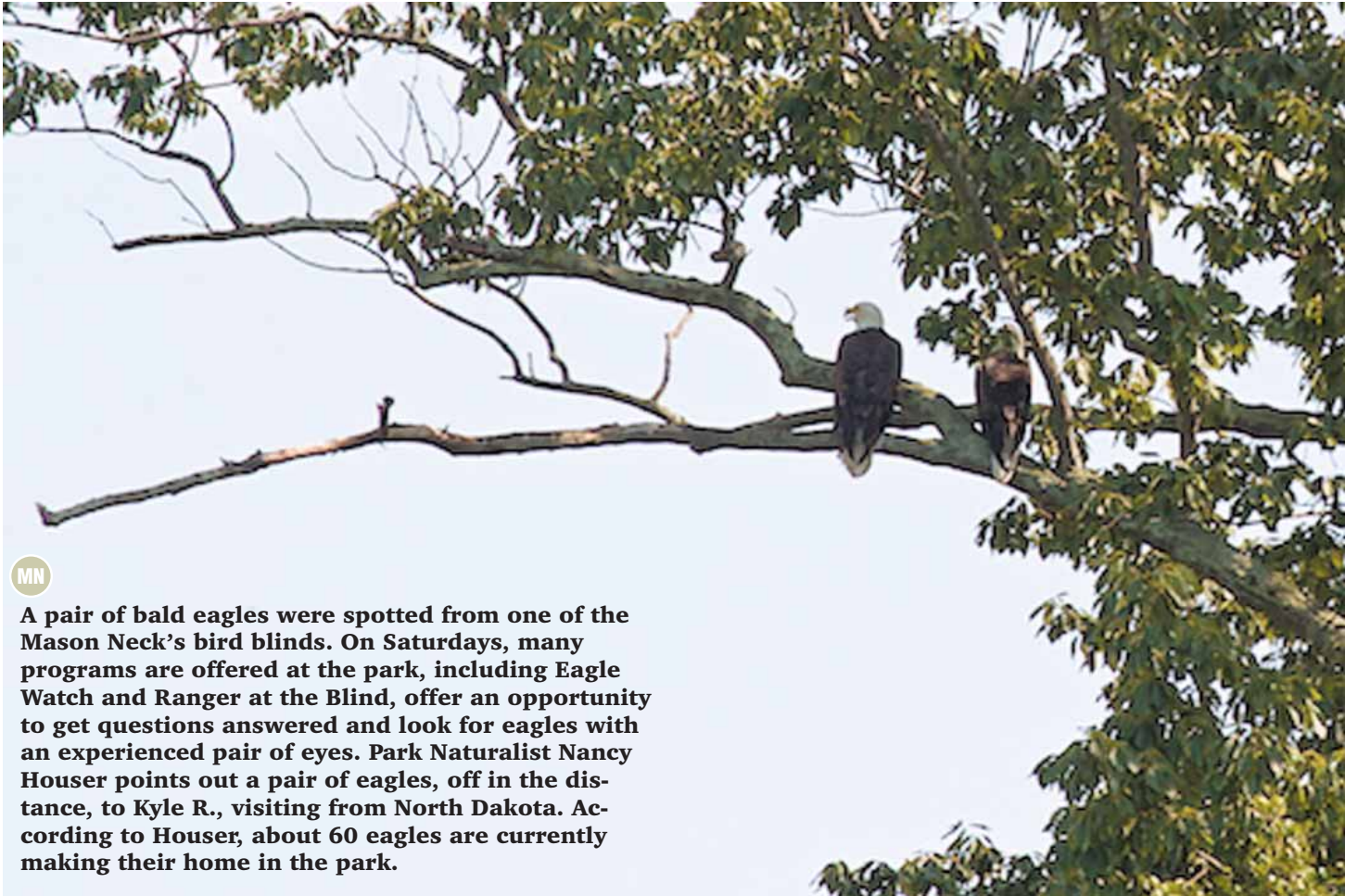
#### PB Pohick Bay Regional Park & Pirates Cove Waterpark

6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick\_bay/  
www.piratescovepohick.com  
703-339-6102

Pohick Bay is located on the Potomac River, 25 miles south of the nation's capital. The boat launch facility is one of only three public access points to the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Pohick Bay offers canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and jon boats for rent on the weekends, as well as family and group camping, hiking, picnic areas and a large play area for children. The park offers one of the largest, outdoor freeform pools on the east coast. Pohick Bay Regional Park, located on Mason Neck Peninsula is an ecologically fragile land that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Pirates Cove Waterpark is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at Buccaneer Beach sand play area. Pirates Cove

**Sources:** National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Virginia State Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority. Map courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority. Designed & compiled by Jean Card and Laurence Foong. Photos by Renée Ruggles.





**MN**  
**A pair of bald eagles were spotted from one of the Mason Neck’s bird blinds. On Saturdays, many programs are offered at the park, including Eagle Watch and Ranger at the Blind, offer an opportunity to get questions answered and look for eagles with an experienced pair of eyes. Park Naturalist Nancy Houser points out a pair of eagles, off in the distance, to Kyle R., visiting from North Dakota. According to Houser, about 60 eagles are currently making their home in the park.**

also features picnic pavilions, a deck for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Captain’s Galley snack bar features food, beverages and sweets. Pirates Cove is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

**PB Pohick Bay Golf Course**  
10301 Gunston Road, Lorton  
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick\_bay\_golf\_course  
703-339-8585  
This scenic golf course is located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton. Pohick Bay’s practice facility features a driving range with practice putting and chipping greens, and lessons from PGA pros. A full-service pro shop features an array of name-brand golf clubs, equipment and apparel. Other services include club making, custom club fitting, regripping, reshafting and tournament coordinating.

**PO Potomac Overlook Regional Park & Nature Center**  
2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 22207  
www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac\_overlook/  
703-528-5406  
On the Potomac Palisades in north Arlington, Potomac Overlook offers 70 acres of peaceful woodland, trails, educational gardens, a small picnic area and a Nature Center. The Nature Center features brand new exhibits called the “Energerium,” offering visitors a fun and accessible way to learn energy basics and ways they can help create sustainable energy solutions. The Nature Center also houses live animals and natural history exhibits.

**SR Sandy Run Regional Park**  
10450 Van Thompson Road, Fairfax Station  
www.nvrpa.org/park/sandy\_run/  
703-690-4392  
The park is open to the public for the purpose of education, training, practice, and racing for competitive and recreational sculling and rowing. Only shells and other boats authorized by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority may be launched from the docks or shoreline of Sandy Run. Sandy Run offers a facility for team training and competition for Olympic, college, high school and club canoe, kayak and crew athletes.

