

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

From left: Candidates for Mount Vernon District supervisor Jane Gandee (R), Dan Storck (D) and for Fairfax County School Board Mount Vernon representative Karen Corbett Sanders and W. Anthony Stacy participated in a question-answer session hosted by the League of Women Voters.

## Crowd Fills Candidate Forum

Questioning candidates in Mount Vernon District supervisor and School Board races.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

Without an incumbent running for Mount Vernon District supervisor, the candidates meet and greet event at the Sherwood Regional Library was understandably crowded. Republican Jane Gandee is running against Democratic primary winner Dan Storck to replace longtime supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), who announced he would not seek re-election last year.

The League of Women Voters hosted the debate on Sept. 16; it's one of numerous such events taking place across the Fairfax County leading up to the November election.

Each candidate was given several minutes for open-

ing statements, then each had about a minute to respond to questions submitted by the audience. Some questions were directed at specific candidates, not giving their opponent a chance to respond, while others elicited a response from both candidates.

On the supervisor side, Gandee touted her business acumen as owner of a ServiceMaster National Capital Restoration franchise, as well as her community leadership: serving on the Rising Hope Mission Church board and as vice president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce.

Storck has served several terms as Mount Vernon School Board representative, but also highlighted his own medical service business.

To replace Storck on the School Board, Karen Corbett Sanders, a former vice president at Verizon

SEE QUESTIONING, PAGE 6

## Local Man Charged in Shooting Death

Freddy A. Bonilla Rodriguez of Alexandria was charged with second-degree murder in a Hybla Valley shooting that occurred Sept. 21.

Fairfax County Police reported that officers responded to an assault call around 1:30 a.m. that Monday. At the home on the 3800 block of Havenwood Place, police found a man with a upper-body gunshot wound.

Police immediately located a man at the residence they believed was responsible for the shooting, as well as the gun that may have been involved. They said the two men appeared to know each other and that there isn't a larger threat to public safety.



**Freddy A. Bonilla Rodriguez of Alexandria was charged with second-degree murder in a Hybla Valley shooting Sept. 21.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The name of the victim hasn't been released but police are notifying his next of kin. Bonilla Rodriguez, 39, is being held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

— TIM PETERSON

## Once a Major, Always a Major

Nardos King leaves MVHS after nine years as principal.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

On her last day, Mount Vernon High School principal Nardos King went into school trying to act like it wasn't anything different. But as she walked through the halls, she couldn't help but reminisce over the 20 years of different jobs and professional growth she experienced in the building.

The week before the first day of school, King announced via email she would be taking on the role of assistant superintendent of high schools in Baltimore County and leaving the position she's held for the last nine years. In her new role, the Springfield resident will support other principals in 14 different Baltimore schools.

Before becoming principal, King worked at Mount Vernon High School as a finance technician, instructional assistant, teacher and assistant principal.

"During my time as principal, I have met some of the most amazing students, teachers, staff members, parents and community members," King said. "I have had the opportunity to work with excellent school administrators, and together we have all accomplished many things to be proud of as a school community. My heart is filled with gratitude and so many fond memories of my time with you. I will never forget you."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Nardos King

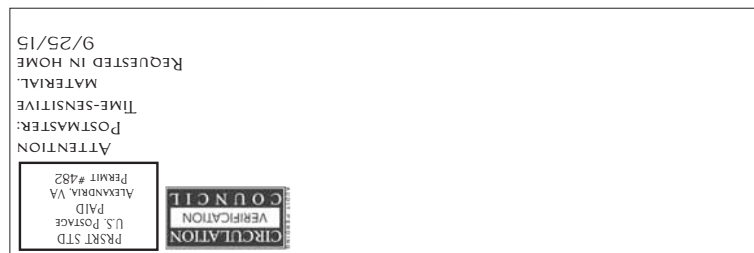
King's last day was Sept. 11. Esther Manns, Mount Vernon assistant principal since 2004, is serving as interim principal during the search for a new administrator.

At the end of her last school day as a Major, a pep rally was held where King got to celebrate the return of full accreditation from the Virginia Department of Education. The school was previously accredited with a warning after test scores including math Standards of Learning dropped below the state standard. To help raise the scores, King had brought in an instructional math coach for the school's teachers and established inter-department collaborative learning teams to share les-

**"With over 2,000 students and staff, Nardos is a hands-on principal to her students."**

— Patricia A. Dutchie, instructional coach

SEE NARDOS KING, PAGE 6





**Belle Haven \$1,899,000**

Elegance & Comfort - 1930s majestic brick home! High ceilings; gracious formal rooms; 5 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and a 2-car garage all in one of Belle Haven's most beautiful streets! Classic and comfortable.

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**Alexandria \$949,000**

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**Governors Hill \$630,000**

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**Bob Bazzle**  
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www.BobBazzle.com



**Alexandria \$539,900**

This stunning, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse with dramatic 2-story entry foyer, is in excellent condition. New marble master bath, new stainless stove and refrigerator, garage, long driveway for 2 cars. Close to Old Town and MacArthur school. 1203 Quaker Hill Drive

**Margaret Benghauser**  
703.989.6961  
www.mbenghauser.com

# 'Your Vote, Your Power' **Fairfax County NAACP hosts 70th Freedom Fund Awards.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**J**.E.B. Stuart High School seniors Anna Rowan, Cassie Marcotty, Marley Finley, Abby Conde and Lidia Amanuel were bothered by the Confederate legacy of their school. Inspired by a history class with teacher Keith Bropst on the Massive Resistance anti-segregation policy, the girls set out to change Stuart's name, mascot and colors. They suggested a name change to Thurgood Marshall, in honor of U.S. Supreme Court's first African American justice.

The Students for Change, as their group is known, were among several recipients of awards at the 70th Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund banquet, held Sept. 19 at the Waterford reception hall in Springfield. There were two president's award winners, including the students, and two community service award winners.

"These are students who saw that a change needed to be made and made that change," said Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright. "They didn't worry about the repercussions."

The students have gained support through a petition and are working to connect more with community members in the Falls Church neighborhoods that feed Stuart prior to a Fairfax County School Board vote scheduled for early 2016.

"It's great to be recognized," said Cassie Marcotty. "We've gotten mixed reactions, but overall there's been a supportive, lovely community."

Now, the girls are trying to raise awareness in their school, including sharing a new video they shot the same day as the awards. Over the summer, they also met with members of the Fairfax County NAACP who offered support and guidance.

The students have reached out to School Board members, including Mason District representative Sandy Evans. They met with



**Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) (left) and Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright (center) present (right) Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) with a president's award acknowledging his work to include Hybla Valley and Gum Springs communities in Fairfax County revitalization.**



**Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright (left) presents the community service award to Valerie (center) and Rubin Cuffee (right), who accepted it on behalf of Celeste Peterson. Peterson and her husband Grafton created the Erin Peterson scholarship fund in honor of their daughter who died in 2007 at Virginia Tech.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE



**Debbie Kilpatrick, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, speaks as she accepts the second Fairfax County NAACP community service award.**



**Keynote speaker Eric Broyles, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney and co-author of the book "Encounters with Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival," speaks at the 70th Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet.**



**Fairfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright gives closing remarks at the 70th Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Awards Banquet.**

Evans, "but everyone is staying neutral until after the election," Marcotty said.

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) received the second president's award in recognition of his work on the revitalization of the Route 1 corridor and keeping the Hybla Valley and Gum Springs communities involved in the

process.

In his acceptance speech, Surovell told the story of his grandparents moving to a Fairfax County farmhouse from Brooklyn in 1935. As politically active and progressive Jewish people, "They joined the only organization who would take them," Surovell

said, "the NAACP"

Surovell said his grandmother told him stories about gaining the right to vote, the poll tax and desegregating schools in Fairfax County. "It's a sound base to guide my actions going forward," he said. "We still have

SEE NAACP HOSTS, PAGE 13



**Commissioner Shirley Ginwright, chairman, Communities of Trust Committee and president of the Fairfax County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, responds to protesters for Natasha McKenna at the public forum of the Fairfax County police practices review commission.**

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

## Fairfax NAACP to Host Rally

### Seeking 'Justice for Natasha McKenna.'

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**F**airfax County NAACP president Shirley Ginwright announced a rally will be held Sept. 27 to demand justice for Natasha McKenna, a 37-year-old woman with mental illness who died in February after she had been held in the Adult Detention Center.

During a struggle with a team of deputies who attempted to remove her from her cell and transport her to Alexandria police — who had a warrant for her arrest — McKenna was tased four times.

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid recently released a video of the incident, following a report from Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh that he determined none of the individuals involved had

committed any criminal offense.

"Anyone who watched the 48-minute video released last week of Natasha McKenna's last conscious moments cannot help but be horrified," Ginwright said in a statement. "Those who have read the 52-page report from Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Raymond Morrogh and his conclusion that it was a 'tragic accident' cannot help but wonder, 'What video was he watching?'"

Ginwright said she has been in touch with McKenna's family through their lawyer and that the woman's mother is planning to attend the rally, where she'll make her first public statement on the incident.

There will also be speakers from the Virginia and national NAACP groups, American Civil Liberties Union, members of McKenna's family, the family lawyer and social activist groups.

The rally will be held Sunday, Sept. 27, beginning at 2 p.m. on the grounds of the Fairfax County Courthouse, 4140 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030.

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ SEPTEMBER 24-30, 2015 ♦ 3

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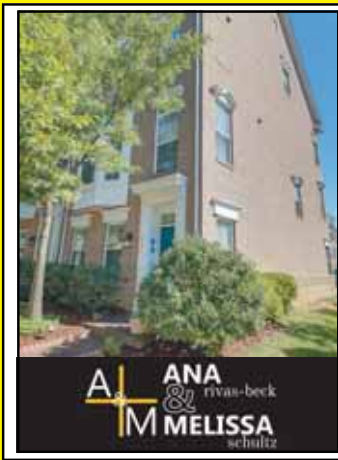
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*Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 & Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010*



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**Alexandria/Cameron Station \$669,000**  
**5121 Knapp Place.** End unit Cameron Station gem with many unique features! Immaculate, one-owner, 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath, 4 level town house on quiet street in Cameron Station. All bedrooms have an en suite bath, 2-car garage, back deck, hardwoods, upper level laundry, new SS kitchen appliances, walk-in closets, lots of storage. Coveted visitor parking in front. Community amenities include pool, clubhouse, walking/biking trails, soccer field and much more. A Must-See!  
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**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
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**711 B. Massey Lane.** A Perfect 10...New Kitchen, New Windows, New Carpet. Monument Views! Sun-Drenched home, Beautiful floor-to-Ceiling Windows! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 Full Baths, Deck, Remote Garage, Attic storage, Vaulted Ceilings, 2 lights to D.C. Pool and Lighted Tennis Courts. Almost 1,800 SQ. FT. Open House this Sunday from 1 to 4.  
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*Julie Hall 703-786-3634*



**Alexandria/Van Dorn \$335,000**  
**5938 Kimberly Anne Way.** Beautiful town house with 2 levels overlooking nothing but trees. Great location near Metro and Kingstowne. Bedrooms are large and each with a private bath. Private and easy to love.  
*Julie Hall 703-786-3634*



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**5112 Grimm Dr.** 3 bdrm, 2.5 bath Franklin model w/3 levels, 1-car garage & over 2,300 sf. Open flr plan & neutral hues. LL FR w/SGD to Fenced Custom Patio. 1/2 BA. Main level hrdwd flrs, high ceilings, crown molding & freshly painted. LR/DR/Den w/gas FPL. Kit w/Island, Brkfst Nook, Silestone counters & oak cabinetry. French doors to deck. UL Owner Suite w/WIC, Jacuzzi tub & dble vanities. 2 addtl BRs & hall BA. Community Amenities galore!  
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# PEOPLE

## Local Author Pens Second Novel

### Stephen D. Hayes writes "Missing Letters."

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS  
THE GAZETTE

Longtime Belle Haven resident Stephen D. Hayes' latest novel "Missing Letters" involves dealing with loss. The main character, Traveler McGale, is haunted by the losses in his past while facing the potential loss of his family when his 17-year-old son who is addicted to drugs runs away from his boarding school. "It focus on one man's journey in dealing a variety of losses throughout his life and how it shapes his perspective," Hayes said.

