



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALLISON VERICH

From left, sixth-graders Matthew Verich, Ella Sessine, Denali Mason, Carlye Olsen, Zoe Wallach, Clara Marshall and Sara Langdon begin the Fort Hunt Elementary School Fox Trot one-mile race.

Fox Trot Tradition Continues

A record-breaking 430-plus participated in the 14th annual Fort Hunt Elementary School Fox Trot run on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The one-mile race was held at Fort Hunt Park, wrapping up with a dance party and refreshments following the event.

As a fundraiser for the Fort Hunt's general Parent Teacher As-

sociation fund, the race brought in around \$2,000, according to current PTA president Allison Verich.

— TIM PETERSON



Fort Hunt Elementary School mascot "Artie the Fox" dances with students following the 14th annual Fox Trot one-mile run.



Fox Trot organizer Jeff Sessine (left), former Fort Hunt PTA President Carrie Sessine (right) and their dog Teddy.



From left, (front) fourth-graders Andrew Poindexter, Drew Wallach, Anna Verich, Lindsay Bombac, Lucy Marshall and (back) Georgia Giannetti, Mercedes Henwood, Jackson Gianchetta and Allison Burke start the Fort Hunt Elementary School Fox Trot one-mile race.

County Limits Dog Tethering

New dog tethering law limits amount of time a dog can be tied outside to one hour a day.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

not all were in favor of the new regulations.

"Man's best friend deserves legal protection," said Peggy Marshall, who adopted her best friend, Bianca.

Bianca endured a life on a chain for years until stray dogs attacked her.

"She tried to defend herself but couldn't run away and was badly bitten," said Marshall. Marshall's testimony at the Nov. 17 public hearing of the Board of Supervisors covered the intent of the Board's proposed amendment regarding cruelty to animals, including dog tethering.

Bianca was then dropped off at an animal shelter to be euthanized. An animal care assistant intervened, got Bianca a week of medical attention and from there a rescue group intervened.

"Happily, Bianca's story ends with an unchained life and Boar's Head roast beef every day," said Marshall.

Tethering a dog for more than one cumulative hour during any 24-hour period, unless the dog is under the direct supervision and control of its owner or custodian, is now prohibited in Fairfax County. The Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday, Nov. 17, to amend the Fairfax County Code to incorporate the Code of Virginia's cruelty to animals provisions along with the tethering provision.

MORE THAN 20 people testified for more than two hours at a public hearing at the Nov. 17 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, and

The Board of Supervisors met some resistance when proposing limits to dog tethering, the amount of time animals could be left unsupervised on a leash or a line in the backyard.

"When Supervisor [Jeff] McKay and I introduced this in late spring after working with some of the shelter staff," said Supervisor Michael Frey, "we never contemplated the idea that this would limit the amount of time you could walk your dog on a leash because that was tethering" or that if a groomer had a leash on a dog for more than an hour that would violate the ordinance.

Some people worried that dog groomers could be in violation of the new provision if they needed to tie a long haired dog for more than an hour.

"That was an interpretation that never occurred to us, but I've talked with some folks and I've worked with our staff and the county attorney's office to propose an amendment that I think takes care of those concerns," he said.

Frey started the public hearing by saying the Board would add qualifying language to the proposal that would allow a dog to be tethered for longer than an hour if "the dog is under the direct supervision and control of its owner or custodian."

"That will take care of some of the concerns that were addressed," Frey said.

Capt. John Naylor, commander of the Animal Control Division, said tethering can deprive dogs of

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 8

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Environmental Quality of Life Advisory Council issues 512-page vision for county environmental policy.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Read EQAC Report Online

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2015/>

Flooding will rise in concern in Fairfax County as a result of climate change, warned Stella Koch, chairperson of the county's Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

"We want the county to develop policies on development and redevelopment in areas that are vulnerable to sea rise," she said. "We've all seen increased flooding in parts of the county and that will only increase over time. We ask the county to take a focused look."

Preparing for flooding could involve levees, berms and changes in land use, according to the report. Fairfax County would be impacted in a number of locations, but especially in the Belle Haven/New Alexandria area of Mount Vernon, along the tidal Potomac River.

Providence Supervisor Linda Smyth wants the county to find a solution to recycling glass, which is not currently being recycled, according to the report.

"People really appreciate recycling and glass is something you can recycle forever," said Smyth. "This is causing our whole recycling ability not to work the way we want it to."

According to the report: "The majority of recyclables collected in Fairfax County are delivered to third-party material processors that sort, purify and package target recyclables for resale. As a result, some collected recyclables do not ultimately go to market, due to contamination or the absence of a willing buyer. For example, such is currently the case for glass, for which none of the processors used by county collectors are actually recycling this material; it is currently considered a discard at area recycling plants and is shipped elsewhere for disposal."

"Has our solid waste ever looked into a separate program for recycling of glass?" asked Smyth.

"We have this discussion frequently because it is not simple," said Koch. "We're working on it."

THESE ARE JUST TWO issues raised in the 512-page annual report on the environment, which the Board of Supervisors approved at its Nov. 17 meeting before

Thanksgiving.

The nine chapters of EQAC's annual report on the environment present the county's vision on topics ranging from deer management, light pollution, stormwater, recycling and more.

"I always use your report, your annual report as a model and an example of our being able to track our progress on our environmental agenda and making sure things don't fall off our radar screen," said Chairman Sharon Bulova. She said having environment vision is a way "to make sure we stay on top of the recommendations and the things we have committed to do," said Bulova.

Koch recommended increased funding in watershed and environmental improvement programs, as well as funding two positions, an ecologist in the park authority and a wildlife management specialist.

"Most of those projects are cost effective, and they actually save the county money over time," said Koch.

"Funding for the additional wildlife specialist would be really needed," she said.

She asked the Board "to continue to support the environmental projects that you have established. These programs are important if we are to maintain the high quality of life we have in Fairfax County and the

high standards we have set for ourselves. We note that for Fairfax County residents, quality of life is not just about good schools and jobs but also about having a clean and healthy environment in which to live and recreate."

Supervisor Jeff McKay asked that EQAC keep monitoring advancing technology and methods to be used to control the white-tailed deer population.

"Obviously controlling the deer population is critical to the natural environment," said McKay.

SUPERVISOR Cathy Hudgins asked if the county could find the proper balance between light pollution and creating pedestrian friendly environments especially in transit areas.

"We've made some progress in terms of addressing light pollution and recognizing that the urban settings that we have require a given amount of light for pedestrians," said Hudgins. "Our desire is to be a non-polluting environment but one that is pedestrian friendly."

"We'll be happy to get back to you," said Koch. "We like our homework assignments, because they help us focus."

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report2015/>.

Quiet Riot: 'C'mon Feel the Noise'

County passes new noise ordinance, will revisit effectiveness in 18 months.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

The Board of Supervisors is at peace with the county's new Noise Ordinance. "Believe it or not, that passes," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

On the Nov. 17 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the Board adopted a new Noise Ordinance. The new ordinance becomes effective on Feb. 17, 2016.