**UH Upton Hill Regional Park & Ocean Dunes Waterpark**  
6060 Wilson Blvd., Arlington  
www.nvrpa.org/park/upton\_hill/  
www.oceanduneswaterpark.com/  
703-534-3437 or UptonHill@nvrpa.org  
Upton Hill Regional Park offers visitors a wooded oasis in the heart of the most densely populated area of Northern Virginia. A large outdoor water-park complex is a sparkling attraction in

this wooded, urban park, which straddles the boundary line between Arlington and Fairfax counties. The deluxe miniature golf course boasts one of the longest mini golf holes in the world; the batting cages include nine baseball and softball cages. The park is open every day for hiking, picnicking, playing on the playground and enjoying the outdoors. Located within Upton Hill Regional Park, Ocean Dunes is loaded with fun features for adults and children.

## Arts Center

**LAC Workhouse Arts Center**  
9601 Ox Road, Lorton  
www.lortonarts.org  
703-584-2900

The Workhouse Arts Center consists of seven studio buildings, the main galleries and the recently opened Youth Arts Center. Visitors are encouraged to interact with artists. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film institute, musical and dance performances. The education department supports both the visual and performing arts, offering classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. Future plans for the Workhouse include an event center, amphitheater, Workhouse Theatre, restaurants, apartments, music barn and garden/horticultural area. Other buildings on site, yet to be renovated, may provide for other activities such as a visitors center, a blacksmith shop, theatre scene shops and rehearsal space.



**The Ratcliffs, of Rockville, came out to enjoy a family bike ride. Cycling is a popular activity along the park-way.**

## Major Fairfax County Parks

**BLP Burke Lake Park & Golf Course**  
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station  
volleyball, driving range, 18 hole, par 3, minigolf, trails, playground, campgrounds, fishing  
883.4 acres, multiple resource park

**CJP Clemyjontri Park**  
6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean  
fitness, picnic areas and playgrounds  
18.6 acres, special purpose park

**ELP Ellanor C. Lawrence Park**  
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly  
baseball, soccer/football (unlit), basketball (unlit), community center, nature center, amphitheater, trails  
650 acres, multiple resource park

**FPF Frying Pan Farm Park**  
2717 West Ox Road, Herndon  
historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, playground  
135.3 acres, multiple resource park

**GSG Green Spring Gardens**  
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria  
Community Center, historic structure, biking/hiking

trails, open areas, gardens  
30.9 acres, special purpose park

**HPP Hidden Pond Park**  
8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield  
tennis (lit), nature center, amphitheater, hiking/nature trails, playground, fishing  
25.6 acres, community park

**HMP Huntley Meadows Park**  
3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria  
nature center, historic structure, biking/hiking/nature trails, observation tower, boardwalk  
1444.8 acres, natural resource park

**LAP Lake Accotink Park**  
7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield  
basketball, volleyball, minigolf, trails, picnic  
448.1 acres, multiple resource park

**LFP Lake Fairfax Park**  
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston  
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit), amphitheater, carousel, campground, tour boat, picnic shelters  
479 acres, multiple resource park

**FRA Lee District Park**  
6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia  
softball, soccer/football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, trails, treehouse, sprayground, accessible playground  
138 acres, district park

**MDP Mason District Park**  
6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit/lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), shuffleboard, dog park, amphitheater, biking/hiking/fitness  
121.2 acres, district park

**NWP Nottoway Park**  
9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna  
baseball (lit), soccer/football (lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic  
90.9 acres, district park

**RBP Riverbend Park**  
8700 Potomac Hill Street, Great Falls  
nature center, historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, picnic areas, craft room  
411.2 acres, multiple resource park

**SRN Scotts Run Nature Preserve**  
7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean  
historic structure, historic/hiking/nature trails, fishing  
384.3 acres, natural resource park

**SRD South Run District**  
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield  
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, equestrian, playground, swimming  
196 acres, district park

**WFP Wakefield Park & RECenter**  
8100 Braddock Road, Annandale  
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, biking, fitness trail, skate park  
292.6 acres, multiple resource park



**On Sunday evenings, the community gathers in the pavilion, to enjoy a summer concert series, sponsored by the Friends of Fort Hunt Park.**



# PARKS

A GUIDE TO FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS IN THE  
SPRINGFIELD & MOUNT VERNON AREAS

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES  
FEATURING GREEN SPRING GARDENS



**Map Number Park Name**  
Address, City  
Property Class

**1 Lorton**  
9518 Richmond Highway, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park

**2 Springfield Forest**  
6400 Kalmia Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**3 Franconia**  
6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield  
Community Park

**4 Lee High**  
6501 Deepford Street, Springfield  
Community Park

**5 Monticello Woods**  
6444 Northanna Drive, Springfield  
Community Park

**6 Trailside**  
6000 Trailside Drive, Springfield  
Community Park

**7 Loisdale**  
7419 Loisdale Road, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**8 Lynbrook**  
6005 Augusta Drive, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**9 Hooes Road**  
7233 Hooes Road, Springfield  
Community Park



**10 Springvale**  
6508 Spring Road, Springfield  
Community Park

**11 Lake Accotink**  
7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield  
Multiple Resource Park

**12 Brookfield**  
7417 Floyd Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park

**13 Byron Avenue**  
6500 Byron Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park

**14 Hooes Road School Site**  
7336 Hooes Road, Springfield  
Community Park

**15 Kings Park**  
8717 Trafalgar Ct., Springfield  
Community Park

**The historic house at Green Spring was built in 1784 by John Moss. Inside, visitors will find an art exhibit, a gift shop, and two tea rooms. The tea rooms can be reserved for private events and tastings.**

**16 Flag Run**  
7620 Elgar Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**17 Leewood**  
7111 Woodland Drive, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**18 Deerlick**  
6821 Braddock Road, Springfield  
Community Park

**19 Edsall**  
6845 Edsall Road, Springfield  
Community Park

**20 North Springfield**  
7025 Leesville Boulevard, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**21 Royal Ridge**  
7417 Floyd Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park

**22 Carrleigh Parkway**  
8020 Carrleigh Prkwy, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park

**23 Cardinal Forest**  
6121 Roxbury Avenue, Springfield  
Community Park

**24 Hunter Village**  
7700 Jansen Drive, Springfield  
Community Park

**25 Hidden Pond**  
8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield





Guests filled the Education Center to watch the dueling floral designers create arrangements from the same flowers and greenery, without being able to see each other’s work. The building also houses a 3,000 volume horticultural library and a gift shop. Classes for children and adults are held year round.



Pat Shoop, a volunteer for the past nine years, offers Amarantha Flachs some lemon with her tea. The Flachs family, of Alexandria, registered for one of the park’s programs that includes a traditional English tea in the one of the historic home’s tea rooms.