He hopes that readers will come to realize that "in spite of the losses and troubles in life, we are often blessed with the grace of God even in times when we don't know it."

As with many authors, Hayes' inspiration for the novel stems from his experiences dealing with personal loss and family members who have had addiction issues.

"Even though I have fictionalized the main character in many ways. I identify with the main character largely. His emotional outlook on life and his fears are very similar to mine," he said.

During the writing process, Hayes faced many of the same challenges and fears as other writers, such as dealing with his own procrastination when it came to writing and going through several re-writes to ensure that his work was good enough. His advice to first time authors is to "read everything they can get their hands on" and write a lot in the beginning without worrying so much about quality.

"Missing Letters" was released in July. It is the



Stephen D. Hayes

author's second novel. While his first novel "Light in Darkness" focused on the Vietnam War, "Missing Letters" takes a more intimate look at the obstacles of overcoming various losses in life and how the issues of addiction and loss can affect a family's dynamics.

"Like with the first book, writing this book was also therapeutic for me because it allowed me to put down on paper some issues from my own life that I have wrestled with overtime," Hayes said.

There will be a few upcoming book events in the area during the fall.

When he is not spending time writing, Hayes enjoys going out on the golf course and sailing on the Atlantic Ocean and Chesapeake Bay. In addition, he also enjoying the various parks and natural landscapes of Northern Virginia including the parkland near the George Washington Parkway around Mount Vernon, Potomac River and Old Town Alexandria.

Hayes and his wife Barbara have lived in Belle Haven for over 40 years. After graduating college, he served for four years in the U.S. Navy before settling in Washington D.C.

He has a B.A. from Dartmouth College, and a M.A. from Georgetown University. Besides his career in the federal government, he also worked in the private sector as the vice president of public affairs for the Air Transport Association and a managing director of public affairs for the American Automobile Association.

"Missing Letters" is available through Amazon.com and iUniverse.com.

## Garden Club To Host Annual Fashion Show

The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting its 32<sup>nd</sup> annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Rendezvous in Paris", on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 10 a.m. at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club in Alexandria. Fashions for women will be provided by Bloomingdale's.

Yacht Haven Garden Club works to further education in horticulture, floral design and conservation among its members and the surrounding community. To achieve these goals, the event's proceeds will

be divided among the following projects and organizations: The American Horticulture Society (River Farm), The University of Maryland (honey bee project), The National Arboretum Friendship Garden, Fort Belvoir Wounded Warrior Healing Garden, Sherwood Hall Library Garden and beautification of neighborhood entrances.

For more information and tickets, contact Kathy Ichter at Ichter@verizon.net.

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**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

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Beautiful home w/over 4,000 sq ft & 2 level addition in lovely Riverside Estates. Great rm on main lvl w/gas fpl & wet bar. Adjacent family room w/wood-burning fpl. An office adjoins the gorgeous 20' x 32' master bedrm addition w/vaulted Douglas Fir ceiling & skylights. Library/studio on upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replaced 2011. Close to Ft. Belvoir.



**Alex./Windsor Estates • \$434,900**  
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**Alex./Mt. Vernon Woods**  
**\$449,900**  
**4006 Buckman Road**  
Builders - Beautiful .73 acre lot, zoned R-3. Dominion Surveys has done preliminary survey report for subdivision which can be e-mailed upon request - looking for quick sale/settlement and priced the property accordingly.



**RENTAL \$2,400**

**Alex./Mt. Vernon • Rental \$2,400**  
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# Questioning Supervisor, School Board Candidates

FROM PAGE 1

and Parent-Teacher Student Association president for West Potomac High School, is facing W. Anthony Stacy, who works for Booz Allen Hamilton and served as chief of staff for The Nature Conservancy's philanthropy department.

In light of the meeting two days earlier of the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to review police policies, several of the questions for the supervisor candidates dealt with the death of Natasha McKenna and whether there should be independent civilian oversight for the police and sheriff's departments.

"I think we have to make significant changes," Storck said. "I'm committed to whatever the task force recommends, but I haven't decided about an oversight board yet.

I have no objection, but I want to see the task force response first."

Gandee and Storck both attended the commission's public forum at Walt Whitman Middle School, where protesters demanded justice for McKenna, the 37-year-old woman who died in February after she was forced into shackles and tasered four times by Sheriff's deputies in an attempt to transport her to Alexandria police.

"It was probably three of the most difficult hours of my life," Gandee said, refer-



An audience filled the large meeting room at the Sherwood Regional Library for a meet and greet with candidates for Mount Vernon District supervisor and school board representative.

ring to the forum. "It was distressing, there was some confusion and blame placed on the Board of Supervisors, while she was with the Sheriff's department."

The School Board candidates each fielded a number of questions about the \$100 million projected budget shortfall the school system is facing, the recent addition of gender identity to school nondiscrimination

policy and changes to the Family Life Education curriculum.

"Reading, writing and arithmetic should always be at the core of what children learn," Stacy said.

He added he doesn't think there is "social engineering" at the core of Family Life Education and "parents should have the option to opt out."

Corbett Sanders responded that the Family Life Education curriculum is "very full and there's an opportunity for parents to read it before it's taught — if they're not comfortable then they can opt out." Sanders commented on her Catholic faith, saying that it doesn't compel her to "dictate to others."

For both alleviating the financial crisis with Fairfax County Public Schools and improving transit along the Route 1 corridor, all four candidates agreed on the need to bring more businesses to the area, develop private partnerships with the schools and seek more money from the state of Virginia.

After the question-and-answer session was over, residents had a chance to meet with candidates one on one.

"I thought they did very well," said John Tolleris of Mount Vernon. "I was impressed with all the candidates."

Allyson Carter is president of the Walt Whitman Middle School parent teacher association and recently moved to the Mount Vernon area.

"I enjoyed the opportunity to hear them speak, it was very beneficial," she said. "My impressions were they were very well prepared, with a lot of knowledge and experience."

## Nardos King Leaves MVHS after 9 Years as Principal

FROM PAGE 1

son plans to help students.

King said she found out about the full accreditation in late July. "I claimed it from the beginning of the year," she said. "We had such great gains the year before. This time, I wanted to make sure students knew exactly what we needed to do. I explained to the kids our situation: Everyone was working hard, the kids need to work as hard as everyone else. Their school, their community — I wanted everyone to know how great they are as students."

Marilyn Garber, the math department chair at Mount Vernon and who has known King for 18 years, said, "To be a good leader, one must motivate people to believe in themselves. Last year when Mount Vernon was on warning for accreditation, some were saying we would not make it. Mrs. King believed in our faculty and students and knew we could be fully accredited this year."

To motivate, King has been known to take drastic measures. Several years ago, when looking to raise students' science scores, she promised to cut her hair into a mohawk if the scores came up to 70 percent passing for the state standard. She remembers checking the results

online, seeing 70 percent, and scratching her computer screen to see if it had dirt on it. "I'm going to have to cut my hair," she said.

And the principal did, at a pep rally, with her own hairstylist. Joy McManus, a chemistry teacher and former department chair in her 21st year at Mount Vernon, said the students ate it up. "She kept her word."

"Kids would say she's strict," McManus continued, "she doesn't cut them any slack, doesn't lower expectations, just like a good mom. They love her and she makes them tow the line, follow rules. She has this way about her, just pulls the kids in and they end up loving her. Not all, but a great many."

**"Kids would say she's strict, she doesn't cut them any slack, doesn't lower expectations, just like a good mom. They love her and she makes them tow the line, follow rules. She has this way about her, just pulls the kids in and they end up loving her. Not all, but a great many."**

**— Joy McManus, a chemistry teacher and former department chair in her 21st year at Mount Vernon**

Forming and maintaining relationships with faculty and students has been key for King. "Once a Major, always a major," said McManus. "She'll say that at the end of faculty meetings. It means we wish you well, always come back home. That kind of attitude encompasses her compassion. We're all still connected. That's really important. Community is sustained."

Mount Vernon instructional coach Patricia A. Dutchie agrees. "With over 2,000 students and staff, Nardos is a hands-on principal to her students," she said. "She gets to know many of them personally and builds positive relationships with them. I personally have seen her buy clothes for several students over the years, give students rides

home to change clothes and buy groceries for families in need. To do that, she sees beyond obvious discipline issues to the student underneath and seeks to understand underlying concerns and causes." Being able to celebrate the full accreditation and then cheer on the Mount Vernon football team and conduct the marching band at the game, King said was a great day and "the way I would've wanted to end my tenure at Mount Vernon." But she reiterated that "test scores do not define a school. I don't want my legacy to be defined by test scores. When student success happens, those are the things I remember the most: a kid struggling, turning their life around, going on to college." King is also proud of implementing "Major Time" during the school day when students who are struggling can get extra help, as well as getting new artificial turf fields installed at the school and "just instituting the Major pride." King would prefer she be remembered for how she "cared about the kids and the community. That I wanted everybody in the community to respect that school like they did every other school in Fairfax County."

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### 7124 Park Terrace Drive

## PEOPLE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church members wave small lights during a song at their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## Mt. Vernon Unitarian at 60

“What’s interesting about Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church is that it was not established from the top down, but rather by a group of Hollin Hills and Tauxemont families who wanted a liberal religious education for their children,” said the Rev. Kate Walker at the celebration of the church’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, Sept. 13. “Joe Remington, one of the founders after whom the chapel is named, went around to the Unitarian churches in D.C. and Arlington and liked what he saw, so he put an ad in a paper and about 100 people came to a meeting to discuss starting a Unitarian church.”

The families met in rented facilities including a school, which is now Paul Springs Retirement Community. In the mid-1950s they bought 10 acres at the top of Mason Hill from Mrs. Merle Thorpe, some members taking a second mortgage on their homes to raise the funds.

“The founding congregation had love and vision and it took risks,” Walker said, “Those were all good qualities.”