"There were times during this process that I thought we would never get to this point. Let me tell you, there are competing needs, issues all over the place as to what is too noisy, what is not noisy, about what is needed and what is not," she said.

In June, the Board had deferred action on the proposed changes to the county's noise ordinance in June until Nov. 17, 2015.

"It was a very productive evolution through five cycles of revisions," said Supervisor John Foust. "We negotiated this thing for so long."

"We're not totally where I want to be, but this is a significantly improved product and something I can vote for," he said.

Supervisor Michael Frey spearheaded the Board's efforts and thanked county staff. "They've managed to grasp the things we were trying to codify," said Frey.

The Board delayed the effective date of

implementation of the new ordinance to February in order to provide time for staff training, to update County websites, and to assist staff in understanding the new regulations, according to county documents.

The Board will revisit the impact of the noise ordinance and its effectiveness in 18 months to determine what might need to be tweaked for the long run.

"I'm not happy with everything that is in here, but at this point I'm prepared to support it, but appreciate that we can revisit it," said Supervisor Pat Herrity.

Supervisor Jeff McKay says the outcome makes the ordinance much easier to enforce.

"This turned into something entirely different from where it started. I also agree that this wasn't intended to address every noise issue," said McKay, "but at the end of the day it makes for better enforcement and makes it a lot more clear which made the noise ordinance difficult to enforce."

OVERALL GOALS of the proposed Noise Ordinance is to recognize that there will always be certain levels of noise that occur in the normal course of daily living; to allow certain levels of daytime noise so that people can live, work and play during the day; and to minimize noise at night so residents have an appropriate quiet environment in their homes at night.

More than 30 speakers testified at a public hearing last May on the noise ordinance.

"When babies cannot sleep, when the elderly cannot rest, when a voice teacher cannot instruct, when a family cannot share a meal together on their patio, when a homeowner has to close her windows and move to another part of the house just to make a telephone call, when a cancer patient cannot recuperate and rest in her yard because music is amplified in the neighborhood at intrusive levels, then we know something is not right with life in Fairfax County," said Joyce Harris of McLean.

Sheila Casey, of Reston, said she can hear mowers on a nearby golf course before dawn with maintenance crews sometimes using headlights on lawnmowers before 5 a.m. "All I know is when those lawn mowers are running, I can turn on my air conditioning, I can put in my earplugs, and I still hear the noise," she said.

Other speakers included: Greg Budnik who discussed helicopter noise from training runs at Fort Belvoir; Mark Grove of Fairfax whose wife was recuperating from cancer treatment and had to contend with music from a supermarket across the street that had permits to play music until 11 p.m.; Keith Elgin, worship director of Vine Church in Dunn Loring, who wants to create events such as outdoor movies and concerts during the summer months; to neighbors in

Reston who say they can not get relief from noise of nearby dog parks; to those who take their dogs to dog parks to spare neighbors from noise.

AMPLIFIED MUSIC from loudspeakers at schools during athletic practices and pre-game festivities took center stage.

Fairfax County Public Schools will replace loudspeakers at McLean High School with regulators to ensure that they are properly calibrated.

The school system is finalizing regulatory guidelines so athletic directors know exactly what needs to be done to keep harmony with neighborhoods in proximity with the schools.

"That's a big deal, and let's make sure when that agreement is formally adopted that we keep it with our noise ordinance," said Bulova.

Other topics of major concern addressed dog parks, trash pickups from commercial shopping centers next to neighborhoods, and lawn maintenance.

Fairfax and other Virginia governments had to rewrite their noise ordinance as a result of a Virginia Supreme Court decision overturning the ordinance in Virginia Beach, according to county documents.

For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance/>

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OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4

Alexandria/Temple View **\$499,900**
 6706 Oak Drive. Adorable Cape Cod on 1/2 acre in Fairfax County. 4 bedrooms/fireplace. Freshly painted, new carpet. Close to Metro, Ft. Belvoir, Old Town, D.C., National Harbor. *Michelle Zelsman* 202-390-8714



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Chatham Square **\$925,000**
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Alexandria **\$700,000**
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OPEN SUNDAY

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OPEN SUNDAY 2-4 **Alexandria House**
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Torres Trial Postponed

Adam Torres trial for murder of John Geer postponed until April 2016.

Former Fairfax County police officer Adam Torres was charged with second-degree murder in August this year for shooting Springfield resident John Geer in August 2013. The trial was scheduled to begin on Dec. 14, but a continuance was recently granted to the defense, pushing it back until April 18, 2016.

Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh, prosecutor in the case, said the defense requested the continuance because of a material witness who was unavailable, and that they needed more preparation time.

"I had hoped to bring this case to a conclusion before Christmas, but these things happen," Morrogh said in an email.

John F. Carroll, Torres' attorney, did not respond to interview requests in time for print.

Geer's father Don said he's just anxious to see the attorneys "get it over with."

"Every time something like this happens, it just brings back the memories," Geer said. "It's never going to disappear, you always have the thoughts. It's hard to decide what you want to do on these things, like going to the trial. Do I want to hear the testimonies, relive this every time someone says something? Nothing will ever bring John back."



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON

Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh (right) speaks with reporters outside the Fairfax County Courthouse following the arraignment hearing in August for former Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres. Judge Stephen Shannon had denied Torres' counsel's request to set a bond; Torres was released to the custody of the Sheriff's Office. Both parties had agreed to begin a jury trial on Dec. 14, but that has now been postponed until April 18, 2016.

The elder Geer is positive about work being done by the county as a result of his son's case, including recommendations to the Board of Supervisors from an Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

"There have been benefits," he said. "It appears to me, that there's change for the better."

—TIM PETERSON

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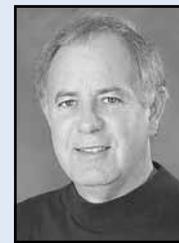
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OPEN SUNDAY

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Official Opening

Gerson Andrade, store manager, and Fernando Enriquez, district manager, cut the ribbon to open the new Advance Auto Parts store with George Ksenice, Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce president. Also participating were Patrick Fogarty, Chamber board member; Edythe Kelleher, Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation; Ryan Saupp, Fairfax County Police Department; Ann Harbour, Inova; and Captain Danny Cox, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, along with children from the Alexandria Boys and Girls Club. Andrade announced a \$1,000 donation to the Boys and Girls Club of Alexandria. The store, located at 6224 Richmond Highway, is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

CRIME REPORT

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

ROBBERY/ARREST: 6200 block of Richmond Hwy., Nov. 25, 11:05 p.m. A 61-year-old man reported that a man approached him in the McDonald's parking lot and assaulted him. The suspect took the victim's i/Phone and fled on foot. The police helicopter and a K9 team responded. They located the suspect hiding in a wooded area adjacent to McDonald's. A 41-year-old man of no fixed address was arrested and charged with grand larceny and malicious wounding. The victim was transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