- Community Park
- 26 West Springfield**  
6805 Caneel Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 27 West Springfield Village**  
6910 Loudoun Lane, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 28 Rolling Forest**  
7019 Flax Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 29 Cherry Run**  
7001 Cottontail Court, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 30 South Run District**  
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield  
District Park
- 31 Huntsman**  
9150 Dorothy Lane, Springfield  
Community Park
- 32 Rolling Wood School Site**  
7511 Chancellor Way, Springfield  
Community Park
- 33 Chapel Acres**  
7900 Giles Street, Springfield  
Neighborhood Park
- 34 Saratoga**  
8121 North Umlerland Rd, Springfield  
Community Park
- 35 Loftridg**  
5549 Janelle Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 36 Burgundy**  
5516 Norton Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 37 Heritage Hill**  
5744 Telegraph Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 38 Jefferson Manor**  
2909 Farmington Drive, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 39 Huntington**  
2121 Fairfax Terrace, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 40 Farrington Avenue**  
2213 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 41 Mt. Eagle**  
5919 North Kings Highway, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 42 South Kings Forest**  
4505 Lantern Place, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park



Green Spring Gardens is a 31-acre park located in Alexandria. The park has something to offer everyone. Beyond the gardens, it is a historic site, with trails, streams, an education center, gift shops, tea rooms, plant shop, and the assistance of Master Gardeners. Approximately 20 demonstration gardens create an outdoor classroom environment for visitors of all ages.

- 43 Stoneybrooke**  
3900 Stoneybrooke Drive, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 44 Groveton Heights**  
3429 Clayborne Avenue, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 45 Huntley Historic**  
6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria  
Natural Resource Park
- 46 Lenclair**  
6625 Lenclair Street, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 47 Bucknell Manor**  
2223 Beacon Hill Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 48 Hybla Valley**  
3431 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 49 Huntley Meadows**  
3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria  
Natural Resource Park
- 50 Hollin Meadows**  
7603 Elba Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 51 Martin Luther King Jr**  
8115 Fordson Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 52 Stephen S. Foster Intermediate School Site**  
2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 53 Belle Haven**  
6036 Grove Drive, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 54 Fort Willard Circle**  
6625 Fort Willard Circle, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 55 Mount Vernon District**  
2017 Belle View Boulevard, Alexandria  
Multiple Resource Park
- 56 Westgrove**  
6801 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 57 White Oaks**  
7100 Devonshire Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 58 Gilbert S. McCutcheon**  
7509 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 59 Hollin Hall School Site**  
1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 60 Kirk**  
2206 Collingwood Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 61 Williamsburg Manor**  
2213 Collingwood Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 62 Collingwood**  
8200 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 63 Carl Sandburg School Site**  
8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 64 Stratford Landing**  
2301 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park

- 65 Fort Hunt**  
8822 Linton Lane, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 66 Muddy Hole Farm**  
7941 Kidd Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 67 Mount Vernon Woods**  
4014 Fielding Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 68 George Washington**  
8426 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria  
Special Purpose Park
- 69 Walt Whitman School Site**  
8333 Richmond Highway, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 70 Mount Zephyr**  
8601 Richmond Avenue, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 71 Washington Mill**  
4341 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy,  
Alexandria  
Community Park
- 72 Grist Mill**  
4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy,  
Alexandria  
District Park
- 73 Vernon Heights**  
8225 Central Avenue, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 74 Bush Hill**  
5417a Waycross Drive, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 75 Mark Twain**  
5920 Larpin Lane, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 76 Clermont School Site**  
4100 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 77 Franconia Forest**  
6013 Bitternut Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 78 Ridgeview**  
4111 Duvawn Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 79 Wilton Woods School Site**  
3701 Franconia Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 80 Tara Village**  
6417 Joyce Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 81 Virginia Hills School Site**  
6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 82 Manchester Lakes**  
6775 Beulah Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 83 Greendale Golf Course**  
6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria  
Special Purpose Park
- 84 Lee District**  
6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia  
District Park
- 85 Dowden Terrace**  
5616 Bradley Boulevard, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 86 Glasgow**  
3935 Arcadia Road, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 87 Parklawn**  
6454 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 88 Glen Hills**  
6090 Larstan Drive, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 89 Heywood Glen**  
6210 Larstan Drive, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park
- 90 Pinecrest Golf Course**  
6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria  
Special Purpose Park
- 91 Green Spring Gardens**  
4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria  
Special Purpose Park
- 92 Bren Mar**  
6324 Edsall Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 93 Backlick Run**  
5590 First Statesman Lane, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 94 Beulah**  
7119 Beulah Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 95 Amberleigh**  
7516 Beulah Street, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 96 Hayfield**  
7611 Hayfield Road, Alexandria  
Community Park
- 97 Wickford**  
7331a Wickford Drive, Alexandria  
Neighborhood Park



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a Watery Wonderland

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF  
DYKE MARSH

**T**housands of drivers whiz through a Mount Vernon jewel every day, harried commuters and soccer parents zipping through a national park and a rare, freshwater, tidal, vanishing wetland. Few stop to watch a Halloween pennant dragonfly patrol the waters, a bald eagle eviscerate a fish, planthopper bugs suck sap or swamp mallow blossoms open to the sun.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway splices through the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve in northern Mount Vernon along the Potomac River shoreline. It is the “nearest thing to primeval wilderness” in the Washington area, wrote Louis J. Halle in 1947 when he biked from the city at dawn to watch the wetland awaken. It was one of largest tidal, freshwater marshes in the Washington area and one of largest tidal, freshwater, temperate, climax, riverine, narrow-leaved cattail in the National Park Service (NPS) system.

Congress added the 485-acre preserve to the national park system in 1959 “so that

fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount.”

Dyke Marsh has 300 known species of

plants, 6,000 arthropods, 38 fish, 16 reptiles, 14 amphibians and over 230 birds. Parts of it are 2,000 years old.

The wetland once stretched to over 200

acres, but it has shriveled to a 60-acre, fragile remnant. Erosion eats away almost two acres a year, at an accelerating rate which means it will be gone in 20 years, concluded the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Dredging from 1940 to 1972 that hauled away almost half of the marsh destabilized the whole system, changing it “from a semi-stable net depositional environment into a strongly erosional one,” reported USGS.

Dyke Marsh is getting hit from all sides. On the west side, uncontrolled, mucky sediment flows into the marsh like lava during storms and turns the marsh orange.

Dyke Marsh has endured years of excavation, dumping, pollution, invasive species, poaching, illegal bow fishing, hunting, runoff, off-leash dogs and endless trash.

The good news: NPS is designing a restoration plan and has some funding.

Fairfax County has a plan to fix the gush of sediment pouring in from the west. Funds are needed.

Newcomers and old timers can enjoy some of Dyke Marsh’s wonders and help save this special place. Visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) to learn more.



PHOTO BY GLENDA C. BOOTH

The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve

### VIEWPOINTS

“What do you like most about living here?”

COMPILED BY NINA RANESES  
AND DUNCAN HOAG

“Proximity to the river. Belle Haven Marina is fun to go kayaking. Huntley Meadows is fun for walking and Cosmopolitan Grill is great for eating.”

— Kara O’Connell

“The best thing is nature. Waking up with a five point buck on the lawn, seeing bald eagles on the drive to work, staring down foxes and squirrels on morning runs, and having baby birds hatch on your lamp post.”

— Sandra Darville

“Geography. The land here is flat and it makes it easier to see the beautiful colors of the sunrise and sunset.”

— Augusto Lejano

“I love how much there is to do here. We’re so close to D.C. and there’s so many cool museums and places to eat and honestly it’s just so much fun.”