The congregation sold some of the land for funds to build the meeting house in the 1980s, while keeping up the old mansion (Hollin Hall built in the early 1900s), the art deco greenhouse and its windmill, and the formal boxwood gardens. Recently the church installed solar and geothermal

power at the Meeting House to reduce its reliance on the power grid and expanded its commons area. It hosts weddings and other ceremonies and meetings in the buildings and gardens.

The garden was the home of the Boxwood Concerts (1959-61), which attracted musicians such as Charlie Byrd, and the Boxwood Theater Company (1965-75), which later spun off into the Puppet Theater at Glenn Echo. In 1961, the church invited the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) to use its facilities to train students as freedom riders in the South. During the late 1960s, church members led demonstrations in opposition to the Vietnam War and more recently against the Iraq War.

In 1969, MVUC was a founding member of United Community Ministries, which assists people who live in poverty along the Route 1 corridor, and MVUC volunteers continue to help at the hypothermia center at Rising Hope Methodist Church during winter months.

MVUC continues its social justice efforts. The congregation passed “statements of conscience” that allow it to work on preventing gun violence and supporting immigration reform. It has also been a leader in defeating don’t ask don’t tell and in legalizing same-sex marriage.



A small churchgoer eyes the giant shark-like piñata made for children’s entertainment.



The Rev. Kate Walker gives a blessing for Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary (pot luck) dinner at its meeting house Sept. 13.



# OBITUARIES

## Virgil Franklin Jenkins

Virgil Franklin Jenkins, Jr., 63, of Alexandria, died, Sept. 18, 2015 at Mt. Vernon Hospital in Alexandria.

A funeral service was scheduled to be held at The Bradley Funeral Home, Inc., 187 E. Main St., Luray, Va. on Tuesday, Sept. 22,

2015. A memorial service in Alexandria will take place at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Rising Hope Ministries Church in his memory.

## Hugh A. McDermott

Hugh Arthur McDermott, born May 5, 1936 in Moore County, N.C., died Sept. 19, 2015. He graduated from North Carolina State University with a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1959. He earned his Master's degree in engineering at George Washington University. He worked at the Naval Ordnance Station, Indian Head, Md., from 1959-1967. He then worked at the Naval Ordnance Systems Command, Arlington from 1967-1999.

Hugh was a worldwide traveler and a 46-year member and volunteer at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria.



He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Patricia D. McDermott (Barclift), and his children Dr. David H. McDermott (Kellie) and Susan D. McDermott. Also his grandchildren Diana L. McDermott and William D. McDermott and step grandchildren Paul W. Wragg and Erica C. Wragg. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015, at noon, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Capital Caring Hospice, 2900 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042.

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# OPINION

## Remembering Reston's Civil Rights Icon

**“A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond.”**

BY GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

No one can say Bob Simon didn't lead a full life, but that fact doesn't make his loss any easier. To the end of his 101 years, he was a grand man of extraordinary vision, heart, compassion, humor and charm.

Last year my office embarked on a project to celebrate the Civil Rights Movement by capturing the histories, memories and stories of those who fought for equality. Our goal was to make sure we allowed these brave voices to share their accounts, firsthand, and preserve them for future generations. Today, that archive is available at <http://ethnography.gmu.edu/collections/the-northern-virginia-civil-rights-archive>.

I was fortunate to bring Bob into this project and sit down with him for a few hours to hear his civil rights story. Most of us know Bob as the founder of Reston, but it is his legacy as a civil rights icon and its lasting impact on our community, that I will forever hold in my heart. You see, Bob hated discrimination and bigotry

because he experienced anti-Semitism firsthand as a young man. That experience forged in him a passion – a quiet passion – to build a small corner of the world where equality would be a reality.

Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer. It was not the popular thing to do, and he lost critical investment opportunities because of this decision. But to Bob, it was not a matter of doing the easy thing, or the popular thing. It was about doing the right thing. He had great clarity that to realize his vision of Reston there could be no racial barriers. To fulfill Reston's goals we had to be inclusive and welcoming.

Throughout his long life, Bob's moral compass remained true. He was an environmentalist before the term was invented, a patron of the arts, and passionate advocate for social justice. Northern Virginia owes much of its character and success to Bob. I feel this loss sharply and shall miss his dedication, his laugh and his friendship. A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

**U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly: “Bob’s insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer.”**

### COMMENTARY

## Importance of Ad Hoc Commission's Role

The following statement from the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce was addressed to the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission on Sept. 14.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the commission, Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce is honored to provide testimony on the practices and policies of the Fairfax County Police Department to facilitate the discussion of this commission.

Our chamber of commerce has enjoyed a long and cordial relationship with the leadership and officers in both the Mount Vernon Police Station and the Franconia Police Station. The businesses in our organization also have good relationships with the police and rely daily on their efforts to keep the community safe. We greatly appreciate the dedicated service of these public servants. It is the foun-

ation for the peace and prosperity of our community.

With more than 1.2 million residents, Fairfax County has the lowest crime rate of any jurisdiction of our size in the United States. This is impressive as Fairfax County also has one of the lowest officer-to-citizen ratios in the nation. We believe the low crime rate is a reflection of the quality policing and the extensive community outreach made by Fairfax County Police Department. That has been our experience in the greater US 1 Richmond Highway area.

We support the Board of Supervisors' efforts to review how and when information disclosures are made in the case of serious incidents involving the police department. We also support increased training on the use of force for

new recruits and training reviews for long-time officers. Clarifying the roles and relationship between the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), the Office of the County Attorney, and the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney is an important task for this commission. These initiatives will strengthen the ability of the police department to work with the community and develop relationships of trust.

Fairfax County's goal of achieving and maintain a safe community is achieved because law enforcement is given the tools it needs to do accomplish this mission and has deep community support. Fairfax County Police Department has the strong support of this organization. We look forward to the work of this commission and a further discussion of the role of the police in our community.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## What Changes Have Been Made?

To the Editor:

The Black Lives Matter folks were rude and disruptive at the police review commission hearing last week, but they spoke the truth and I hope county officials heard them.

They asked that someone be held accountable for the death of Natasha McKenna, a seriously mentally ill woman who was tied up, masked, and tased by Fairfax County deputies dressed in moon suits as shown in a video released recently.

Although the Commonwealth Attorney declared that no crime was committed, something was obviously very wrong with this picture.

If that method of transporting a mentally ill — or any — prisoner is standard operating procedure, it is worse than a crime. Do Sheriff's department officers, the deputies, and county officials think that was normal? It looked like the deputies were preparing a farm animal for the packing house. What were they thinking? I have been told by former inmates that Fairfax County jail is the worst in northern Virginia in terms of

disrespecting prisoners and this was an extreme example.

We need an outsider, someone with a better handle on humanity (maybe the Department of Justice), to investigate the Fairfax Sheriff's Department and change its culture and procedures to ensure better transparency and accountability. We also need the state legislature to provide more fund

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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**Sunday**  
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**Weekday & Saturday Mornings:**  
9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on **First Friday**, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)  
**Thursday & First Friday of the Month:**  
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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

ing for mental health so that people with mental illnesses are treated by doctors rather than tased by deputies.

In the meantime, we need to hear now who is responsible for the current procedures and that they have already been abandoned and replaced with more humane and appropriate procedures.

**Mary Paden**  
Bucknell Manor  
Mount Vernon District

## Praising League For Forum

To the Editor:

I attended the "meet and greet" last Wednesday held by the League of Women Voters at the Sherwood Hall Library. Before a full house, Mount Vernon Supervisor candidates Dan Storck and Jane Gandee and Mount Vernon School Board candidates Karen Corbett Sanders and Anthony Stacy answered questions submitted on file cards by audience members. I commend the League for this excellent, well-run opportunity to hear the views of these candidates. The League videotaped the event and will make the program available soon. Voters should watch it. I have a few observations:

1. Someone in the audience thought it was appropriate to submit questions concerning abortion issues. The moderator read the questions aloud and then made the correct judgment that the questions were inappropriate and withdrew them.

2. Mr. Storck responded to a question concerning the Fairchild property behind the Kings Crossing Wal-Mart by stating his support for transferring the property from the Board of Supervisors to the Park Authority and spending money restoring it to create a

park. This evidenced that Mr. Storck hasn't done his homework concerning that property. The upstream Wal-Mart property has no upgraded storm water controls and the property owner is not obligated to provide them.

Virtually all the storm water from the Wal-Mart property drains into the Fairchild property which has caused significant erosion, preventing access through the only access easement which runs through the same Wal-Mart property from Richmond Highway, due to a large ravine created by the runoff. Spending our tax money restoring the Fairchild property would be a waste of money since the storm water from the Wal-Mart property would soon erode away the restored areas. That is why the Park Authority doesn't want to receive the property — they don't have the money to restore and maintain it and they know restoration would be futile without enhanced storm water controls on the Wal-Mart property.

3. At this juncture, I know very little about the two School Board candidates. That being said, I learned enough at the meeting to know I could never support Ms. Corbett Sanders. During the 100 minutes of the meeting, she almost continuously displayed a large grin including when Mr. Storck was being asked and then answered a question about the February Taser death of Natasha McKenna in the custody of the county Sheriff's Office at the hands of six male deputy sheriffs.

Ms. Corbett Sanders' behavior was highly inappropriate. It made me wonder why a person who doesn't display appropriate decorum at a public meeting should be supported by anyone. Surely, the video replay will confirm my observation — I heard several people discussing the same thing after the meeting.

I look forward to future opportunities to observe candidates for office debating the issues.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### OCTOBER

10/7/2015.....Wellbeing Senior Living Pullout  
10/14/2015.....HomeLifeStyle  
10/21/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools  
*Halloween is October 31*  
10/28/2015.....Election Preview

### NOVEMBER

11/4/2015.....Wellbeing  
11/11/2015.....HomeLifeStyle  
11/18/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools  
11/19/2015.....Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I  
*Thanksgiving is November 26*  
11/25/2015.....Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

### DECEMBER

12/2/2015.....Wellbeing  
12/9/2015.....Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II  
12/9/2015.....HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays  
12/16/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages  
12/23/2015.....Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays  
12/30/2015.....Children's Connection

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## Gala Honors Hyland

The American Horticultural Society's 22nd annual gala, "Reflections of River Farm — A Step Back in Time," included honoring Gerald W. Hyland, retiring Mount Vernon District supervisor (second from left). With him at the Sept. 19 event are Shirley Robson, Helen Walutes and John I. Morton.

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE



(From left) J.E.B. Stuart High School seniors Anna Rowan, Cassie Marcotty, Marley Finley, Abby Conde and Lidia Amanuel accept the Fairfax County NAACP president's award recognizing their Students for Change petition to change the name of their school to Thurgood Marshall.

## NAACP Hosts Freedom Fund Awards

FROM PAGE 3  
a lot of work to go."

Community Service awards went to Debbie Kilpatrick, president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, and Celeste Peterson, who, together with her husband Grafton created the Erin Peterson scholarship Fund in honor of their daughter who died in 2007 at Virginia Tech.

Keynote speaker for the afternoon was Eric Broyles, a Washington, D.C.-based attorney and co-author of the book "Encounters with Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival." Broyles spoke briefly about the book, explaining how it was co-written with his best friend, who is himself a cop.