ROBBERY/MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 6300 block of S. Kings Hwy. Nov. 26, 3:30 a.m. A 32-year-old man reported that a man approached him as he sat in his car. The man broke out the driver's window, cut the victim with an unknown edged weapon and demanded money. The victim handed over an undisclosed amount of cash. He was trans-

ported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect fled on foot. He was described as a Hispanic male, 5 feet 11 inches to 6 feet tall, with a medium build. He was wearing a hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

- DEC. 1**
LARCENIES
3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, purse from residence
2500 block of Parkers Lane, license plates from vehicle
6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
6600 block of Richmond Highway, phones from business
8600 block of West Boulevard Drive, watch from residence
NOV. 30
LARCENIES
9100 block of Belvoir Court, batteries from business

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Wreath and Christmas Tree Sale

Jean Krause, mother of St. Aidan's Episcopal Church member Wynne Kelch, sets out a large, decorated wreath at the church's wreath and Christmas tree sale. Now in sixth year raising money for outreach and operating expenses, the church has brought in 540 freshly cut evergreens from a small North Carolina vendor. The sale runs each Friday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. up to and including Dec. 20. St. Aidan's is located at 8531 Riverside Road in Alexandria.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TED BOLING

Supervisors Honor Voter Services Chair

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presented the Barbara Varon Award to Sidney Johnson, Voter Services chair of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA), on Nov. 17. This Award was created to honor Barbara Varon, who served as Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board. It is awarded annually and shows appreciation for a county resident's "dedication to improving the community through volunteer service."

Nominees for the award must be a Fairfax County resident, demonstrate an appreciation for the diversity of our community's population and exhibit patriotism by participating in electoral process, educating others about the rights and privileges of all citizens to participate in electoral process, and/or participating in voter registration outreach.

Johnson, in her volunteer position as Voter Service Chair for three years, has organized and participated in many voter registration drives as well as in a variety of voter outreach projects. She reached out to a variety of diverse



Sidney Johnson, of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, receives the Barbara Varon Award for improving community through volunteer service.

groups to increase voter participation and has been especially passionate about getting underrepresented citizens engaged in activities that are civic, including voting. She has coordinated and overseen the publication of various voter guides such as Facts for Voters, the Voters' Guides, and a handout that lists

all issues as well as candidates on the ballots. This year Sidney organized 13 Meet and Greet Candidate Forums throughout Fairfax County, with the help of volunteers. These forums aimed to inform the public and give voters an opportunity to meet and interact with the candidates as well as to learn their positions on the impor-

tant issues. In an attempt to reach more voters, Sidney helped organize the first televised Meet and Greet forums for the candidates for the Senate, House of Delegates, Sheriff, Clerk of the Court, and Soil and Water Commissioners.

—HELLEN KELLY AND PEGGY KNIGHT

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HOME SALES

In September 2015, 113 homes sold between \$1,219,000-\$120,000 in the Mount Vernon area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,219,000-\$159,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code
7809 SCHELHORN RD	7	7	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,219,000	Detached	0.77	22306
6223 TALLY HO LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.25	22307
8020 WELLINGTON RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$930,000	Detached	0.16	22308
2014 WINDMILL LN	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$890,000	Detached	0.45	22307
6412 WOOD HAVEN RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$886,000	Detached	0.16	22307
8900 GRIST MILL WOODS CT	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$850,000	Detached	0.50	22309
1127 PRISCILLA LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$817,500	Detached	0.42	22308
7219 STAFFORD RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$785,000	Detached	0.51	22307
6218 ARKENDALE RD	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$775,000	Detached	0.26	22307
1945 SHIVER DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$770,000	Detached	0.58	22307
8518 STABLE DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$760,000	Detached	0.43	22308
7731 SOUTHDOWN RD	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.41	22308
8896 MCNAIR DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$750,000	Detached	0.50	22309
1106 MORNINGSIDE LN	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$699,000	Detached	0.49	22308
1706 HOLLINWOOD DR	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Detached	0.52	22307
8417 WENDELL DR	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Detached	0.33	22308
1133 ARCTURUS LN	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$684,500	Detached	0.17	22308
2412 BRENTWOOD PL	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$675,000	Detached	0.29	22306
7409 PARK TERRACE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$670,000	Detached	0.35	22307
2513 ROSS ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$655,000	Detached	0.50	22306
2312 GLASGOW RD	4	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Detached	0.34	22307
6414 14TH ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$648,000	Detached	0.15	22307
1602 COOL SPRING DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$645,000	Detached	0.29	22308
2011 RAMPART DR	5	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$610,000	Detached	0.33	22308
8802 FORT HUNT RD	4	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,900	Detached	0.29	22308
4600 FERRY LANDING RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$590,000	Detached	0.50	22309
3830 ELMWOOD TOWNE WAY	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.04	22303
9020 BUCKNER RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Detached	0.50	22309
1706 OLD STAGE RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$580,000	Detached	0.24	22308
4625 TARPON LN	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$574,900	Detached	0.54	22309
8325 WOODACRE ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$570,000	Detached	0.26	22308
4327 FERRY LANDING RD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$559,000	Detached	0.50	22309
5951 EDGEHILL CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Townhouse	0.04	22303
6415 POTOMAC AVE	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Detached	0.35	22307
2607 CHILDS LN	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$545,000	Detached	0.25	22308
6664 KINGS HWY	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.33	22306
7035 BEDROCK RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Detached	0.22	22306
8602 CHERRY VALLEY LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Detached	0.25	22309
8301 CARLWOOD RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$520,000	Detached	0.58	22309
2417 CAVENDISH DR	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$519,000	Detached	0.31	22308
6822 STONEYBROOKE LN	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Detached	0.19	22306
8103 KANE CT	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$502,000	Detached	0.25	22308
7009 STONE MILL PL	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$498,900	Detached	0.24	22306
8732 LEA LN	5	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$494,900	Detached	0.50	22309
7107 WHETSTONE RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$475,000	Detached	0.21	22306
5851 MONTICELLO RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Duplex	0.08	22303
6903 STONEYBROOKE LN	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$454,888	Detached	0.19	22306
7006 BROOKINGTON CT	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$445,000	Detached	0.23	22306
7587 GREAT SWAN CT	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.03	22306
4515 NEPTUNE DR	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$440,000	Detached	0.61	22309
4221 ALCOTT ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$436,000	Detached	0.29	22309
3228 GROVETON ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$435,000	Detached	0.31	22306
6009 MONTICELLO RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$419,900	Duplex	0.08	22303
8245 DOCTOR CRAIK CT	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$417,000	Townhouse	0.06	22306
5935 MONTICELLO RD	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$410,000	Semi-Detached	0.08	22303
6430 14TH ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$408,000	Detached	0.15	22307
2853 FAIRHAVEN AVE	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$407,000	Townhouse	0.08	22303
2451 MIDTOWN AVE #1514	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$405,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
3204 ELMWOOD DR	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Detached	0.17	22303
2514 STONE HEDGE DR	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$400,000	Detached	0.23	22306
7981 AVERY PARK CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$399,500	Townhouse	0.03	22306
4212 ALCOTT ST	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$398,500	Detached	0.27	22309
2451 MIDTOWN AVE #213	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$391,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
7418 GRUMMAN PL	5	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$391,400	Detached	0.24	22306
7945 KIDD ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$385,000	Detached	0.25	22309
4742 POMEGRANATE CT	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$370,500	Detached	0.20	22309
8004 FRYE RD	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$354,000	Detached	0.27	22309
5714 MEDALLION CT	2	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,250	Townhouse	0.03	22303
2723 ALBEMARLE DR	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Duplex	0.08	22303
7001 STANFORD DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Duplex	0.11	22307
8409 LEAF RD	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$350,000	Detached	0.54	22309
7227 STOVER CT	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$347,000	Townhouse	0.03	22306
5835 FIFER DR	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$340,000	Semi-Detached	0.09	22303
5902 MOUNT EAGLE DR #1510	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$339,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
8102 ASHBORO DR	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$335,000	Detached	0.27	22309
2021 ARLINGTON TER	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$330,000	Duplex	0.09	22303
2130 FARRINGTON AVE	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$328,000	Duplex	0.09	22303
5902 MOUNT EAGLE DR #1201	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
2315 RIVERVIEW TER	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Duplex	0.09	22303
6912 WESTHAMPTON DR	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Semi-Detached	0.09	22307
8124 KIDD ST	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$325,000	Detached	0.24	22309
2451 MIDTOWN AVE #601	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
5901 MOUNT EAGLE DR #805	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$320,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
3008 COLONIAL SPRINGS CT	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$317,000	Townhouse	0.03	22306
5904 MOUNT EAGLE DR #1101	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$315,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
4306 WYRES ST	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$310,000	Townhouse	0.04	22309
7807 COLONIAL SPRINGS BIVD	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Townhouse	0.03	22306
7150 WESTFIELD CT	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$289,900	Townhouse	0.08	22306
5608 HILL CT	3	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$280,000	Detached	0.19	22303
8032 SAINT ANNES CT	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.05	22309
2221 SWEETBRIAR DR	3	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$270,000	Duplex	0.08	22307
2308 FORT DR	4	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$261,000	Detached	0.15	22303
6717 W WAKEFIELD DR #B1	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22307
8663 VENOY CT	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.03	22309
6616 WAKEFIELD DR #C2	2	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$240,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22307
8423 SKY VIEW DR	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$220,500	Detached	0.44	22309
8419 SKY VIEW DR	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$220,500	Detached	0.44	22309
4469 PEMBROOK VILLAGE DR #140	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$188,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
3887 MANZANITA PL #A	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$186,000	Back-to-Back		22309
3954 SONORA PL #A	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$183,000	Attach/Row Hse		22309
6425 RICHMOND HWY #103	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$178,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22306
4388 PEMBROOK VILLAGE DR #90	2	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$170,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
2059 HUNTINGTON AVE #712	1	1	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$169,900	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303
7952 SEVEN WOODS DR #E	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$168,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22309
3917 SONORA PL #C	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$163,000	Townhouse		22309
3822 MONTE VISTA PL #C	2	1	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$159,000	Townhouse		22309