— Peter Skudlarek

“[Alexandria] is like the perfect city. You have everything nearby, you have museums, you have the river, you have parks, and theatre ... you have everything.”

— Marcela Nader

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

## Mount Vernon At Home

2501 Sherwood Lane. Looking for a way to make a difference in the Mount Vernon community? Consider Mount Vernon At Home, a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time and talent as it assists older adults to age in place in their homes. Its volunteers provide that extra help that make aging in place easier for seniors in their own neighborhood.

Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required.

Call Mount Vernon At Home at 703-303-4060 or email [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) to learn more. Visit [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org).

## Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area

5901 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Aims to help youth become confident, civic-minded, responsible adults through programs focused on education/career development, health and life skills, leadership, the arts, sports and recreation, and mentoring. Call 703-304-8631 or visit [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/).

## Mount Vernon Recreation Center

2017 Belle View Blvd. A fitness center with a 25-meter heated indoor pool with poolside spa, a

beach area with play features, locker rooms with showers and sauna, Fitness Center with Cybex VR2 equipment, pro shop items for sale, dance room, multi-purpose rooms and a year-round 200 foot by 85 foot indoor ice arena. Call 703-768-3224 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mvrec.htm).

## Christian Relief Services

8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900. Incorporated in 1985, in Virginia, through partnership with 14 agencies, Christian Relief Services offers up to 24 months of transitional housing, case management and supportive services for homeless people. Around the country, operates the affordable housing units. Call 703-317-9086 or visit [www.christianrelief.org](http://www.christianrelief.org).

## Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services

8305-17B Richmond Highway. The goal of Good Shepherd, created in 1974, is to help bring an end to homelessness while promoting the self-sufficiency of homeless individuals with programs in counseling, grant services and housing location assistance. Call 703-768-9494 or visit [www.goodhousing.org](http://www.goodhousing.org).

## New Hope Housing

Founded in 1977, New Hope Housing is an award-winning nonprofit agency in Northern Virginia committed to finding creative and lasting solutions to end the cycle of homelessness by offering homeless men, women, and children the services they need to change their lives and succeed.

Each year, New Hope Housing serves more than

1,500 people in outreach, shelter, and housing programs. Call 703-799-2293 or [www.newhopehousing.org](http://www.newhopehousing.org) to volunteer or learn more.

## United Community Ministries (UCM)

7511 Fordson Road. Founded in 1969 as a grassroots movement to assist low-income families and individuals living along the Route One Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. Call 703-768-7106 or visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

## Progreso Literacy and Citizenship Center

A program of United Community Ministries, Progreso empowers immigrants to improve the quality of their lives and of their communities through education, immigration services, and leadership development. Visit [www.ucmagency.org/progreso-center-for-literacy-citizenship.html](http://www.ucmagency.org/progreso-center-for-literacy-citizenship.html).

## Mount Vernon Rotary Club

The club works to provide educational scholarships, educate the next generation to motivate them to pursue world peace, and to simply care about human needs and be willing to take steps to help meet them.

Visit [www.localrotaryclub.com/MountVernonVirginiaRotaryClub](http://www.localrotaryclub.com/MountVernonVirginiaRotaryClub).



# NEWCOMERS GUIDE

## BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS

### Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce

6821 Richmond Highway. The chamber serves over 425 businesses in the Mount Vernon and Lee districts. Call 703-360-6925 or visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).

### Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC)

6677 Richmond Highway, Second Floor. SFDC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the redevelopment and revitalization of Richmond Highway/U.S. Route 1 from I-495 to Fort Belvoir. In the past 32 years, SFDC has helped direct nearly \$2 billion of private investment to the Richmond Highway corridor. Call 703-360-5008 or visit [www.sfdc.org](http://www.sfdc.org).

### Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association

MVCCA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of citizens' associations in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District of Fairfax County which represents and promote the interests of its member associations with eight standing committees including Budget and Finance, Consumer Affairs, Education, Environment and Recreation, Health and Human Services, Planning and Zoning, Public Safety and Transportation. Visit [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org).

### Pakistan American Business Association Inc. (PABA)

9302 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite B, Burke. PABA is a non-profit, bilateral trade association that promotes business opportunities between Pakistan and the United States of America, and nurtures leadership skills within the Pakistani American business community. Call 703-627-1500 or visit [www.paba.org](http://www.paba.org).

[www.pabausa.org](http://www.pabausa.org).

### Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce.

The Alexandria-based organization provides resources to black-owned businesses in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties. Visit [www.northernvirginiabcc.org](http://www.northernvirginiabcc.org)

### Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Virginia

Located in Herndon, the organization serves businesses lead by and those that work with the Hispanic community in the area. Visit [www.hccnva.org](http://www.hccnva.org).

### Asian American Chamber of Commerce

8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450. Located in Tysons, it offers programs to Asian and Pacific business communities in the region. Call 703-752-6292 or visit [www.asian-americanchamber.org](http://www.asian-americanchamber.org).

### U.S. Lebanese Chamber of Commerce

A privately held business association founded in 2010 offering networking and resources to Lebanese Americans. Call 703-761-4949.

### Afghan American Chamber of Commerce (AACC)

8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 103, McLean. AACC provides resources to members through business advice, conferences, seminars, networking events, publications and other avenues to stimulate U.S.-Afghanistan business and investment; also, sector-based Working Groups seek to reduce impediments to business and market progress for members. Call 703-442-5005 or visit [www.a-acc.org/](http://www.a-acc.org/).

*The Little Theatre of Alexandria*  
**THE LITTLE THEATRE**  
2015/2016 SEASON  
**LAUGHING STOCK**  
SEP. 5 - 26, 2015 ▲  
**The Tale of the Allergist's Wife**  
OCT. 24 - NOV. 14, 2015 ▲  
**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**  
DEC. 4 - 20, 2015 ▲  
**Grey Gardens**  
JAN. 16 - FEB. 6, 2016 ▲  
**The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)**  
FEB. 27 - MAR. 19, 2016 ▲  
**TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD**  
APR. 23 - MAY 14, 2016 ▲  
**THE HISTORY BOYS**  
JUN. 4 - 25, 2016 ▲  
[WWW.THELITTLETHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.THELITTLETHEATRE.COM)  
600 WOLFE STREET, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314  
BOX OFFICE: 703-683-0496

**★ Mount Vernon Antique Center ★**  
8101 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria  
**703-619-5100**  
[www.mtvaniques.com](http://www.mtvaniques.com)  
Discover the secret source of many collectors, dealers, decorators and shoppers with "good eyes" and great taste.  
Follow us on Facebook & Twitter

**SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR**  
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.  
**SEPTEMBER**  
*Labor Day is Sept. 7*  
9/9/2015.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout - Real Estate & New Homes  
9/16/2015...A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses  
9/23/2015.....Fall Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment  
9/30/2015.....Professional Profiles & Your Business in the Community  
E-mail [sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com) for more information.  
**Award-Winning**  
**THE CONNECTION**  
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## September 2015

### ONGOING

**Wine in the Water Park.** Every Friday in September, beginning Sept. 4. 6-10 p.m. Crystal City Water Park, 1750 Crystal Drive. Combines sips and sounds to create an outdoor event featuring interesting wine varietals and music in the neighborhood's signature Crystal City Water Park. Visit [crystalcity.org](http://crystalcity.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

**Big Chalk Draw 2015.** 8-10 a.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. School supplies donations are welcome at this chalk art community event. Free. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

**25th Annual Rosslyn Jazz Festival.** 1-7 p.m. Gateway Park, 1300 Lee Highway, Arlington. Artists to headline the festival include The Funk Ark, Sonny Knight and the Lakers, Debo Band and The Dirty Dozen Brass Band. Check [www.rosslynva.org/culture#events](http://www.rosslynva.org/culture#events) for updates.