But the majority of Broyles' speech focused on the

mantra "Your vote, your power; It's your vote or your blood" as a pathway for change. He talked about the importance of African Americans registering to vote and being more engaged with the democratic process. "Most police officers are honorable, good people," Broyles said, but there can be some bad officers and bad leadership, which is why it's important for more African Americans to "get involved in the electoral process."

At the conclusion of the awards, president Ginwright announced the organization's plan to promote Virginia General Assembly bills for raising the felony robbery charge amount from \$200 to \$850 and having records expunged in certain circumstances.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Alexandria's MetroStage Presents 'Uprising'

Show is part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival, now through Oct. 25.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**M**etroStage in Alexandria will open its 2015-16 season with the premiere of "Uprising" by Atlanta playwright Gabrielle Fulton as part of the Women's Voices Theater Festival, now through Oct 25.

Set in the aftermath of John Brown's Raid on Harper's Ferry, "Uprising" explores self-determination and sacrifice through the lens of a free black community during secession-era America. When Sal discovers Ossie, a hypnotic revolutionary hiding in the field, her life is turned upside down by her strong attraction to him and his revolutionary mission and its impact on her commitment to the well-being of her young son, Freddie. Inspired by the true story of Osborne Perry Anderson, the only African American participant in John Brown's Raid to survive, and the tales of the playwright's cotton-picking great-grandmother, "Uprising" explores notions of freedom and sacrifice, family and community.

"I love the idea of the Women's Voices Theatre Festival," said Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin. "Women playwrights have been seriously underrepresented on our stages and with over 50 theatres presenting over 50 world premieres in the D.C. area alone, it is clear that the festival is already having an impact. So of course MetroStage was going to

a part of the festival."

Her director Thomas W. Jones had just workshopped this play in Atlanta so he suggested that she consider it. "Upon reading the script I knew it was a perfect play for MetroStage," she said. "It had strong characters, particularly a strong female character, Sal. It had so many of the qualities that I look for in a play. Excellent character development, great roles for African American artists, a story based on a historical event (John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry) but a play driven by lots of other personal issues, motivations, relationships."

She added: "It is kind of an epic play for MetroStage, and I am very proud of the production and that it is a part of this Festival celebrating all of the distinctive voices of women playwrights."

The actor Enoch King plays the role of Bo-Jack. "He is a freed slave living in a free slave community in Pennsylvania. He is a hard worker, and has an interest in Sal, played by Cynthia D. Barker," he said. "The physical nature of the show can be a bit challenging. However, I think the main challenge I had was making sure not to approach the characters with a 21st century mentality and understand what freedom, personal and beyond, means for Bo-Jack."

He said he hopes the audience gains a broader understanding of what it means to be free. "What you understand is your definition of freedom, and what are the decisions and choices you would make in your



Anthony Manough and Cynthia D. Barker star in "Uprising" at MetroStage in Alexandria now through Oct. 25.

life to have that freedom," he said.

Director and choreographer Thomas W. Jones II has a long history with MetroStage. Jones has written and directed "Harlem Rose," "Three Sistahs," "Two Queens, One Castle," "Bricktop," "Cool Papa's Party," "Pearl Bailey ... by request," "Ladies Swing the Blues," and most recently, "Bessie's Blues," as well as directing "Gee's Bend" for which he received a Helen Hayes nomination.

Music Director William Knowles is also a mainstay at MetroStage having music di-

rected "Bessie's Blues," "Gee's Bend" (Helen Hayes Nomination), "Bricktop," "His Eye is on the Sparrow," "All Night Strut," "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song," and "Cool Papa's Party" (Helen Hayes Award).

MetroStage in Alexandria will present "Uprising" now through Oct. 25, 2015. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.; and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and \$60. The venue is located at 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

### 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

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

**Sidney Xunnian Zhang Exhibit.** Through Sept. 26 at The Monroe Gallery, 2017 I St., NW, Washington, D.C. Chinese artist and Virginia resident Sidney Xunnian Zhang depicts the Alexandria waterfront and Old Town in much of her work. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.artclubsowashington.org/galleries](http://www.artclubsowashington.org/galleries) for more.

**Fred Eberhart Photography Exhibit.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Sept. at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Photographer Fred Eberhart focuses on local Virginia landscapes. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygalleries.net](http://www.broadwaygalleries.net).

**"The Ring of Fire."** Through Oct. 5, gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Monday-Saturday; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Indonesian American artist Wijati Soemantoro expresses her emotional response to the natural disasters she experienced while growing up in the most seismically active zone in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show: "What I Did On My Summer Vacation."** Through Oct. 18, 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) for more.

**"Angel Soldier Dance Sublime."** Through Oct. 18, 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).

**Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition.** Through Oct. 25, 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).

**"Artifact" Exhibit.** Through Oct. 25, gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and during performances at Rachel M.

Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. In this exhibit artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture with the naturally occurring textures or "gestures" in the wood. John James Anderson will also share the space. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu).

**Doggy Happy Hour.** Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one's dog. Free. Visit [www.jackson20.com](http://www.jackson20.com).

**"Seven Deadlies."** Through Oct. 31, Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Sculptor Karen Swenholt explores lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, envy, and pride. Free. Visit [www.convergence.org](http://www.convergence.org) for more.

**"Painting the Line, Drawing the Paint."** Through Nov. 8 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. This show that will include works by Ann Schlesinger, daughter of Jim and Rachel Schlesinger. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more.

**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 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 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).

**Young at Art Juried Art Show.** Through Nov. 20, Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older display work. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org).

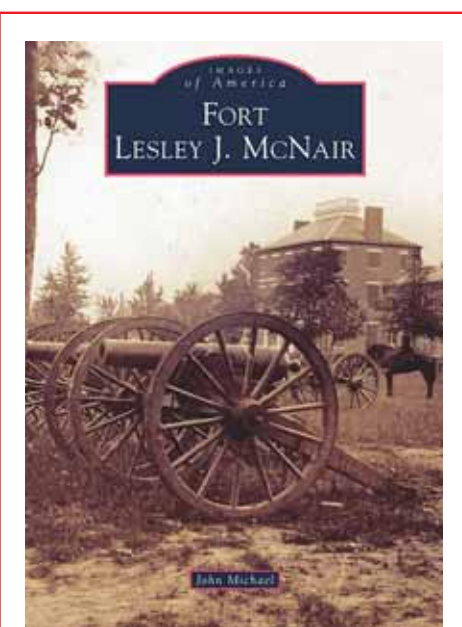
#### FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

**Supper Under The Stars.** 6-9 p.m. at King Street Garden Park, 1806 King St. Find jazz, chili, cupcakes and an open bar. Tickets are \$30. Call 703-683-0333.

#### 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

SEE MORE, PAGE 16



### Book Signing

Author John Michael will be at Barnes & Noble, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway on Oct. 3 for a book signing. Michael is the author of two books: "Images of America: Fort Lesley J. McNair" and "Images of America: For Myer." The event will be held from 2-4 p.m. and there is no cost for admission. Call 703-626-9409 for more.

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Oktoberfest Brings Out Best in Beer

Oktoberfest is only beginning of busy season for Port City Brewing.

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE



Port City Brewing tasting room

You can set your watch by it year after year, September after September. No, not the autumnal equinox (though you can count on that, too); we're talking about Oktoberfest season, from Munich, Germany, to countries worldwide. And you don't have to travel to Europe to get a taste of the festival. There are plenty of local Oktoberfest flavors to savor right here at home.

### Port City Brewing Co., 3950 Wheeler Ave.

Alexandria's local brewery has gotten out ahead of the start of Oktoberfest (which began Sept. 19 in Munich), releasing its seasonal Oktoberfest beer in late August.

The Oktoberfest brew, a Marzen-style lager with an amber complexion and a smooth, slightly sweet taste, has become a seasonal favorite at Port City. This year, Port City brewed three batches to keep up with demand, says Tammy Portnoy, Port City's beer admiral of marketing and events.

"This is the fourth year it's come out — our Oktoberfest was our first seasonal," Portnoy said. Launched in kegs in 2011 and bottled the following year, Oktoberfest is now a staple of the brewery's repertoire.

Port City kicked off Oktoberfest season with a launch party at the brewery, and now it's taking its seasonal beer on the road and across the river, celebrating with Roofers Union and the Bier Baron in D.C. and Capitol City Brewing in Shirlington, just to name a few.

And a couple of weeks ago, Port City ventured even further afield to celebrate the season.

"We did a big tap takeover in New York at one of the oldest bars in New York City," Fraunces Tavern,

Portnoy said. "It was actually the bar where George Washington handed over the American troops when he was done with the war. ... We had our Oktoberfest on draft there, and I think it was the first bar this year to have it in the New York area."

Beyond Oktoberfest, October itself is a busy month for Port City. The brewery releases its newest edition of Long Black Veil mid-month to commemorate the 199<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Alexandria's much-discussed Female Stranger. On the anniversary itself, Oct. 14, Port City will visit Gadsby's Tavern — the alleged site of the Female Stranger's final hours — to debut this iteration of its black IPA, a hoppy concoction with some citrus notes.

The re-release of Long Black Veil will be quite a relief to the beer's fans, many of whom have come into the brewery's tasting room over the past few weeks looking for it and coming up empty.

"Right now (it's) one of the things we don't have on draft — and it's funny how many people come in and ask for it," Portnoy said. "We have four different series of beers: We have our flagships, we have our occasionals, we have our seasonals, and we have our colossals. We consider Long Black Veil to be one of our occasionals. It doesn't fit in as a seasonal or a flagship."

Later into the season: The debut of the 2015 version of Port City's Tidings seasonal.

*Need more Oktoberfest?*

### Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest, Oct. 1-4

This on-base celebration, open to the public, will offer a collection of Oktoberfest lagers, daily live entertainment, a bazaar of handmade crafts and goods, a bake sale, and a Kinder Korner for younger attendees. Tickets are \$15-30. See [www.belvoir.army.mwr.com](http://www.belvoir.army.mwr.com).

### Cap City Oktoberfest, Oct. 3

This festival in Shirlington, hosted by Capitol City Brewing Company, is one of the biggest Oktoberfest celebrations in the region. More than 60 breweries (including Port City) will be on hand, accompanied by local food establishments (some of which will be offering Oktoberfest traditional food), live German music, and more. Tickets are \$30. See [www.capcitybrew.com](http://www.capcitybrew.com).

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



The brewery offers a diverse menu.

## If You Go

### Port City Brewing Co.

Address: 3950 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria  
Hours: Monday-Thursday 4-9 p.m., Saturday 12-9 p.m., Sunday 12-6 p.m.

Top seller: Optimal Wit, Port City's Belgian-style wheat ale. "It's a great starter beer if you're not comfortable with craft beer ... and it's a great beer if you are super-geeky about your craft beer, to geek out on and notice all the different levels and layers of the beer and the complexity of it," says Tammy Portnoy.

Try this: Colossal 3, a Heller Bock style beer that packs a surprising punch. "People are so surprised when they try it and realize how much they love it."



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For more information about Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, please visit [www.risinghopeumc.org](http://www.risinghopeumc.org) and [www.facebook.com/risinghope](http://www.facebook.com/risinghope) or call 703.360.1976

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

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 by a guest guitarist and two local pianists, a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net).