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NEWS

County Limits Dog Tethering

FROM PAGE 1

their ability for survival necessities, such as water and food. Limited to a life on a chain regularly can make dogs aggressive as well as potentially cause strangulation, he said. They can be at risk for hypothermia and heat stress, which can lead to severe health problems.

But others raised concerns about the meaning of "direct supervision and control."

"I've been a dog owner my entire life," said Supervisor Pat Herryty, who asked that the proposal be deferred for more consideration. He raised the example of taking his dog with him when he plays rugby, with the dog tethered in sight, but for more than an hour for the game. County staff replied that the scenario would not be allowed, and that the dog should be directly supervised by someone during the game.

Alice Harrington, legislative liaison of the Virginia Federation of Dog Clubs and Breeders, spoke in opposition.

"This bill is written and assumes all tethering is bad, and that is not true," she said.

"There is no link [in this proposal] between tethering of a dog and the condition of the dog. Anyone who tethers a dog for 61 minutes can be charged with animal cruelty," even if there is no harm to the dog.

Allison Volpert, who serves on the county animal services advisory council, participates with two of her dogs in agility classes at Frying Pan Park. She regularly leaves one dog tethered for somewhat

more than an hour, with a cooling pad and water in summer, while she participates with her other dog in class. But with the new provision she will no longer be able to do so.

SHE URGED the supervisors to delay the vote and to work with a more diverse group of animal lovers to make recommendations.

Arlington County animal control officer Jennifer Toussaint said Arlington County uses its tethering law and enforcement to educate homeowners how to be more effective dog owners.

Holly Hazard, of the Humane Society of the United States testified in favor of the limits on tethering.

"Experts agree that tethering is not conducive to the well being of dogs," she said, and is "inhumane."

"Most citizens don't want to be bad pet owners, they need guidance, and if control officers can intervene, she said, they can eliminate tethering from becoming a punitive measure.

"Citizens need guidance," she said.

"The ordinance fulfills our commitment to treat animals with dignity and compassion," testified Timothy Parmly. "It's a good ordinance," he said. "Chaining a dog is cruel."

Fines and penalties for violating the tethering provision, range from a fine of \$500 for a first violation to being punishable by fine of up to \$2,500 and/or penalty of up to one year in jail for a third violation within the same year.

MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

Air Force National Guard Airman 1st Class **Ryan Schaefer** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Schaefer is the son of Julie and James Rudy of Alexandria.

The following people have completed New Cadet Week to join the Virginia

Tech (Blacksburg, Va.) Corps of Cadets: **Bestabe Calderon**, psychology; **Christopher Cho**, physics; **Viateur Commere**, general engineering; **Austin Eich**, international studies; **Tinsae Ejigu**, international studies; **Christian Firaben**, business; **Lawrence Glick**, physics; **Giselle Gonzalez**, university studies; **Alexander McDonald**, university studies; **Cristopher Ramirez**, biochemistry; **Patrick Rives**, real estate; and **Ford Williams**, physics.

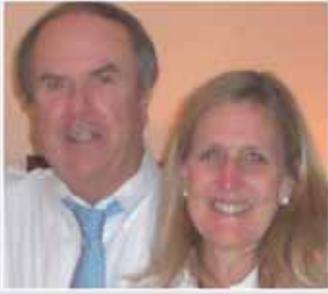
SCHOOL NOTES

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

Darrick Samuelson has been named to the Biola University (La

Mirada, Calif.) dean's list.

Elizabeth Jane Addington has been named to the dean's list at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.) for the spring 2015 semester.



CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2015?
Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!
Leading the Area in Real Estate. SOLD!!!*



9329 Mount Vernon Circle \$1,195,000
One of Area's Most Admired Properties!

Classic Georgian manor home crafted by legendary master builder, Eugene Cullinane to serve as model for homes in upscale Mt Vernon on the Potomac neighborhood. Special home contains builder's trademark features including custom brickwork, elaborate plaster moldings, estates size rooms, stately 10' ceilings & imposing 13' wide foyer. Private marina access in area's leading waterfront community. True one of a kind property!