**Memorial 5K.** 6 p.m. in Crystal City, Arlington. Honors the victims, firefighters, and public safety who responded on Sept. 11, 2001. \$35, \$40 entry fee. [www.arlington911race.com/](http://www.arlington911race.com/).

### SEPT. 12-25

**33rd Annual Senior Olympics.** Various times at various locations. Participants over 50 years old will participate in track and field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, scrabble, duplicate bridge, cribbage, Mexican train dominoes, pickleball, racquetball, handball, volleyball, badminton, bocce, eight ball pool, cycling, horseshoes, yo-yo tricks, American style Mah Jongg, 5K run



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON

## George Washington's Mount Vernon

A popular tourist destination, George Washington's former estate-turned-museum, Mount Vernon regularly hosts special tours, dinners, and other educational events. Throughout the year guests may find a Colonial Fair and Market, Wine Festival, Christmas celebrations, a naturalization ceremony celebrating new U.S. citizens, and more. The estate is open for regular tours 365 days a year, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular admission tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors (aged 62 and over), \$9 for youth (aged 6-11), and free for children (younger than 5). Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) to learn more.

and more. Admission varies based on event. Visit [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 19-20

**Colonial Market And Fair.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visit the 18th century at this colonial celebration featuring crafting demonstrations, puppet shows, military drills, and traditional food and music. Tickets are \$9-17. Children age 5 and under are free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**King Street Art Festival.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 480 King St. In its 13th year, the festival features art displays, art giveaways and sales and live music. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest).

**Scottish Highlander Festival.** 10 a.m.-2:15 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. on Sunday at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N Fairfax St. Attend a fashion show, highland dance performance, or Celtic concert on Saturday or an Outlander Tea and Tour on Sunday. Prices vary based on activity. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

**St. Luke's Annual Craft Fair.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Mount Vernon. Connect with old friends and neighbors. Cold drinks and luncheon items from the St. Luke's grill will be available, along with a bake sale featuring cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Also fresh produce from a

nearby farm, entertainment provided by a guest guitarist and two local pianists. For children, there will be a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net) or call 703-765-4342 for more.

**74th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. For the 74th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, the public may visit six historic homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$35 through Sept. 25 and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N Columbus St. Visit [www.thetwig.org/homes-tour](http://www.thetwig.org/homes-tour) for more.

**3rd Annual Community Celebration and Business Expo.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. Learn more about the community and local businesses. Take part in the chili cook-off, cute baby contest, ugly dog contest and scavenger hunt. Free to attend. Visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).

### SUNDAY-THURSDAY/SEPT. 27-OCT. 3

**Fall for the Book Festival at GMU.** Times vary. Select locations throughout Northern Virginia, D.C., and Maryland. This week long regional celebration of literature and the arts, connects readers and authors at all levels. Offering bookworms the chance to meet their favorite writers. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org).

## October 2015

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 2-4

**Wine Festival and Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the successes and failures of George Washington's wine endeavors, listen to live music and tour where Washington stored his wine. Tickets are \$36-\$46. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/calendar](http://www.mountvernon.org/calendar).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 3

**Charity 5k.** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Cameron

Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Run or walk to promote traffic safety. \$20-35 per person, depending on when you register. Visit [www.theartofdriving.org/ART\\_5K/](http://www.theartofdriving.org/ART_5K/).

**Art on the Ave.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. along Mt. Vernon Avenue, Del Ray. Multicultural arts festival featuring music, art, and food. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

### FRIDAY/OCT. 16

**Art on Tap 2015.** 7-10:30 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N Union St. Craft brews from local breweries get paired with a work of art by an Art League instructor, and local restaurants choose a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse for an appetizer. Guests vote on their favorite trifecta. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 16-18

**FreedomWalk Festival.** The U.S. FreedomWalk Festival is a weekend long, non-competitive, social walking challenge bringing participants of all ages and abilities together for fun, fitness, and international friendship. Different trails will be offered each day, and a variety of distances ranging from 3-27 miles. Visit [www.usfreedomwalk.org/](http://www.usfreedomwalk.org/).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-24

**Halloween Pumpkin Hunt.** 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Elementary school-aged children and younger may participate in the hunt and will receive a toy pumpkin. The event will also feature Halloween crafts, food and drink, ghost stories and a costume parade. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$12 for children participating in the hunt. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or contact John Christiansen at 703-548-1789 or [contact@leefendallhouse.org](mailto:contact@leefendallhouse.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 24

**VolunteerFest.** A region-wide day of community service helps nonprofits accomplish tasks they would not have time or resources to do on their own. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/volunteerfest.php) for more.



PHOTO BY RENEE RUGGLES

**Young Kaelin concentrated on her work at a past Big Chalk Draw. It takes place each year at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. The church accepts donations of school supplies for the upcoming school year.**



## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-25

**Fall Harvest Family Days.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pioneer Farm in George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the beginning of autumn with the family at Mount Vernon with activities including wagon rides, apple-roasting and a straw bale maze. The event is included with purchase of admission to Mount Vernon; tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, \$16 for seniors and free for children 5 years and younger. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## November 2015

### TUESDAY/NOV. 3

**Election Day.** General election. Visit [www.sbe.virginia.gov/](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/) and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 6-8

**Alexandria Film Festival.** AMC Hoffman Center 22, 206 Swamp Fox Road and Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Film Festival brings together short and feature length films of all genres from emerging and established, local and international filmmakers. Last

year, the festival brought more than 60 films and 50 filmmakers to Alexandria from as far as Sri Lanka and Uruguay. All ticketed events will be held at the AMC Hoffman Theater 22, with Beatley Central Library offering free programs to the public. Visit [www.alexandriafilm.org](http://www.alexandriafilm.org) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

**Mount Vernon Salutes Veterans.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Honored guests (veterans) are invited to place a flower at Washington's tomb, enjoy a concert by the Harmony Heritage Singers and the United States Air Force String Orchestra. Free for veterans and active duty military members, \$9-17 for everyone else. See [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

### Arlington National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony.

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. About 5,000 visitors attend the annual remembrance ceremonies in the Memorial Amphitheater. Visit [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 27

**Tree Lighting Ceremony.** 6 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Attend

the ceremony in which the City Tree is lit and visited by Santa, the Town Crier, and other city officials. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

### NOV. 28-JAN. 6

**Christmas at Mount Vernon.** 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon decks the halls with themed Christmas trees on the estate and festive greenery in the Mansion. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/christmas](http://www.mountvernon.org/christmas).