**Native Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Church of St. Clement parking lot, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Find 10 vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free to attend. Call 571-232-0375 or visit [www.northernalexandria-nativeplantsale.org](http://www.northernalexandria-nativeplantsale.org).

**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.

**Batman Day.** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Check out the new Batman teen series, Gotham Academy and wear a Batman costume or t-shirt. Enter for a chance to win a 2015 Jim Lee Batman signed exclusive Diamond edition action figure. Free. Call Terri Hayne at 703-299-9124 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).

**Coach to Cure MD Football Watch Party.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at T.J. Stone's, 608 Montgomery Ave. This national charity was started by Old Town Alexandria resident Brad Todd. Local football fans will gather to cheer on their favorite coaches and raise money for research toward a cure. Free to attend. Email Elizabeth Todd at [elizabeth@theshoehive.com](mailto:elizabeth@theshoehive.com).

**Seaport Day.** 12-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park. Annual festival featuring three live bands, new restaurants Carluccio's and Blackwall Hitch, local beer and wine, children's activities, chowder cook off, wooden boat display, nautical displays, Anything that Floats race and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org) for more.

**50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Reception.** 2 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Special remarks will be made by Professor Janelle Wong, director of the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland. Guests may view a traveling exhibit "Remembering 1882: Civil Rights Under the Shadow of the Chinese Exclusion Act." The exhibit will be on display for a week in the museum's Watson Reading Room of Alexandria Black History Museum. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) for more.

**"Nancy Clancy" Book Signing.** 4 p.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King

St. Jane O'Connor, author of the Fancy Nancy picture book series and Nancy Clancy chapter book series, will be at Hooray for Books! to present and sign her latest Nancy Clancy title "Soccer Mania." In the spirit of the book, children are encouraged to come dressed in their sports uniforms. Free. Visit [www.hoorayforbooks.com](http://www.hoorayforbooks.com).

**SUNDAY/SEPT. 27**

**Simpson Park Gardens Fall Open House.** 1-3 p.m. at 420 E. Monroe St. Master Gardeners who maintain this demonstration garden welcome visitors to the garden for a display of what's in bloom, with emphasis on native plants and plants for pollinators. Enjoy light snacks and drinks and pick up packets of seeds from plants in the garden. Call 703-228-6414.

**"Painting the Line, Drawing the Paint" Reception.** 4-6 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. This exhibit includes work by Ann Schlesinger, daughter of Jim and Rachel Schlesinger. Meet and discuss with the artist. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more.

**Factory Society Open House.** 5-7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. CRAVE micro-granting dinners give everyone a chance to be a patron of the arts. The Torpedo Factory Art Center and Convergence host CRAVE (Creating Resources for Artistic Vision and Engagement) as an opportunity to connect innovators with supporters to fund new artistic community projects. Now in its fourth installment, CRAVE has granted about \$3,500 to creative endeavors in the region. A \$15 ticket buys a meal and a vote. Visit

[www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**MONDAY/SEPT. 28**

**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.

**TUESDAY/SEPT. 29**

**Doggy Happy Hour Fundraiser.** 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. There will be a prize wheel and door prizes, and a pet photo contest will be held. Members of the Police K-9 unit and their dogs will be on hand to meet and answer questions. Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco will donate 10 percent of event profits to the Alexandria Police Foundation, a local non-profit organization, to benefit Foundation programs such as retired K-9 support and other initiatives. Free. Visit [www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org](http://www.alexandriapolicefoundation.org).

**Banned Books Read Out.** 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Sections of banned or challenged books will be read aloud at this celebration of reading. Free. To sign up to read a 3-5 minute passage, contact [admin@NVFAA.org](mailto:admin@NVFAA.org).

**50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Panel Discussion.** 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Speakers will include National Park Service historians, Alexandria Black History museum staff and area educators. They will discuss the role of African

Americans and Chinese during the Civil War and its aftermath. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30**

**Get Moving in Carlyle.** 6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. and 1901 Jamieson Ave. Take an outdoor pilates class sponsored by Local Motion Studio. Free. Visit [www.localmotionstudio.com](http://www.localmotionstudio.com).

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. DJ Dabe Murphy plays recorded music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s, and some contemporary surprises. Tickets are \$6. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com).

**THURSDAY/OCT. 1**

**50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Panel Discussion.** 7-9 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Panelists will share their memories of the Civil Rights Movement in Alexandria and share eyewitness accounts of how D.C.'s Chinatown was affected by the Martin Luther King assassination in April 1968. Film clips from the documentaries "Freedom Riders, The Loving Story," and "Through Chinatown's Eyes: April 1968" will aid the discussion. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org) for more.

**FRIDAY/OCT. 2**

**50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Workshop.** 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A one-day

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# ENTERTAINMENT

workshop on teaching diversity will be offered. Area educators and staff from Alexandria museums will discuss resources and lesson plans. Excerpts from the films "Out of Obscurity," and "Through Chinatown's Eyes: April 1968" will be shown. Free, but reservations required. Call 703-746-4356.

**Cocktails in La Zona Rosa.** 7-9 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Attend the annual member appreciation party for the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (NVFAA). This year's theme will bring Latin food, music and dance. Admission is free for NVFAA members, \$75 for non-members. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

## OCT. 2-NOV. 1

**"Skeletons: Exploring Under the Surface."** Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; and Sundays 12-6 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Experience 2D and 3D artwork in a wide range of mediums that digs deeper and discover what is 'under there,' literally and figuratively. Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

## 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

**Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Call 703-780-4696 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. or email [admin.wfumc@verizon.net](mailto:admin.wfumc@verizon.net) for more.

**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 Ave., Del Ray. Multi-cultural arts festival featuring music, art, and food. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org) for more.

**Historic Huntley Talk & Tour.** 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Preservation consultant Debbie Robison will share information about the Fairfax County Park Authority property and discuss how contemporary trends influenced the cultural landscape. She will host a discussion about the farm manager's house, Huntley's double ditches and the influence of pattern books on villa design. After the talk, take a tour of the buildings and grounds at Historic Huntley. The suggested donation is \$5. Visit [www.historichuntley.org](http://www.historichuntley.org) for more.

**Pohick Church Tours.** 1-3 p.m. at The Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give guided tours of the historic colonial church. Free. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

**Book Signing.** 2-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. John Michael, author of "Images of America: Fort Lesley J. McNair" and "Images of America: For Myer," will be signing his books and greeting fans. Free. Call 703-626-9409 for more.

**50th Anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act and the Civil Rights Movement Workshop.** 3-6 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. to commemorate the anniversary of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act (also known as the Hart-Celler Act), author Martin Gold will present a lecture, "Forbidden Citizens: Chinese Exclusion and the U.S. Congress." Gold will discuss the history of the passage of exclusion laws that still have significance today. Following the lecture, a reception and book signing will be held at the Black History Museum, at 902 Wythe St. Free. Visit [www.alexblackhistory.org](http://www.alexblackhistory.org).

**Oktoberfest.** 3-7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Find live German music, German food including knockwurst, bratwurst and side dishes; beverages, bake sale, and children's crafts and games. Free. Contact [staidansalexandria@gmail.com](mailto:staidansalexandria@gmail.com).

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# Honoring Community Visionaries and Collaborators in the Arts

The Arts Council of Fairfax County presents 2015 Arts Awards.

On Friday, Oct. 30, from noon to 2 p.m., the Arts Council of Fairfax County will present the annual Arts Awards at the Fairview Park Marriott, located at 3111 Fairview Park Drive, in Falls Church. The event recognizes the contributions of artists and arts organizations, as well as the corporations, foundations, and individuals, which support the arts in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

The 2015 Arts Awards will honor Earle C. Williams (Jinx Hazel Arts Award); Rebecca Kamen (Arts Achievement Award); Vienna Jammers (Emerging Arts Award); and Richard Hausler of Insight Property Group LLC (Arts Philanthropy Award). The arts awardees were selected by the Arts Council and community representatives. Nominations were received from the public.

“Our 2015 awardees have made the arts more accessible to our residents and visitors leveraging public-private support and community collaboration. Their efforts have resulted in new arts facilities, creative visual translations of scientific discovery processes, and music education and performance opportunities for youth,” said Linda S. Sullivan, president and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

## Jinx Hazel Arts Award

The 2015 Jinx Hazel Arts Award will be presented to Earle C. Williams for his leadership and advocacy in the arts and in the Campaign for Wolf Trap, which resulted in the development of the Center for Education at Wolf Trap. Throughout his life, Williams has valued a central role for the arts, creating a culture of innovation where the best and the brightest talent come to live and work.

He is one of two Board Emeriti of Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts,



Rebecca Kamen

## 2015 Arts Awards

Who: Four awardees — Earle C. Williams; Rebecca Kamen; the Vienna Jammers; and Richard Hausler

When: Oct. 30, 2015, from noon to 2 p.m.  
Where: Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church

Why: To celebrate outstanding achievements, leadership, and support to the arts in Fairfax County.

Tables and individual tickets to the event can be purchased by visiting <http://artsfairfax.org/artsawards> or contacting Janay Turner, business manager, of the Arts Council of Fairfax County, at [artsawards@artsfairfax.org](mailto:artsawards@artsfairfax.org) or 703-642-0862 x2.

where he chaired the board of directors and led the capital campaign that resulted in the building of the Center for Education at Wolf Trap. The Center for Education houses arts and education activities as well as the administrative offices of the Wolf Trap Foundation. The Earle C. Williams Learning Center in the Center for Education was so



Vienna Jammers

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Earle C. Williams

named to honor his legacy.

## Arts Achievement Award

The 2015 Arts Achievement Award will be presented to contemporary visual artist, sculptor, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) pioneer Rebecca Kamen for her achievements bridging the arts and education with chemistry, neuroscience, and astrophysics.

Kamen strives to bridge seemingly unrelated scientific disciplines by using art to inform the discovery process of science. She highlights the commonalities among art and scientific fields and is able to help others see interdisciplinary connections. This has fostered a number of collaborative projects with the Northern Virginia Community College, George Mason University, the Center for Astrophysics at Harvard University, the National Institutes of Health, and Fairfax County Public Schools. Kamen's perpetual curiosity and collaborative style have enabled her to discover and demonstrate through her work a link between fine arts, multiple scientific disciplines, and STEM education. As professor emeritus of art at Northern Virginia Community College, she continues to investigate how the arts and creativity can be used to enhance innovation and understanding of science.

## Emerging Arts Award

The 2015 Emerging Arts Award will be presented to the Vienna Jammers for providing exemplary outreach to area youth and participating in community building activities in the Town of Vienna and the Washington, D.C. area.

The Jammers have expanded from a small, after-school percussion ensemble to a professional percussion, music education and performing organization for children



Richard Hausler

ages 8 through 16. Their programs and community engagement led to their 2012 incorporation as a nonprofit arts organization. Today, the Jammers is composed of a 90-plus strong membership. The organization offers youth camps plus four ensembles, ranging from the “Jammers Red, Black,” and “Lite” to the newly formed “Jammers Steel.” The Jammers can be seen and heard year-round with their signature red Brute trash cans cultivating their passion for music, education, and live performances, which has garnered them community support in Fairfax County and beyond.