9119 Buckner Rd \$598,922
Character Abounds—Backs to Parkland!

Classic Cape, carefully expanded to maintain the character of the original home and capitalize on natural beauty of half acre grounds. Numerous features include 3 full baths with potential first floor master suite, hardwood floors, spacious family room overlooking grounds. Oversize carport. Expansive exterior decks overlook magnificent grounds. Uniquely beautiful, private setting backing to acres of parkland at Grist Mill Park. Open Sunday 12/6, 1-4PM! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mill Rd; Right Buckner.



9408 Brambly Lane \$1,095,000
Spectacular New Price!

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! Open Sunday 12/6, 1-4PM! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Brambly.



9412 Ferry Landing Ct \$789,000
Stunning Value!

Uniquely gorgeous property! Custom home in premier setting on quiet cul-de-sac ending at river. Magnificent grounds featuring custom pool, hot tub, expansive decking and large level lawn. Home with

numerous features: open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, fabulous rec room over side load, two car garage. Super value—nothing like it at close to this price! Open Sunday 12/6, 1-4PM! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Ferry Landing Ct.



8708 Plymouth Rd \$1,499,000
Classic American Four Square Design—Special Pre-Construction Price!

Best of both worlds—classic American Four Square exterior combined with stunning modern floor plan and amenities. Numerous features include open floor plan, high ceilings, top line kitchen and baths. Prime location on half acre level lot in popular Plymouth Haven. Pre-construction contract provides maximum opportunity to customize and discounted price!



3719 Riverwood Rd \$709,000
Fabulous Opportunity—Prestigious Riverwood!

Exceptionally attractive price for updated Colonial in premier riverfront community. Recent work including custom interior paint and beautifully

refinished hardwood floors provide true "move-in" opportunity! Other features include main level family room w/fireplace & custom built-ins, bright white kitchen, 4 spacious bedrooms, thermal windows, 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on large fenced lot.



9429 Forest Haven Dr \$699,000
Spectacular Contemporary!

4831 Stillwell Ave \$549,500
Absolutely Adorable!



8824 Stratford Lane \$949,000
Best New Home Value in Stratford

3232 Woodland Lane \$659,000
Gorgeous Designer Kitchen!



4005 Mavis Ct \$698,900
Stunning Open Floor Plan!

Spacious & open—truly spectacular property with stunning family room

addition. Expansive glass walls, soaring cathedral ceilings & open floor plan bring light to every corner of the home. Other features include custom, gourmet kitchen with huge 17x6 pantry. Updated baths and oversize 2 car garage. Huge deck capitalizes on private back yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac in heart of Mt Vernon!



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OPINION

Fixing I-66 Politics is getting in the way of long-term solutions.

BY STEWART SCHWARTZ
COALITION FOR SMARTER GROWTH

We all know I-66 is a mess. But politics have made it difficult to have an objective discussion about the causes and potential solutions. Not only did the recent election include dramatic T.V. ads about tolls, the first bill proposed for the coming General Assembly session would ban tolls inside the Beltway. Its sponsor favors widening all the way to the Roosevelt Bridge in D.C. instead. To some that seems intuitive, but will it actually solve the problem?

At its most basic we have too many cars trying to use limited road space during peak hours. The traditional approach has been to widen highways – again and again, but has meant significant impacts on our homes, neighbors, parks, and our health. And “if you built it we will come” — new highway lanes in metropolitan areas can fill up again in as few as five years. In the particular case of I-66, where would all of the additional cars go when they hit Constitution Avenue in D.C. or exit onto

local roads in Arlington? In contrast to the \$40 million for toll infrastructure, widening of I-66 could cost hundreds of millions of dollars and lead to years of construction-related traffic delays.

The Governor’s proposal for variable tolling, carpools, and transit will move twice as many people through the corridor as today, with far greater reliability and a minimum guaranteed speed of 45 mph. And, unlike today, single-occupant vehicles will be able to use the highway in the peak direction for the first time, albeit by paying a variable toll. No one who is currently using the highway for free today (HOV-2 and above) will have to pay anything when the plan is implemented in 2017.

The public will also retain ownership of the revenues, allowing funding for transit to carry even more people.

Outside the Beltway, the state proposes privately-operated HOT (high-occupancy toll) lanes like those on I-95 and the Beltway. Unlike the two prior projects, I-66 would include funding for more commuter express buses. But the new lane capacity may well lead to still

more growth 30 miles beyond D.C. and yet more traffic in the future.

Under both Republican and Democratic administrations, Virginia failed to evaluate the longer-lasting benefits of a transit-first approach combining Metro, Virginia Railway Express, and commuter express buses, with better land use and fixes to bottlenecks like the Route 28/I-66 interchange. Providing more homes closer to jobs, and creating the compact, walkable, mixed-use and transit-accessible neighborhoods that are so much in demand today will reduce the amount we have to drive.

We have to think more carefully about how we handle growth. Do we keep expanding highways, destroying our neighborhoods and quality of life in the process? Or do we address where we build and how we design our communities, in such a way that we can drive less and for shorter distances, and have access to more options like Metro, VRE and express buses? This is the conversation we need to have.

Stewart Schwartz is executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth. Visit www.smartergrowth.net

COMMENTARY

Standing Up for the Safety Net

BY PIPER PHILLIPS CASWELL

Everyone may know someone like Brian, a child who struggles at school, has emotional outbursts, and is constantly visiting the office and facing detention. It’s children like Brian and their families—whose lives are spiraling—that members of the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities serve—including PHILLIPS Special Education Day Schools.

We are part of the educational system many people don’t see or know about. Programs such as ours provide a custom education for those who have significant learning and emotional

challenges and for whom school has often been a place of repeated failure and frustration. As partners to the public schools systems and families, we step in to give a child another chance at education and life success.

With the elections past us, new and returning members of the state legislature are preparing for the 2016 legislative session. As they do, we wanted to make a plug for the safety net. It’s important that kids—especially vulnerable ones like Brian—don’t get lost in the shuffle. We often work with youth who are part of the foster care system. It can be a difficult journey for a child, especially as they are emancipated from the system. Some select to do so

before their 21st birthdays—choosing to forgo services. However, if they change their minds, it is difficult for them to opt back into services that can help them succeed. That’s why we hope legislators will help this fragile population regain access to services if they have a change of heart.

Changes that provide funding for comparable education services for students approved for residential services are also critical to meeting the needs of youth who have emotional, behavioral and other special challenges. Currently there is no mechanism for children placed in residential care to have any of their educational costs paid. That puts more children and families at risk.

Another way we can help these at risk children is to make it easier for them to get services. Too often children and their families are denied critical services due to burdensome, confusing and time-consuming assessment and qualification criteria. Virginia’s serving agencies must be facilitators for families to access services, not barriers.