## December 2015

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 4-6

**Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market 2015.** Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The market offers handmade fine arts and fine crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts, and glass). Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartists.org](http://www.thedelrayartists.org).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 5

**45th Annual Campagna Center Scottish Walk Parade.** 11 a.m. Old Town Alexandria, the parade begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets. More than 100 Scottish Clans, pipe and drum bands, Scottish dancers, re-enactment groups, Scottie dogs, dignitaries and, of course, Santa Claus will march through the streets of Old Town. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/parade](http://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend/parade).

### THURSDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** Events take place throughout the day at numerous venues around the City of Alexandria. Visit [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org) for more.

## February 2016

### MID-FEBRUARY

**Community Tax Assistance Day.** Fairfax SkillSource Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Suite 300 West, Annandale. The IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free assistance with 2015 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$52,000 or less. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/vita.php](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/vita.php).

## March 2016

**Persian New Year Celebration.** The Nowruz Festival celebrating the Persian New Year will include entertainment from musicians, dancers, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players. About 55 street vendors will be offering traditional and exotic foods, as well as jewelry, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. Visit [www.nowruzfestival.org](http://www.nowruzfestival.org) for more.

### SECOND TUESDAY IN MARCH

**Clarendon Mardi Gras Parade.** Annual parade to celebrating Fat Tuesday. Visit [www.clarendon.org/mardi-gras](http://www.clarendon.org/mardi-gras).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 20-SUNDAY/APRIL 17

**National Cherry Blossom Festival.** Enjoy world-class entertainment from the U.S. and Japan as they welcome springtime and celebrate the anniversary of the gift of trees from Tokyo to Washington, D.C. Visit [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org).



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT

**Thousands of residents and guests watch the firework display from Oronoco Bay Park at the conclusion of the annual Alexandria Birthday Celebration.**

## April 2016

### APRIL - JUNE

**Relay for Life.** Fundraisers participate in all-night-long events to help those affected by cancer through the American Cancer Society. Visit [www.relayforlife.org](http://www.relayforlife.org) for specific events and details.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 16-17

**4th Annual Arlington Festival of the Arts.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Highland Street in the Clarendon District, Arlington. More than 100 artists will showcase their work including paintings, jewelry, pottery, glass, and much more. Visit [artfestival.com](http://artfestival.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 23-30

**Historic Garden Week.** This eight-day statewide event provides visitors an opportunity to see gardens, as well as houses with more than 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members. Visit [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org).

## May 2016

### MONDAY/MAY 23

**Memorial Day Jazz Concert.** 1-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, Alexandria. A variety of jazz performances take place throughout the concert. Waterfront Park features lawn seating and the attendees may bring

lawn chairs and blankets. Food, such as barbeque, fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, snow cones and funnel cakes are available for purchase, but everyone is welcome to pack a picnic lunch. Pets should be left at home. Admission is free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation) for more.

## July 2016

### SECOND SATURDAY IN JULY

**USA and Alexandria Birthday Celebration.** Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison Street, Alexandria. Celebrate Alexandria's 265th birthday along the Potomac waterfront with fireworks, cake and live music. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/events/USA-Alexandria-Birthday-Celebration/6607](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/events/USA-Alexandria-Birthday-Celebration/6607).

## August 2016

**Summer Restaurant Week.** Mid-August, in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and West End. Menu options vary by location. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com) or call 703-746-3301 for more.

**Ice Cream Making.** Saturdays in August. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 3200 Mt. Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Cool down with 18th century ice cream making demonstrations. Admission: Adults, \$18; Children, \$9; Under 5, free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) for more.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Celebrate The Persian New Year

The Nowruz Festival, a colorful celebration of the Persian New Year, visits Alexandria each year in March. Hundreds gather to partake in traditional Iranian food, art, music, and performances. Admission to the festival is usually free, and well-attended by vendors offering food, crafts, books, and more. Visit [www.nowruzfestival.org](http://www.nowruzfestival.org).



# NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

## OUT & ABOUT

### Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre (MVCCT)

1900 Elkin St., Alexandria. MVCCT's programs are twofold: each year three to four productions are presented, directed by professionals and featuring children in all roles. Additionally MVCCT, a nonprofit, has an active education program which includes

after-school programs in Fairfax County Public Schools (both PTA sponsored and outreach/grant based), as well as a spring break and summer camp. Call 703-360-0686 or [www.mvcct.org](http://www.mvcct.org).

### Mount Vernon Inn at George Washington's Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon Inn at George

Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon.

Listen to live music while enjoying a meal on the grounds of the first president's home.

### The Birchmere

3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. World-famous concert venue for classical, blues, jazz as well as up-and-coming artists from various genres.

Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

## Demographic Snapshot of Mount Vernon

**Zip code:** 22309  
**Population:** 33,220  
**Race:** White-15,865 (47.8%), Black/African American-8,585 (25.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native-222 (0.7%), Asian-2,503 (7.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-9,260 (27.9%)  
**Total housing units:** 12,006  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 7,487 (64.5%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 4,507 (38.8%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 2,349 (20.2%)  
**Median household income:** 83,092  
**Mean family income:** 121,989  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 41.6%

**Zip code:** 22306  
**Population:** 32,326  
**Race:** White-14,594 (45.1%), Black/African American-8,811 (27.3%), American Indian and Alaska Native-159 (0.5%), Asian-2,760 (8.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-9,508  
**Total housing units:** 12,295  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 5,562 (47.4%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 4,640 (39.5%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 2,056 (17.5%)  
**Median household income:** 59,243  
**Mean family income:** 96,773  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 41.8%

**Zip code:** 22307  
**Population:** 9,581  
**Race:** White-8,012 (83.6%), Black/African American-588 (6.1%), American Indian and Alaska Native-31 (0.3%), Asian-334 (3.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-990 (10.3%)  
**Total housing units:** 4,823  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 3,391 (76.8%)  
**Households with individuals**

**under 18 years:** 1,084 (24.5%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 1,222 (27.7%)  
**Median household income:** 103,026  
**Mean family income:** 191,979  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 13.5%

**Zip code:** 22308  
**Population:** 12,737  
**Race:** White-11,716 (92%), Black/African American-274 (2.2%), American Indian and Alaska Native-21 (0.2%), Asian-329 (2.6%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-521 (4.1%)  
**Total housing units:** 4,816  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 4,239 (92%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 1,893 (41.1%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 1,444 (31.3%)  
**Median household income:** 161,953  
**Mean family income:** 202,299  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 9.9%

**Zip code:** 22303  
**Population:** 12,601  
**Race:** White-7,754 (61.5%), Black/African American-1,611 (12.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native-65 (0.5%), Asian-1,219 (9.7%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-2,940 (23.3%)  
**Total housing units:** 7,108  
**Owner-occupied housing units:** 2,880 (46.2%)  
**Households with individuals under 18 years:** 1,095 (17.6%)  
**Households with individuals 65 years and over:** 1,092 (17.5%)  
**Median household income:** 76,950  
**Mean family income:** 98,342  
**Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home:** 39.2%  
Source: U.S. Census 2010; American Community Survey 2012

"Community" is our middle name!