## Arts Philanthropy Award

The 2015 Arts Philanthropy Award will be presented to Richard Hausler for his vision, commitment, and leadership in establishing a new arts facility, the Workhouse Arts Center, in southern Fairfax County. He provided seed funding in the planning stages and continues to support and fundraise for the center, which now serves Fairfax County and the Washington metropolitan area.

Hausler is the co-founder and chief executive officer of Insight Property Group LLC, which acquires and develops multifamily and mixed-use real estate properties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. His experience in large-scale development projects provided the confidence needed to secure the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' support for rebuilding the former prison and shaping the Workhouse Arts Center to become a community asset. Hausler continues to provide time, ingenuity, and financial support, and has inspired new board members to join him in nurturing this arts center in Fairfax County.

For more information on the 2015 Arts Awards, visit [artsfairfax.org/artsawards](http://artsfairfax.org/artsawards)

## Candidates on 'Inside Scoop'

The non-partisan Meet and Greet Candidates Forum for certified candidates competing for Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth Attorney, Sheriff, and Director of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District will be broadcast on Inside Scoop from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 28 on Channel 10. Candidates for each office have been invited to appear jointly in the studio for a session to present their positions and answer questions. Candidates awaiting their turns to appear before the studio audience will be in the adjacent conference room, meeting one-on-one with constituents.

To join the live audience, go to the studio at 2929-S Eskridge Road in the Mosaic District of Fairfax. Viewers at home will be able to e-mail questions during the broadcast to [insidescoop@NoVa.org](mailto:insidescoop@NoVa.org)

or [league@lwv-fairfax.org](mailto:league@lwv-fairfax.org) or by calling 1-571-749-1166. Directions are on the Channel 10 website.

To stream the program, follow this link: Stream our Candidate Forum live now on Inside Scoop! Follow the instructions “To stream the broadcast, click here.” Ten minutes before the program starts, touch the Watch Live button on the screen. The streaming will last till the program ends. A videotape of the broadcast will be posted both on the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) website and on YouTube.

This event is one of 13 Meet and Greets sponsored this year by the LWVFA and its co-sponsors, the American Association of University Women of Virginia (AAUW), the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., and the Voice of Vietnamese Americans.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

Head coach Barry Wells and the Mount Vernon Majors are off to a 2-1 start.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/GAZETTE PACKET

T.C. Williams defensive back Colson Jenkins intercepted two passes during Saturday's 21-6 loss to Westfield.

## Mount Vernon To Host TC in Conference 7 Matchup

**Majors 2-1 after beating TJ,  
Titans 1-2 after loss to Westfield.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

One year after laboring through a winless season, the Mount Vernon football team is off to a 2-1 start and the Majors are playing with increased confidence.

T.C. Williams is coming off back-to-back losses to physical, Conference 5 opponents, but first-year head coach Marc Matthie said the Titans discovered they have a formidable defense.

The two teams will meet at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25 at Mount Vernon High School. For the Titans (1-2), it's their Conference 7 opener and a chance to see if the team has improved after losses to Oakton (24-0) and Westfield (21-6). For the Majors, it's their homecoming game and a chance to earn a win against a 6A opponent after beating 5A foes Stuart (39-16) and Thomas Jefferson (40-18).

"It would be huge [to get a win] because it's a conference game," said sixth-year Mount Vernon head coach Barry Wells, whose Majors lost their conference opener to West Springfield, 47-13, on Sept. 11. "It's a 6A game, but it's a conference game. ... The environment is set for a really good [matchup]."

Mount Vernon went 0-10 in 2014 and entered the 2015 season on a 16-game losing streak. The Majors snapped that streak by beating Stuart in the opener on Sept. 4. After losing to West Springfield, Mount Vernon defeated Thomas Jefferson on Sept. 18.

Mount Vernon senior Josh McGrigg had a big night against TJ, catching eight passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns, carrying once for 48 yards and returning a kick-off 76 yards for a score.

For the season, McGrigg has 22 receptions for 398 yards and five touchdowns.

"There are people who aren't aware of how good Josh is, but when you see him in person, he's the real deal," Wells said. "... He can catch a short pass and take it the distance. ... He's electrifying."

Senior running back Hameed Oyedele, who is battling a foot injury, carried three times for 58 yards and two touchdowns against TJ. Sophomore quarterback Tim Heltzel completed 10 of 16 passes for 174 yards and three touchdowns.

What is one of the biggest differences between this year's Mount Vernon team and last year's group that went winless?

"Clearly, a little bit more confidence, and winning will do that for you," Wells said. "They're seeing some results from the work we've put in."

This is the first time Mount Vernon has won at least two of its first three games since 2008. Standing in the way of a 3-1 start for the Majors is a T.C. Williams team that hasn't scored an offensive touchdown since defeating Thomas Jefferson 65-0 in the season opener. The Titans were shut out against Oakton and scored on a 99-yard interception return by Colson Jenkins against Westfield. T.C. Williams was held without a first down in the first half of each of its last two games, and finished with 12 yards of total offense against Westfield, a program that has reached the region championship game each of the last four seasons.

After years of running the spread offense, T.C. Williams has transitioned to the wing-T under Matthie, who spent the previous five seasons as an assistant at Centreville. Matthie said the Titans are trying to figure out what they do well on the offensive side of the ball.

"I think we're trying to find our identity,"

he said, "and at times it can be difficult to find that identity when you're going against two of the top defenses in the region."

While the offense has struggled, T.C. Williams' defense has been a bright spot. The Titans held Oakton to 10 points through the first three quarters of their Sept. 11 contest, and shut out Westfield in the second half of Saturday's home opener.

"I think we have a really competitive defense in the northern region," Matthie said. "They can compete against any team. We obviously need to ... clean up some things ... but as far as effort and getting after it, I think we're doing a really good job."

Jenkins, a defensive back, intercepted two passes against Westfield. He returned the second pick 99 yards for the Titans' only points in the last two weeks.

"He did a great job," Matthie said. "Colson is a guy who has always been an athlete and now has taken some coaching. ... The first interception was kind of a trap defense and he executed it wonderfully. ... The second pick, that's just Colson being Colson."

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnews.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews.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. 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.

#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

##### Drug Take-Back Day.

8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Franconia District Station, 6121 Franconia Road; Mount Vernon District Station, 2511 Parkers Lane. According to the 2013-2014 Fairfax County Youth Survey, over 13% of high school seniors have used painkillers without a doctor's order. Moreover, four out of five heroin abusers report prior abuse of prescription drugs. Individuals

The ball is tipped and you're always looking around, hoping someone will make the play."

Matthie said linebackers Teyan Williams and Tyrese Randall are also playing well.

"They're bringing the lumber," Matthie said, "and being very encouraging and being leaders out there."

The Titans are hoping for the return of senior defensive lineman Chadi Abdalla, who missed the last two games after undergoing appendix surgery.

"I think it's just another opportunity to get better," Matthie said about Friday's game. "Mount Vernon to me is a much-improved team. Watching film, they're more physical than they were last year and they have some athletes that are pretty good."

Wells seemed to place more importance on the game.

"TC, it's a tipping point for us," the Mount Vernon head coach said. "A win here goes a long, long way, as opposed to being .500 and facing a tough game [against Wakefield]."

can bring unused or expired medications (pills or liquids – no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit [www.upcfairfax.org](http://www.upcfairfax.org)

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 2

**The Walgreens Wellness Tour.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Walgreens, 7629 Richmond Highway. The Walgreens Wellness Tour with the National Urban League will be providing three free health tests valued at over \$100. The free tests measure 10 key health indicators that include total cholesterol, glucose, blood pressure, body mass index, body composition, skeletal muscle, resting metabolism, visceral fat, real body age and body weight. The tests are administered by certified wellness staff and are available to adults who are ages 18 and older. Free. Visit [www.multivu.com/players/English/7511351-walgreens-wellness-tour](http://www.multivu.com/players/English/7511351-walgreens-wellness-tour) for more.

#### THURSDAY/OCT. 8

**Mount Vernon Lee Chamber October Business Breakfast.** 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 20

## SPORTS

# Wolverines Face Early-Season Challenge Against Bruins

**West Potomac, Lake Braddock both 3-0 entering Friday's matchup.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac football team survived against Briar Woods last week, when Okrah Opoku blocked a field goal in the final minute to give the Wolverines a 29-27 victory.

Now 3-0 for the first time since 2012, West Potomac will open conference play against fellow undefeated Lake Braddock at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25. The Bruins have won at least a share of the Conference 7/Patriot District title for the last six seasons.

How big is this game for the Wolverines? Depends on who is asked.

"I would definitely say it's the biggest game [of my career]," said CJ Burch, a standout senior receiver in his third season playing for the West Potomac varsity. "Two 3-0 teams going head to head is pretty [exciting]. I'm excited for it."

Then there's head coach Jeremiah Ross, who is in his second season with West Potomac: "The thing that I continue to preach to these guys ... is it's 1-0 each week. No one game is bigger than another."

No matter the stated public approach to Friday's game, the Bruins, ranked No. 4 in the Washington Post's top 20, will provide the Wolverines an opportunity to show just how good they really are. West Potomac has defeated Langley, Edison and Briar Woods



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUZEL/THE GAZETTE

**Quarterback Mark Ellis, seen earlier this season, and the West Potomac football team will host Lake Braddock on Friday.**

this season, three teams with a combined record of 1-9.

The Wolverines are averaging 45 points per game, including a season-high 66 against Edison. Junior quarterback Mark Ellis is completing 60 percent of his passes for 723 yards, with nine touchdowns and one interception. His top target, Burch, has 20 receptions for 353 yards and two touchdowns.

On Friday, the duo will face a tough task going against the Lake Braddock secondary, which includes standouts Peyton Scott

and Ibrahim Mansaray.

"I've just got to stay focused, get my job done because I know they're going to try to get me the ball," Burch said. "... I believe that we can put up numbers on [the Bruins]."

The Robinson Rams were able to find success through the air against Lake Braddock during the fourth quarter last week, but Rams head coach Scott Vossler praised the Bruins secondary after the game.

"Quite honestly, I think [Lake Braddock's] secondary is pretty good and I think they

might have got lulled to sleep a little bit just by not having to cover a whole lot throughout the game," said Vossler, whose run-oriented offense passed for 109 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. "I've seen those guys on film, and I think we might have got lucky a little bit tonight there at the end doing that stuff."

Ross said West Potomac's ability to protect Ellis will determine how well the Wolverines are able to throw the ball against the Bruins.

"If we give Mark time," Ross said, "... I think we can be pretty good."

While the passing game has been a big part of West Potomac's no-huddle spread offense, Ross said he was pleased with the way the Wolverines ran the ball against Briar Woods last week. West Potomac's running back duo of Justine Annan and Daiimon Cleveland combined for 256 yards. Annan, a junior, carried 25 times for 134 yards and a touchdown. Cleveland, a sophomore, rushed 14 times for 122 yards and a score.