Families we meet are often frazzled by the challenges they face in getting appropriate education and services for their children. For those of limited means, the process and costs of getting help can seem insurmountable. That’s why expanding Medicaid up to 133 percent of the poverty level will remove another obstacle to low-income families getting help.

Having a strong safety net is critical to ensuring youth with special challenges grow, learn and succeed. But the net is only good if it can catch kids as they are falling. Our legislators can make it stronger, protecting and propelling youth forward.

Piper Phillips Caswell is CEO, PHILLIPS Programs for Children and Families.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Board Promotes Right to Vote

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) commends the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for its 2016 Legislative Program that includes specific requests in support of qualified Virginians’ right to vote.

The Legislative Program asks for “no-excuse” absentee voting and extended polling hours; legislation to find an appropriate balance between “maintaining integrity of elections” without interfering with the right to vote; examining effects of voter ID law before enacting any future voter ID laws. In addition, ...“reactions at the state and federal levels to the recent Supreme Court decision, striking down Section IV of

the Voting Rights Act which eliminated the requirement that changes to Virginia’s election laws be ‘pre-cleared,’ should be closely monitored.

Additionally, the Legislative Program also requests greater state financial support for election administration.”

The LWVFA also commends the Board of Supervisors for its foresight in recently purchasing new voting machines and in training election staff to use them before the 2016 Presidential election.

The LWVFA will continue to lobby for the introduction and passage of bills that would increase voter participation in elections and would protect eligible Virginians’ constitutional right to vote.

Helen Kelly
League of Women Voters
of the Fairfax Area

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Belle Rive 3900 Picardy Court, Alexandria VA
Classic colonial on cul-de-sac near Mt Vernon. 5 BR, 3.5 BA, 2-car garage backs to woods. Spacious floor plan with office, rec room, media room & home gym. Just steps to the beach. \$1,095,000 Jeanne Atkins MLS # FX8773280



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Manors at Mt. Vernon
8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA Totally ready for you – Move in for the holidays w/a warm fire in beamed ceiling family rm off gourmet kitchen, 4 BR, 4.5 BA, 2-car gar, finished Basement/tons of storage. Great value! \$939,000 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # FX8760765



Mason Hill 1907 Windmill Lane, Alexandria VA
Beautiful French Country House is a Gardener's Delight! Gourmet Kitchen with SS, Quartz, 2 sinks, kitchen island. 5 Large Bedrooms with 4 Full Baths. 2 Patios and 2-Car Garage. \$859,000 Greg Doherty MLS # FX8751957



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Old Town
810 Montgomery Street, Alexandria VA
Trendy yet sophisticated 3 BR/2 BA home. Offering distinct designer touches, exposed brick walls, hardwoods on all levels, gas FP, patio, terrace, 2 parking spots, walk to Metro!
New Price \$689,000
Karen Leonard
MLS # AX9513273



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Wellington Manor
1133 Arcturus Lane, Alexandria VA Classic gem on a gracious lot w/a serene, park-like atmosphere. 3 BR, 2 BA w/charming front porch, gleaming hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace, large deck on almost 1/2 acre. **New Price** \$634,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX8762034



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Wellington Estates
1108 Westmoreland Road, Alexandria VA This charming home is just waiting for your special touches! Freshly painted & hardwood floors refinished. A short drive to Old Town and steps to bike trail. Waywood School. **New Price** \$597,500 Karen Leonard MLS # FX9504867



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Williamsburg North
2408 Apple Hill Road, Alexandria VA Great space and renovated! New kitchen w/SS appl., granite, tile, 2 new bathrooms, redone hardwoods, new HVAC, bay windows and more. Perfect!
\$549,900 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # FX8762757



Stratford Landing
2500 Londonderry Road, Alexandria VA Great yard in 4 BR/2.5 BA home. Year-round porch and addition too.
\$549,900
Eileen Marousek MLS # FX8743888



Open House Sunday 2-4pm GlebeWood Village
2109 N Brandywine Street, Arlington VA Wow! Stunning English Cottage town house. NO HOA, NO CONDO FEES. North Arlington for under \$500K! 2 bed/2 bath, renovated top to bottom – 3 gorgeously updated levels! Fenced back yard. \$499,000 Lyssa Seward MLS # AR9503228



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Tauxemont
1241 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria VA Large treed lot w/Tauxemont Spring Water! Cherished for years – now waiting for new owner to add personal touches. 3 BR, 1 BA, steps to bus, shopping & dining. Waywood School Dist. \$449,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX9525435



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Bucknell Manor
6850 Radcliffe Drive, Alexandria VA Delightful 3 level duplex in a great close-in location. Gleaming hardwood floors, nicely updated kitchen and baths, new windows and fully finished lower level. Just steps to bus. **New Price** \$299,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX8769007



Montebello 5903 Mount Eagle Drive #206, Alexandria VA
Wonderful and warm, spacious 2 BR / 2 BA, "F" unit with sunroom. Freshly painted, carpets cleaned and move-in ready. Close to Metro in a community with amenities galore! \$279,000 Mark Souder MLS # FX8719345

Alexandria 310 King St. | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300



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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ DECEMBER 3-9, 2015 ❖ 11

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER RATE AND PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, 2015, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges and its proposed 2016 Budget. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes to the Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges, to be effective April 1, 2016, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,950 to \$4,100†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,750 to \$10,240.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,090 to \$1,150†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$36 to \$37.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.80 to \$10.10†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.55 to \$2.68 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.55 to \$3.80 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$50 to \$52.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 110% to 104%.
11. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Materials from 25% to 16%.
12. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$45 to \$46.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is proposing a \$170.4 million budget for calendar year 2016*. Revenues are expected to be \$170.4 million in 2016. Water sales are expected to provide \$147.3 million. Approximately \$23.1 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2015	2016
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 53,891	\$ 55,581
Power and Utilities	10,677	10,750
Chemicals	6,335	7,857
Purchased Water	6,717	6,090
Supplies and Materials	4,985	5,113
Insurance	1,017	1,050
Fuel	781	880
Postage	637	664
Contractual Services	9,930	10,422
Professional Services	1,146	1,046
Other	2,363	2,447
Sub-Total	98,479	101,900
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,669)	(9,616)
Total	\$ 88,810	\$ 92,284

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$41,417,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$24,131,000

*Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates and the 2016 budget can be viewed on our Web site at http://fairfaxwater.org/current/public_hearing_2015_12_17.htm. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Mr. Ken Lasso at 703-289-6194. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

LETTERS

Stand Up Against Ignorance

To the Editor:

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church stands with all Unitarian Universalists in full support of our Muslim brothers and sisters throughout the world and here in the United States. We condemn the horrific statements aimed at any form of persecution or rejection of people based on their faith.

Recent statements by public figures, both those serving in public office or running for public office, are brutal comments undermining humanity's fundamental capacity for inclusive love and commitment to religious freedom.

We are deeply disappointed in elected public figures that have articulated such extreme comments and have taken action in the form of a vote to exclude an entire class of people based on their country of origin, a blatant ruse for religious affiliation.