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- We help adults find work, including job coaching, skill-building classes, ESL, citizenship.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Animal Control Officer Siobhan Chase

## Rescued

A Great Blue Heron was rescued by an animal control officer after it was injured in Huntley Meadows Park recently. Officer Siobhan Chase received the call for the injured bird around 6:45 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 6. A passerby saw the bird standing in the wetlands when a snapping turtle bit its leg. Chase located the bird in the wetland water near the boardwalk but when she approached, the bird moved deeper into the water, unable to fly. Chase walked into the water and rescued the injured bird. The bird was then taken to a local veterinarian, who contacted a wildlife rescue league to assist in its recovery.



## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Road Projects in Region To Keep Traffic Moving

In Northern Virginia, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is working to keep up with growth in the area with transportation projects at both ends of the spectrum. Whether it's a new highway overpass, intersection improvement, or high occupancy toll lanes, the goal at VDOT is to keep the traffic moving.

On the Capital Beltway (I-495), the 495 Express Lanes opened in 2012 to give motorists an option when traveling through this corridor. Two additional lanes were constructed on the beltway in each direction between the Springfield Interchange (where I-95, I-495 and I-395 meet south of Washington) and a point on the beltway just north of the Dulles Toll Road. These lanes are free to vehicles with three or more occupants, while vehicles with one or two occupants will be able to use the lanes by paying a toll electronically. The express lanes use dynamic pricing to manage the flow of traffic and keep motorists moving, and roadside equipment monitors traffic, adjusting toll prices periodically to maintain free-flowing travel. As traffic increases, the toll price goes up to manage demand.

In December 2014, VDOT opened a 29-mile stretch of express lanes on I-95/395 between a point just north of Edsall Road in Alexandria, to Garrisonville Road (Route 610) in the south. These express lanes are reversible: on weekday mornings, the lanes



**In the over-night hours, crews pour the deck for the Seminary Road bridge over I-395.**

PHOTO BY  
VDOT

head-north to cater to commuters heading to busy employment centers like Tysons Corner and Washington, D.C.; and in the afternoons, the lanes head south. Again, vehicles with three occupants can use the 95 Express Lanes for free, while cars with one or two occupants can choose to use the lanes by paying a toll, which varies depending on the number of cars in the lanes at that time. All vehicles using the 495 or 95 Express Lanes need an E-ZPass, or an E-ZPass Flex, which has a switch to engage the toll-free option when there are three or more occupants.

Another highway construction project is underway at Seminary Road and I-395 in Alexandria. There VDOT is building a multi-faceted project that include a new 0.8-mile auxiliary lane on I-395 North between Duke

Street and Seminary Road, as well as a new ramp from the HOV lanes to the Seminary Road bridge overpass, and a new pedestrian bridge over I-395. These projects are intended to improve the flow of traffic associated with the Mark Center, a federal government building located in that area. The auxiliary lane opened in February with the HOV ramp and the stand-alone pedestrian bridge scheduled to open later this fall.

**OTHER** recently opened "Megaprojects" include the Fairfax County Parkway Extension, linking Springfield to Richmond Highway in southern Fairfax County; the fourth lane-widening project, which added an extra lane on I-95 North and South between Springfield and Occoquan; the Telegraph Road interchange on the Capital Beltway

in Alexandria; and the 495 Shoulder Lane project on the inner loop of I-495 between the 495 Express Lanes' northern endpoint and the George Washington Memorial Highway. Similar to the shoulder lane on I-66, this shoulder lane is open during the morning and evening rush hours, with a red "X" or green arrow signaling its availability for travel.

In Arlington, just west of I-395, VDOT is putting finishing touches this summer on a new bridge carrying Washington Boulevard over Columbia Pike. This new bridge replaces a 1940s-era bridge, and includes bike and pedestrian access along Columbia Pike plus room for a future streetcar if needed. The bridge was renamed the Freedmans Bridge after the historical "Freedmans Village," a community the Federal government established in 1863 for newly freed slaves, that once occupied this area of Arlington.

VDOT officials are now looking to transform Northern Virginia's Interstate 66 into a multi-modal corridor that moves traffic and people quicker and in a more reliable way. The project, known as Transform 66, is a multi-modal proposal that will to incorporate transit, carpooling and express lanes. The project is divided into a 25-mile stretch between Haymarket and the Capital Beltway, and a separate project inside the beltway with a toll option for travel through Falls Church and Arlington.

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## NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

# Getting To Know Mount Vernon Sports

### Softball, boys' lacrosse teams reached conference finals.

**School:** Mount Vernon High School

**Mascot:** Majors

**School Colors:** Maroon, gray and white

**Athletic Director:** Greg Miller, 703-619-3140

**Football Coach:** Barry Wells (sixth year)

The Majors finished 0-10 in 2014. It was the second time in six seasons the program failed to win a game.

**Field Hockey Coach:** Jessica Edwards

**Volleyball Coach:** Amy DeBok

**Golf Coach:** Sam Hedenberg.

**Boys' Basketball Coach:** Lou Golden.

**Girls' Basketball Coach:** India Thomas.

**Boys' Soccer Coach:** Tony Garza.

**Softball Coach:** Daniel Coast.

**Rival School:** West Potomac

**What happened last year:** Bill Adusei-Poku, then a junior, won the 5A 138-pound state wrestling championship. The field hockey team finished 12-6-3 and qualified for the 5A North regional tournament. The girls' basketball team reached the regional quarterfinals. The boys' basketball team qualified for the regional tournament. The softball team lost to