Lake Braddock has outscored its opponents 130-14. After blowing out Lee and Annandale (teams with a combined record of 1-5) by the combined score of 109-0, Lake Braddock built a 21-0 halftime lead against rival Robinson, but wasn't able to pull away, eventually winning 21-14.

Bruins quarterback Kyle Edwards is a threat to run or pass. Lamont Atkins is Lake Braddock's top running back.

The last time West Potomac started 3-0, the Wolverines hosted Lake Braddock in their fourth game. The Bruins, who entered that 2012 contest with a 1-2 record, beat the Wolverines 37-23.

"We just really want to beat them," Burch said.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 19

Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Local candidates in contested races for the Virginia General Assembly will speak to Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for nonmembers. Register at [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org) or call 703-360-6925.

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 14

**Mount Vernon At Home Coffee Social.** 11 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 7116 Fort Hunt Road. This event will include information on aging in place and volunteer opportunities in the Mount Vernon at Home community. Free. RSVP by calling 703-303-4060 or emailing [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org).

### TUESDAY/OCT. 27

**"Understanding and Caring for a Person with Dementia."** 7-8:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. This class will discuss the different types of dementia, common behaviors, the reasons for troubling behaviors, communication techniques, and services available for caregivers.

Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults).

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** needs a volunteer to maintain a fish aquarium upkeep and instructors for the following classes: Basic Guitar, Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance. Call 703-324-5406 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) for more.

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 nonprofit organization that relies on volunteers 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, home technology and more. No minimum number of volunteer hours required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) or 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/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/), 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

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**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Hank's Pasta Bar, LLC trading as Hank's Pasta Bar, 600 Montgomery St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer & Wine; Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jamie Leeds, Member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

Light tomorrow with today!  
-Elizabeth Barret Browning

**21 Announcements**

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

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**21 Announcements**

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Deadline for Nominations is Thursday, October 15th

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-William Van Horne

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**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Title: RFP No. 00000539, Landscape Architectural Design Services for the Conceptual Design, Park Grading Plan, and Construction Drawings of the Simpson Park Playground and Passive Space Renovation  
RFP Closing Date and Time: October 14, 2015, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-Mandatory Site Visit: September 22, 2015, 11:00 a.m., prevailing local time at Eugene Simpson Stadium Park located at 426 E. Monroe Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.  
For general inquiries contact Peter Tomaselli, Contract Specialist I at 703.746.3892.

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

**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-09-04  
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for General Construction Services, Job Order Contracting.  
Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 15-09-04 - General Construction**, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, **on or before 3:00 pm**, October 30, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us), Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.  
All questions should be submitted before 3:00 p.m., October 21, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.  
There is a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this RFP on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, at 10:30 AM, at the Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, in the third floor conference room 310-3B, in Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in providing the services in the RFP are encouraged to attend. The Conference will include a site visit to several school locations.  
No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.  
ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.  
Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPM, CPPB, VCO  
Director of Procurement & General Services

**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

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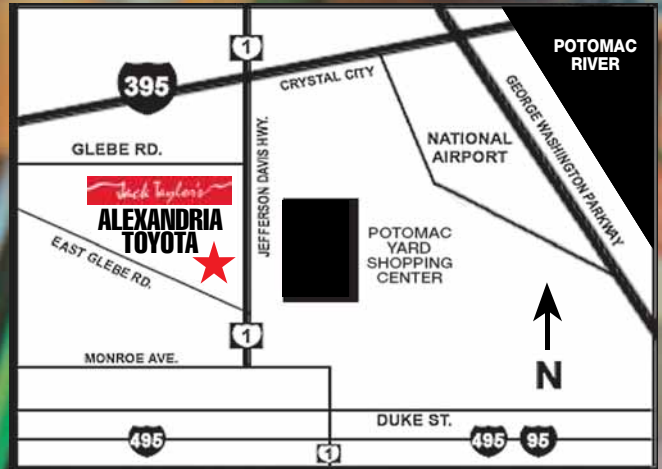
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**Truly Spectacular-Near River!**

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**4008 Robertson Blvd \$649,900**  
**A True Gem!**

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**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 9/27, 1-4! GW Parkway S; R-Belle Haven; R-Fort Hunt.**



**9408 Brambly Ln \$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!



**9412 Ferry Landing Ct \$789,000**  
**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!



**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 Waywood School!



**3205 Woodland Lane \$1,550,000**  
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**7107 Richard Casey Ct \$779,500**  
**Victorian Classic-Exceptional Price!**  
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**4327 Ferry Landing Rd \$559,000**  
**Mid Century Modern-Yacht Haven Estates!**  
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Mount Vernon Gazette

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**Alexandria—7812 West Blvd 22308 \$1,495,000**



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**Alexandria—9037 Patton Blvd 22309 \$799,000**



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# HomeLifeStyle

## Trading Spaces

Two retirees swap Old Town Alexandria digs for an RV

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

A retired couple is feeling liberated after selling their Old Town Alexandria home and buying a Winnebago. Cathy and Mick Hanratty, who'd been living in their Winnebago at Fort Belvoir, left town earlier this week to see the country.

"We have three greyhounds so we had to have our dogs with us when we travel," said Cathy, a retired nurse. "With the RV, we can go anywhere we want to go and take our dogs with us. ... We don't have to worry about finding a hotel when we travel that accepts animals."

The couple lived in Old Town for 16 years. While they enjoyed the community, they found the winter weather too brutal for their liking. "When winter came, I hated it," said Cathy. "Now we'll be in Florida in winter."

The Hanrattys say the transition wasn't as difficult for them as it might be for some because of their backgrounds. "We are both Army brats so we've been doing this all our lives," said Mick, a retired Army colonel. "It's not like someone who lived in the same place all our lives to all of a sudden move to an RV. We're used to a transient manner."

The Hanrattys say their Winnebago is comfortable. It boasts a living room with a large-screen television, recessed lighting and an electric fireplace. The kitchen is equipped with a convection-microwave oven, an apartment-sized refrigerator in stainless steel and a propane stove. There is a king-size bed in the bedroom and woodwork in a cherry finish.

"One thing that impressed us was all the storage," said Mick. "There's even a lot of overhead storage."

Porcelain flooring throughout "makes it much easier to clean," said Cathy.

The Hanrattys, who have been married for 42 years, say their new lifestyle offers



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCEARNEY ASSOCIATES

Cathy and Mick Hanratty sold their Old Town Alexandria, Virginia, home and bought a Winnebago.

them flexibility. "It's much more relaxing," said Cathy. "If we go someplace we don't like, we can pick up and go somewhere else. When you own a house in Old Town, you can't just leave if you decide you don't like it."

Their Old Town Alexandria home, which was located in Old Town Village, actually sold before it went on the market. "It's a

really popular area," said Lisa Groover, of McEneaney Associates, the couple's real estate agent. "People are always looking for homes there."

"I was thrilled to have an opportunity to work with friends and neighbors," said Groover. "They were open to ideas and suggestions about marketing."

Although the couple have yet to de-

cide on their final destination, they're optimistic.

"We're anxious to travel around the country and to find a place where we feel comfortable enough to settle down," said Mick. "We have to find a place that affords us a home base where we can park our RV. We're thinking about a house with an RV garage, probably in Georgia, Florida or South Carolina."



The living room of Cathy and Mick Hanratty's Winnebago has an electric fireplace and large-screen television.



Cathy and Mick Hanratty's Winnebago has a king-sized bed and an abundance of storage.

# HomeLifeStyle

## Evolution of a Family Home

BY JOHN BYRD

Starting in the late 1990s, Paul and Laurie Carter began transforming a simple production house into a personal residence.

Collaborating closely with Sun Design Remodeling, the Carters nursed their vision of an exceptional property with a stunning indoor-outdoor continuum.

This past September, the public was invited to see the results.

Paul and Laurie Carter purchased a new production house in a new neighborhood not far from Mount Vernon. At 3,700 square feet, it was a perfect spot to settle down and raise their son. The schools nearby were excellent; the house was just a few miles from Old Town Alexandria. But there were some things about the property Carters thought they might improve — if they were to stay in residence long enough.

Cramped master bathroom; no family play area; dark rear rooms with no visual continuum; cabinet-cluttered kitchen; builder-grade finishes ... Just a few of the perceived shortcomings.

But skip ahead almost two decades, and the whole house remodel that the public was invited to see this past September demonstrates the kinds of improvements and upgrades that can occur when owners continue to occupy, modifying the environment to suit evolving interests.

In fact: it's no longer merely a house. It's

the Carter's long-term residence.

"The ideal of long term ownership is the option to create a home that, over time, becomes more supportive of favored activities and aesthetic preferences," says Bob Gallagher, Sun Design Remodeling's Executive Vice President. "We are finding this kind of on-going commitment to personalizing a residence much more frequently than in decades past."

Gallagher was at the house Sept. 12 to greet neighbors who wanted to learn more about remodeling in phases. Sun Design had guided the Carters throughout nearly every revision over the past decade. Many guests seem surprised at the project's top-to-bottom scope.

The Carters are quick to acknowledge that their periodic home remodeling efforts have been a logical and sequential response to family needs — beginning with an 18-foot-by-36-foot swimming pool installed on their quarter acre lot in 2006.

"We wanted a place where Paul, our son, Austin, and I could enjoy pleasant summers together as a family," recalls Laurie. "Our remodeling changes reflect the different stages of our lives, and the lifestyle options we wanted to pursue in day-to-day living."

As Austin's circle of friends expanded, for instance, the Carters hired Sun Design Remodeling to convert the home's unfinished lower level into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with a billiards table and TV viewing area suitable for guests of all generations.

During this same time period, Paul and Laurie, both working professionals, sought improvements to the second floor master suite, introducing a sizable master bath with a walk-in shower and changing vestibule. The plan was designed so that one partner could shower, dress and slip off to work without rousing the other partner, who might be still sleeping.

"The new master suite made life more comfortable for both of us," Laurie says, "and it still works beautifully today."

More recently, when Austin left for college, the Carters, now empty nesters,



The Carters purchased the original production house in 1998 and have steadily made focused improvements and upgrades.

began considering ways to better integrate the home's rear suite of rooms with its lovely poolside setting.

The landscaping and mature trees confer a lot of backyard privacy, so the Carters were looking for graceful ideas to better integrate indoor and outdoor horizons. "It made no sense not to have a better view and more natural light from the back of the house," she said. "Also, we didn't have a comfortable outdoor dining zone."

Not surprisingly, the core problem was the home's original floor plan. Unchanged since the late 1990s, the three rooms on the west-facing rear elevation consisted of a central kitchen flanked by a formal dining room to the right and a family room to the left.

The dining room was sequestered from the kitchen by a floor-to-ceiling wall festooned with builder-grade cabinets. There was one small window above the kitchen sink which was, likewise, bordered by cabinets on two sides. To the left, one entered the family room, which provided an exit to a rear veranda partially covered by a shed roof.

"We had talked about a more open floor plan," Laurie recalls. "But how do you tear down the walls that are holding up the cabinets you use every day?"

As it turned out, this was a good question for Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming, who supervised the Carter's most recent remodeling.

"Something as simple as custom-designed cabinets can inspire a completely new, and much more functional, floor plan," Fleming says.