Such actions of words and deeds are not only of profound embarrassment, they raise high concern for the message sent to all people seeking refuge from war, famine, and persecution in other countries.

In addition, history has repeatedly shown that such targeted exclusion for religious affiliation from those in public office has led to further acts of justified ostracism, murder and holocaust.

This path that public figures have chosen, out of fear and ignorance, must change.

We call upon all public figures, and in particular religious leaders, to speak out for a common call for education about all religions, to advocate for those whose voices have been suppressed, and to seek policies and laws that recognize religious freedom as the foundation of the United States.

Religious persecution for any reason is humanity at its worst.

No child, no woman, no man, should ever be turned away from our shores because of the faith they practice. The United States is a country of freedom for all people, no matter the color of their skin, their ethnic origin, the clothes they wear, or the faith they practice.

Rev. Kate R. Walker
Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church

Stable's Loss Not Forgotten

To the Editor:

As I read the Nov. 26 Mount Vernon Gazette article about Arcadia Farms and Woodlawn Plantation, I was sorry that was no mention of Woodlawn Stables.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation was already in partnership with Arcadia before the realignment of Route 1 was determined, and the Trust advocated for the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 4

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***Craig* (703) 298-1156**



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Alexandria—4008 Ronson Drive 22310 **\$649,000**

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M&T Home Builders will design and build a new home over the existing basement on this 13,200SF lot. Starting price includes land purchase, and a construction contract for a 2800 SF, 2-story house with 3-4 BRs and 3 baths. Just off Telegraph Road, you are close to Fairfax County schools, Old Town Alex, and Ft Belvoir. Financing info available. Buy now & move in early summer 2016. Image is an option. See details at MLS#FX9526374.

Alexandria—9037 Patton Blvd 22309 **\$699,000**



"As-is" house for sale on 22,000 SF, corner lot--ready to be transformed into a new 3-story, 3300 SF custom home. 4 BRs and 3.5 Baths. Optional MBR on main floor. Gourmet kitchen, spacious island, granite tops, SS appliances, walk-in pantry. Open-style main floor with great room, with walk-out to private deck. Optional fireplaces. Mature landscaping. Desired location in the historic Mt Vernon District. Easy access to DC metro area and Ft Belvoir. Call now for options, floor plans and financing to fit your budget. See MLS#FX8724743 for details. (Image here is an example.)

Annandale—7410 and 7412 Hamilton St 22003 **Starting at \$599,000**



Buy one of these "as-is" houses "For Sale by Owner" and M&T Home Builders will build you a charming, contemporary craftsman home. New single family home will be customized to the buyer, ensuring another luxurious, meticulously designed M&T home—2-story (optional 3-story) home with approx. 3000SF of living space, 5 BRs and 3.5 baths. Must see these properties located inside the beltway—close to Fairfax, Tyson's, Alex, Pent, and D.C. See MLS#FX8733535 and MLS# FX8733393. (Image here is an example)

Alexandria—8007 Jackson Road (Hollin Hall) 22308 **\$849, 000**



Just listed!!!! MLS#FX9528814. M&T Home Builders will design & build a new, custom home over the existing foundation on this 10,118sf lot. Pricing includes purchase of the "As-is" house (FOR SALE BY OWNER) and a construction contract for a 2-(optional 3)-story home with 4-5 BRs and 3.5 plus baths. Financing assistance available. Call for tours of model home. Buy now and move in June 2016. (Image is example of customized kitchen.)

Visit us at MandHomeBuilders.com and see other M&T Listings
MLS#'s FX8645595 FX8720578 FX8733561 AR8740154 AR8734738



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

OLD TOWN \$899,000 | 1515 Portner Road
Beautiful brick end-unit townhouse with all-new hardwood flooring and improvements throughout. This home offers 4 BR plus den, 4.5 BA, granite counters, stainless-steel appliances, garage parking, and an outdoor patio. Located steps from restaurants and shops, and only minutes from downtown DC.
CINDY GOLUBIN +1 202 437 3861
COURTNEY GOLUBIN +1 703 989 1873



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

KIRK \$549,900 | 8003 Karl Road
Updated, spacious home in popular Fort Hunt area neighborhood. Garage, 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths with hardwood floors, 2,440 finished sq ft, bay window and natural light. Large lower level includes family room. Fully fenced back yard with wrap around deck. Walkable neighborhood in Waynewood Elementary district.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

OLD TOWN \$2,249,000 | 11 Wharf Street
Boasting some of the finest waterfront views in Old Town, this amazing brick townhouse overlooks the Potomac River. Includes 4 BR, 3 BA plus 2 half baths, 3 gas fireplaces and a 2-car garage. Located just a few blocks from Historic King Street.
CINDY GOLUBIN +1 202 437 3861
COURTNEY GOLUBIN +1 703 989 1873



BELLE HAVEN \$799,000 | 6028 Fort Hunt Road
Charming home located right across from Belle Haven Country Club. Spacious rooms, hardwood floors, recently renovated kitchen, cozy library, lower level family room, and private brick patio overlooking a lovely fenced lot.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106



COLLINGWOOD \$1,100,000 | 1228 Falster Road
This gorgeous new-construction home features a large fenced flat yard, luxurious master suite, and an open main level with high ceilings, dark hardwoods, large dining room, and gourmet white carrara marble kitchen with large center island.
PHYLLIS PATTERSON +1 703 310 6201



POTOMAC GREENS \$1,050,000 | 716 Bracey Lane
One of the largest homes in Potomac Greens. This award-winning Fairfax model lives like a detached home with its wide, open rooms, high ceilings, and streaming natural light. 3 outdoor living spaces, wide 2-car garage, 3,825 finished square feet. Quiet location, just minutes to DC, Reagan National Airport and Old Town.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183



WYCLIFFE \$1,349,000 | 3808 Washington Woods Drive
Over \$400,000 in recent improvements in this impeccably designed, move-in ready home. Professional landscaping, 42 ft deck, expanded family room, huge custom kitchen, master suite with new high-end bath. Bright and welcoming basement with hardwood floors, home theater, rec room, and guest suite. 3-car garage.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183
SHARON WILDBERGER +1 703 597 0374



POTOMAC, MD \$7,995,000 | 13331 Signal Tree Lane
Extraordinary 52-acre private estate features a breathtaking contemporary residence, heated pool, extensive rear terraces, mature gardens, grass tennis court, 5-car garage. The residence has numerous large-scale entertaining rooms.
MAGGIE SHANNON +1 202 342 1635
MICHAEL RANKIN +1 202 271 3344



HOLLIN HALL \$599,000 | 1701 Paul Spring Parkway
Open floor plan with beautiful hardwood floors, dramatic vaulted ceilings, 2 skylights, 2 fireplaces, and thousands of upgrades. Updated eat-in kitchen with spacious pantry. 4 BR, 4 BA. Master bedroom with fully updated en suite bathroom.
NICKY McDONNELL +1 703 201 3318



UNDER CONTRACT

OLD TOWN \$565,000 | 608 S Fairfax Street
This ivy-covered cottage and buildable lot offers a unique opportunity to own a home in the SE quadrant of Old Town on a fabulous street and within 2 blocks of the Potomac River and Windmill Hill Park. 2,000 sq ft lot, zoned RM.
MARGARET MILLER +1 703 906 7920



KALORAMA, DC \$5,950,000 | 2404 Wyoming Avenue NW
Sited in sought-after Kalorama, this Georgian residence offers elegant scale, renovated bathrooms with Waterworks fixtures, wood floors, and audio throughout.
MICHAEL RANKIN +1 202 271 3344

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General Assembly Must Address Many Needs

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)



At the State Senate annual Finance Retreat two weeks ago, staff updated the State Senate on Virginia's economy, projected revenues and significant budget issues expected during the 2016 session to begin on Jan. 13. The news is a mixed bag.