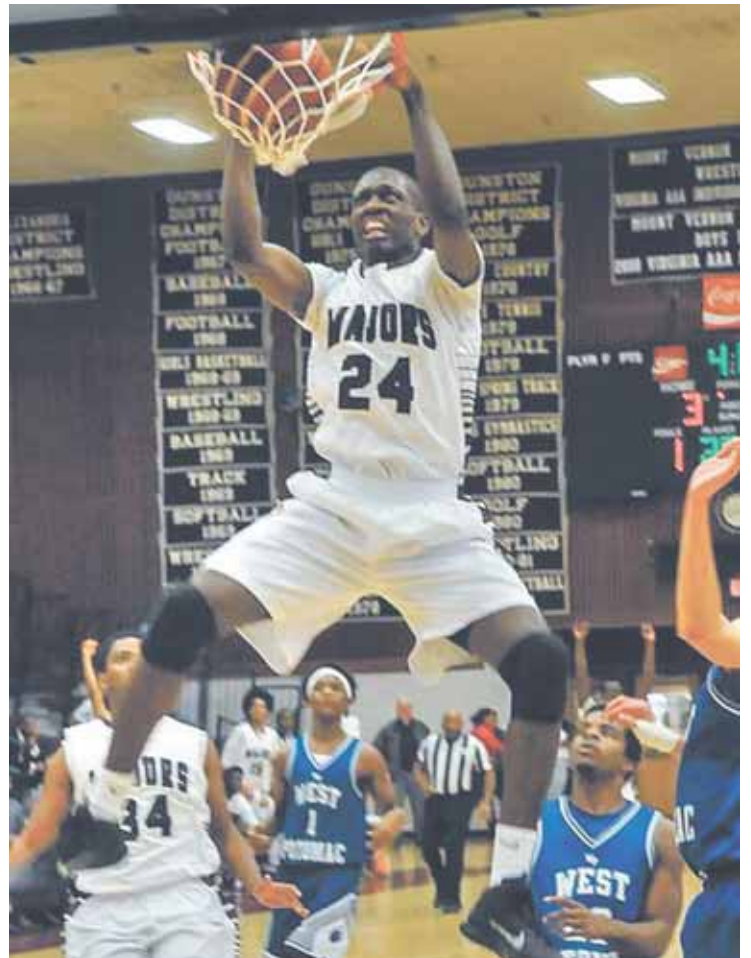
Marshall in the Conference 13 championship game for the second straight year and advanced to the region tournament. The boys' lacrosse team lost to Marshall in the conference final.

**Notable:** Mount Vernon, a member of the 5A North region's Conference 13 for the previous two seasons, transitions to the 6A North region's Conference 7 — a move based on an increase in enrollment. It will be the Majors' third different district/conference in four years.

**Quotable:** "It's great to throw one down in front of the crowd. It felt pretty good. I was glad I was able to get the crowd hyped and my team hyped." — Then-senior Earnest Jones, talking about his dunk during the boys' basketball team's 72-63 overtime victory over rival West Potomac.

**Mount Vernon then-senior Earnest Jones throws down a dunk during the Majors 72-63 overtime victory over West Potomac on Dec. 9, 2014.**

GAZETTE FILE  
PHOTO



# Getting To Know West Potomac Sports

### Boys' soccer team won the Conference 7 championship.

**School:** West Potomac High School

**Mascot:** Wolverines

**School Colors:** Royal blue and silver

**Athletic Director:** Aaron Helmick, 703-718-2560

**Football Coach:** Jeremiah Ross (second year)

The Wolverines finished 4-6 in 2014, including 1-5 against Conference 7 opponents.

**Cross Country Coach:** Jenn Dietz

**Volleyball Coach:** Nancy Nixon

**Boys' Basketball Coach:** David Houston III

**Girls' Basketball Coach:** Lauren Arthur

**Baseball Coach:** Jim Sullivan

**Softball Coach:** Craig Maniglia

**Boys' Soccer Coach:** Ahmad Sasso

**Girls' Lacrosse Coach:** Cindy Lopez-Yusuf

**Rival Schools:** Mount Vernon, T.C. Williams

**What happened last year:** Joshua Carter, then a senior, won the 160-pound 6A North region wrestling championship.

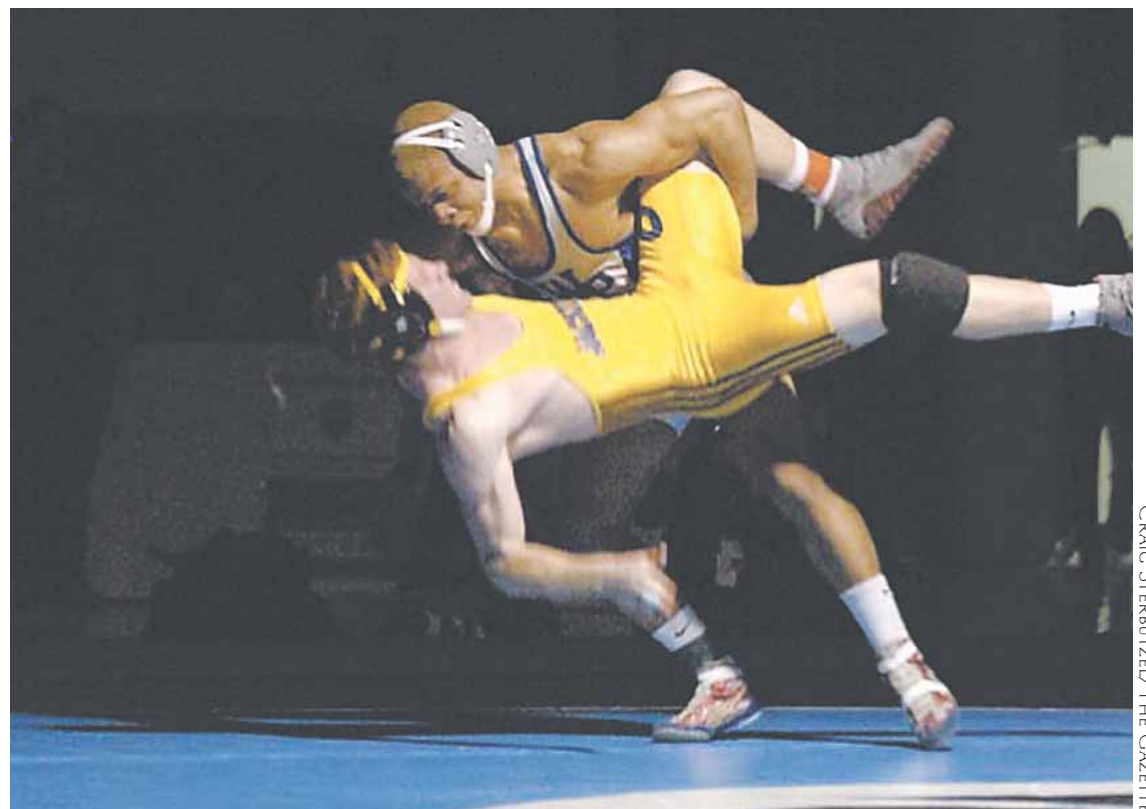
The boys' soccer team won the Conference 7 championship. The girls' lacrosse team reached the conference final, losing to Woodson.

The softball team qualified for the region tournament.

**Notable:** The 2015 West Potomac girls' lacrosse team hosted a regional tournament game for the first time in at least a decade.

The Wolverines finished 7-6-4 and reached the Conference 7 championship game, losing to Woodson. West Potomac lost to McLean in the opening round of regionals.

**Quotable:** "I think that we have become a team that is more skilled than what it has been in the past. I think our biggest issue and what we're looking to overcome in the next season is our mental



**Former West Potomac wrestler Joshua Carter, then a senior, won the 160-pound 6A North region championship in 2015.**

toughness and being able to handle these high-pressure situations. These girls, especially the ones who are in leadership, aren't used to being in these types of situ-

ations where they're in high-pressure games. And my hope is as we continue to grow the program that they'll be able to handle these tough, tight, high-competition

games better and better." — Girls' lacrosse coach Cindy Lopez-Yusuf after the Wolverines lost in the opening round of the regional tournament.

CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE GAZETTE