"Once the Carters were satisfied that the wall between the kitchen and dining room

could come down," he adds, "it was clear that innovative storage solutions would make it possible to further develop a special visual continuum from inside the house."

A counter surface with a gas-fueled cooktop range between the kitchen and the formal dining area, thus, provides storage for both the best family china (accessed from the dining room) and everyday cooking necessities (retrievable from the kitchen). A reach-in pantry next to the refrigerator offers supplemental storage. Though the eye-level cabinet clutter has been deleted, Fleming says there's actually been a 35 percent increase in storage capacity.

To improve natural light, the small kitchen



Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming extended the shed roof to cover sun-exposed decking. Two overhead rotating fans add comfort.

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Eliminating walls initially seemed impossible, but custom cabinets by Sun Design's Jeremy Fleming created the opportunity for a different floorplan.

tion," says Fleming. "The formal elements provide definition and balance, yet the clean lines allow a lively visual continuum."

To provide for outdoor dining, Fleming extended the rear shed roof over the previously sun exposed decking. The former outdoor dining niche now becomes a viewing area adjacent to a recently installed flat screen TV.

With the addition of two overhead rotating fans, the new outdoor space is both intimately connected to the house and visually linked to the pool and well-landscaped setting. "We couldn't be more pleased with how well the house has evolved over the years," says Laurie. "We look forward to living here long into the future."

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years. See more stories at [www.HomeFrontsNews.com](http://www.HomeFrontsNews.com).



The home's unfinished lower-level was converted into a spacious family room and fitness center complete with a billiards table and media viewing area.

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# Diversification Could Help Real Estate Market

Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick.

By ANDREA WORKER  
THE GAZETTE

Vienna-based realtor Craig Lilly with Long and Foster agreed with how Ken Harney, the moderator for the 2015 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) Economic Summit, described the current year's market trends at the gathering earlier this month at the Fairview Park Marriott.

"His assessment of 2015 is on target with what I am experiencing," said Lilly. "So far, so good."

Harney, a nationally-syndicated columnist, categorized 2013 as the "rebound year" when sales and house prices seemed to be back on a roll after years of post-recession doldrums. Then 2014 started out impressively strong as well, but mid-year the market became more "restrained."

"Last Spring things were rocking," said Lilly. "I think that caused some sellers to price too aggressively too quickly in a market that was changing. That certainly had an effect on the slowdown we saw for the rest of the year."

The data for 2015 is on Harney's side. Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick in sales. Figures just released by Real Estate Business Intelligence report the second-highest level of August sales since 2006, with inventories remaining fairly healthy and time-on-the-market about equal with the same period last year. The August report also showed the average sales price of single-family homes down slightly (.02 percent), while the average price of attached homes and condominiums rose slightly.

But even those positive numbers didn't keep the summit's panellists from making presentations that leaned decidedly towards the cautionary, for both short-term real estate transactions, and the future economic health of the region.

**LOOMING ON THE HORIZON** is the spectre of another potential government shutdown if Congress fails to pass even a temporary budget by the end of the month. Describing the region as a "company town," and as such, somewhat "vulnerable" to Congressional activity, panellist Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, said he wouldn't discount the possibility of a shutdown, despite the insistence of others that neither political party would tolerate that turn of events. Additional sequestration during a Presidential election year is also possible, he said. With a laughing



From left — Jonathan Aberman of TandemNSI, Jill Landsman, NVAR VP of Communications, and summit moderator Ken Harney at the 19<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Economic Summit.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE



Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, provided detailed data on area employment figures, income, job sector changes and more during the Economic Summit. There was considerable note taking during his presentation.

acknowledgement of his "slight accent — I am from Texas," Clower reminded the audience that for a "good lump of the rest of the country, a government shutdown is not seen as a such a bad thing."

But for a region where almost 40 percent of the economy is directly related to federal wages and salaries, procurement and other federal activity, Clower's analogy of the "company town's" vulnerability seems right on target.

The seemingly endless "Federal Reserve Watch" for interest rate hikes was also discussed by Clower, and by Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist with the National Association of Realtors.

"A rate increase is coming, probably sooner rather than later, before the end of the year," predicted Yun, but he also believes that any increase will not have an immediate impact on mortgage rates.

That's an opinion that Weichert Realtors Fair Oaks managing director Lorraine Arora

for awhile," said Arora.

Lilly was more struck by Yun's powerpoints showing homeownership at a 50-year low combined with rental vacancies at a 30-year low and rents at a seven-year high. "There's some things to be thinking about as a Realtor, and really as anyone living and working in this area," he added.

In Yun's research, millennials - who currently represent a large portion of the renters - are actually the most confident about the housing situation, and despite the many obstacles to their entering the market, the majority want to eventually become homeowners. Their achievement of that goal is crucial, according to Yun, who noted that the net worth of homeowners tends to exceed that of renters.

One positive note on real estate trends by Yun that the Realtor attendees appreciated was his belief that the "trade-up" market would probably see an improvement, with potential buyers having more cash-in-hand from their current homes' sales with which to make the move. The figures show that many homes that had fallen below their original purchase price have at the least returned to parity, and in many cases even seen a modest increase in value.

Back on the subject of the "company town" dependency, Clower and Yun both argued that diversification of job sectors is critical to the region's future economic success, requiring greater regional cooperation.

**SPEAKING OF ROBOTS**, drones, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and the "We Work" models of sharing work, living spaces and resources, Jonathan Aberman, chairman of TandemNSI, focused on technological trends and how they would affect our daily lives. Aberman said that any region that doesn't prepare for these changes with an emphasis on affordably "educating people on how to think, rather than just how to do" will be quickly left behind.

Aberman said that more effort is needed to keep the federal dollars spent on technology and related research here at home. "We need to be encouraging our next generation of 'gazelles,' what we call our fast-growth companies and entrepreneurs. And we need to consider that these people will be more interested in data-ways than high-ways when considering their work options."

To Aberman, that includes rethinking the number of "trophy offices" under construction and in the pipeline. He worries about over-building in commercial properties that sit empty for so long that they cease to be Class A buildings. Before they can be occupied, many are already not up to par for the next wave of change, either technologically, or culturally speaking, he said.

Lorraine Arora tends to agree with Aberman's concerns. "Look at the commercial vacancy rates in Arlington, as just one example," she said. She was also fascinated by Aberman's predictions on technology's influence on society in the very near future.

"It's a little concerning," she said. Technology is good, but I hope we don't get to the point where people just don't leave their homes."



Rob Whitfield, a member of several regional transportation citizens' groups including the Dulles Corridor Users Group, asks a question of the panellists.

shares. "People will still be buying and selling. I think the current situation continues to make people a bit cautious, as Yun suggests, but I agree that we probably won't see much impact on mortgage rates, at least

# Notes

**Mary Bayat**, owner of Bayat Realty Inc. in Alexandria, was installed as the 2015 chair of the Board of Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. As a director for the National Association of Realtors, Bayat has supported the implementation of core standards for local associations to ensure industry professionalism. Bayat has also been involved with the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Global Forum.

**Harry Braswell, Inc.**, of Alexandria, which has served the Northern Virginia area for more than 30 years, is introducing Concierge Home Services for homeowners in Northern Virginia. The members-only services include home maintenance plans, snow removal, off-site storage and à la carte consultation.

The headquarters of the **Transportation Security Administration (TSA)** will relocate to the Victory Center in Alexandria with a 15-year lease.

**Weichert, Realtors' Alexandria/Old Town Office** was recognized for outstanding performance in May. The office led both the company and the region, which is comprised of offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resale dollar volume.

**Ruppert Landscape** promoted Joshua Araujo and Mike Lopes in its Alexandria Landscape Management Branch. Araujo has been promoted to area manager. Lopes has been promoted to enhancement manager.

**Morgan Price** has joined the Alexandria office of BB&T Scott & Stringfellow as vice president and financial advisor. Price has more than seven years of experience in the financial services industry, most recently with SunTrust Investment Services.

**Michael Ormonde** has been named the new area president for Wells Fargo's South Potomac Region. Ormonde has worked for Wells Fargo since 1998 when he became a teller at a San Francisco branch. Most recently he served as a district manager. Ormonde replaces **Ravi Chandra**, named regional president for Western Virginia.



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6 1700 Hollinwood Drive — \$942,500



5 7404 Park Terrace Drive — \$945,000



9 7411 Park Terrace Drive — \$800,000



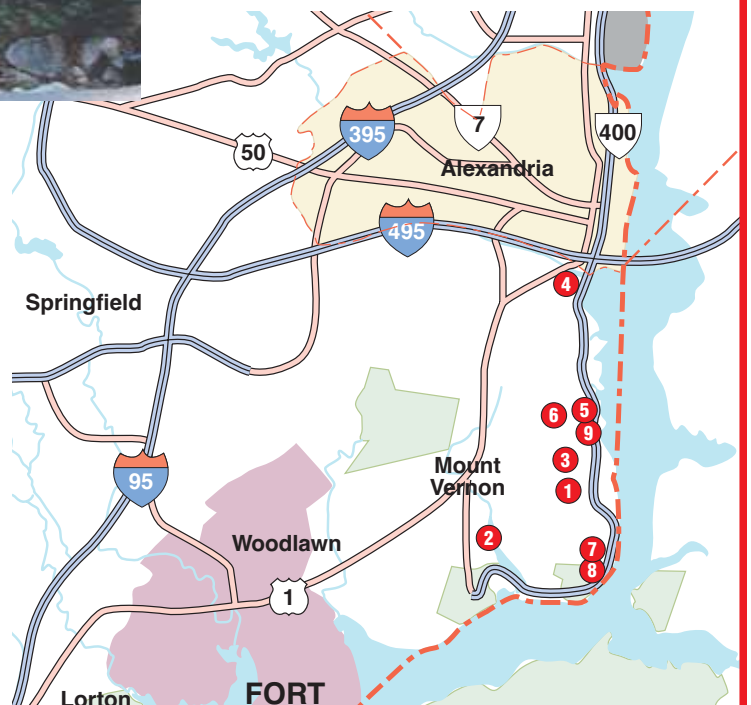
7 916 Emerald Drive — \$930,000



8 926 Priscilla Lane — \$804,500



1 1232 Shenandoah Road — \$1,210,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 1232 SHENANDOAH RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.50	22308	TAUXEMONT	07/31/15	
2 3179 WOODLAND LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.66	22309	WOODLAND PARK	07/29/15	
3 7631 ESSEX MANOR PL	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,075,000	Detached	0.66	22308	FENWICK ESTATES	07/15/15	
4 6007 GROVE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$965,000	Detached	0.24	22307	BELLE HAVEN	07/13/15	
5 7404 PARK TERRACE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$945,000	Detached	0.36	22307	VILLAMAY	07/10/15	
6 1700 HOLLINWOOD DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$942,500	Detached	0.44	22307	MASON HILL	07/01/15	
7 916 EMERALD DR	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$930,000	Detached	0.35	22308	WAYNEWOOD	07/10/15	
8 926 PRISCILLA LN	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$804,500	Detached	0.25	22308	WAYNEWOOD	07/22/15	
9 7411 PARK TERRACE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$800,000	Detached	0.41	22307	VILLAMAY	07/10/15	

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