First, Virginia's economy is still struggling. Thanks to the "Sequester," large, across-the-board, federal budget cuts, federal spending in Virginia is down by 33 percent over just last year. That's \$24 billion fewer dollars coming into the Virginia economy. Not surprisingly, economic growth has been flat statewide. Twelve percent of homes are still short sales due to stagnant home prices and our predicted economic growth for 2016 is about one-third less than the national rate.

Notwithstanding this disappointing news, the state took in about \$550 million more than we budgeted in FY 2015. These revenues were mostly generated by income taxes paid by business owners, not employ-

ees' paycheck withholding.

We expect to see a 4.1 percent revenue growth in 2016 driven by employment gains in Northern Virginia and housing construction. Between revenue growth and the funds carried forward from FY 2015, the staff anticipates that there will be about \$1.6 billion above the state's "base budget" to allocate to various needs. This is the first year since I was elected in 2009, that there will be any meaningful money to allocate.

Given Virginia's budget difficulties over the last six years, many unmet needs should be addressed.

First, Virginia's secondary education funding on an inflation-adjusted, per pupil basis is less than what the state spent in 2007. Most teachers have seen one raise in six years and for many, that raise was consumed by new retirement contribution rules. Fairfax County, and especially Prince William and Stafford counties, are desperate for additional funds to raise teacher salaries, lower class sizes and upgrade technology.

Second, Virginia's colleges are struggling. Last year, the legislature appropriated \$110 million less to our 14 four-year colleges and 23 community colleges than we did in 2008.

These institutions serve 399,000 students. Average tuition and fees have risen from around \$4,000 per semester to nearly \$8,000 and the state is barely covering half the cost of an in-state student's education. The state's contribution was over 62 percent when I attended James Madison University from 1989-1993. Average student debt is up by 35 percent since 2008.

Third, Virginia continues to leave about \$2 billion of federal Medicaid dollars on the table. Expanding Medicaid to low-income working adults would free up \$180 million of Virginia tax dollars which we could re-appropriate, generate 30,000 new jobs and close Virginia's coverage gap. This debate nearly caused a state government shutdown two years ago until Senator Phil Puckett resigned.

Fourth, Virginia still has 6,000 families on the waiting list for services to severely disabled children and adults. Virginia's waiting list is one of the worst in the United States.

The Virginia Port Authority has requested \$350 million for capital investments so it can remain competitive with other ports. Three dozen judgeships are vacant and unfunded, including five in the 36th Senate

District.

The Republican leadership in the House of Delegates has expressed a preference to "pre-pay" the funds that were not paid into the Virginia Retirement System in FY 2010-2011 to balance our budget. This move was a gimmick when adopted and paying it off is a prudent thing to do, but we have other worthy priorities. Many see this proposal as an opening bargaining step in an anticipated four-month negotiation with Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

We also have about \$100 billion in needed transportation projects than funds in the pipeline over the next 20 years, including multiple projects in the 36th Senate District along U.S. 1 and I-95. Transportation revenue is especially problematic due to lower gas prices since Virginia changed its tax from a per-gallon tax to a percentage-based tax in 2013.

The bottom line is that our budget situation is the best it has been since 2009, but Virginia continues to lag behind the country and has a lengthy list of very worthy needs.

I am tackling these problems and will continue when I join my colleagues in Richmond in January and February for the 2016 General Assembly session.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Possible Tool in Battling Fraud against Seniors

BY PAUL KRIZEK
DELEGATE-ELECT (D-44)



Fraud and identity theft is an increasing criminal sector and will likely continue to grow. On Nov. 13, an off-duty police officer noticed a fraud device known as a "skimmer" on an ATM at a Huntington 7-11. While the risk of fraud is growing in prevalence for all Virginians, seniors are hit particularly hard. A recent New York Times article estimates elder abuse costs about \$3 billion annually and that incidents of elder-client abuse identified by financial advisors have tripled in the last three years.

A November Consumer Reports article found 1-in-5 seniors reported being financially exploited in 2010. The article noted

the Federal Trade Commission reported a 47 percent increase in fraud complaints against seniors between 2012 and 2014.

A common scam involves calling an elderly individual, claiming their grandchild is in the custody of a foreign police department and asking them to quietly wire a sum of money to post bail. My own elderly parents were almost victims of this scam, but luckily they were skeptical enough to check with me. The scammers encourage their victims to keep their activity quiet to avoid an embarrassing international incident.

These crimes pose a challenge to law enforcement officials, since most of these scammers and fraudsters are untraceable and reside outside of the United States. The majority of these crimes happen quickly and many victims realize they've been scammed within 48 hours of the event. Once they

have your money, it's impossible to get it back and the criminals are neither found nor prosecuted. Fraud, theft and identity theft are already crimes, so traditional methods of quelling these activities are redundant and generally ineffective since the criminals are impossible to catch. Where lawmakers can push back is to make sure these criminals never get your money in the first place. I will patron legislation to implement additional senior exploitation protections in the 2016 legislative session. This bill will strongly encourage financial institutions to report suspected cases of fraud against seniors; It will also give financial institutions the ability to delay a financial transaction up to 10 days when it suspects fraud or senior exploitation is occurring.

The precedence for this measure comes from Missouri, which recently allowed stock

brokerages suspecting elder fraud to refuse to process a senior's trade request or transaction for up to 10 days. Washington and Delaware already do this and New York is considering a similar bill for banks.

To minimize the risk of banks delaying legitimate transactions, the bill I will propose provides that a "qualified individual" at these institutions would be allowed to call family members, securities regulators or senior-services officials if they believe a request for a financial transaction would result in financial exploitation of a senior. A "qualified individual" is a broker's supervisor, compliance or legal officer. This law would also apply to younger individuals with disabilities.

If this consumer-protection bill passes, it will keep your money out of the hands of criminals and should be significantly more effective than the current law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

alignment currently under construction. The construction cost the community the riding stables and the meadows full of horses, and destroyed the historic alignment of US 1. My understanding is that the Trust plans to eventually build a restaurant on the former stable meadows.

I quit my long-time membership in the National Trust as a result, and I'll never buy anything from Arcadia Farms.

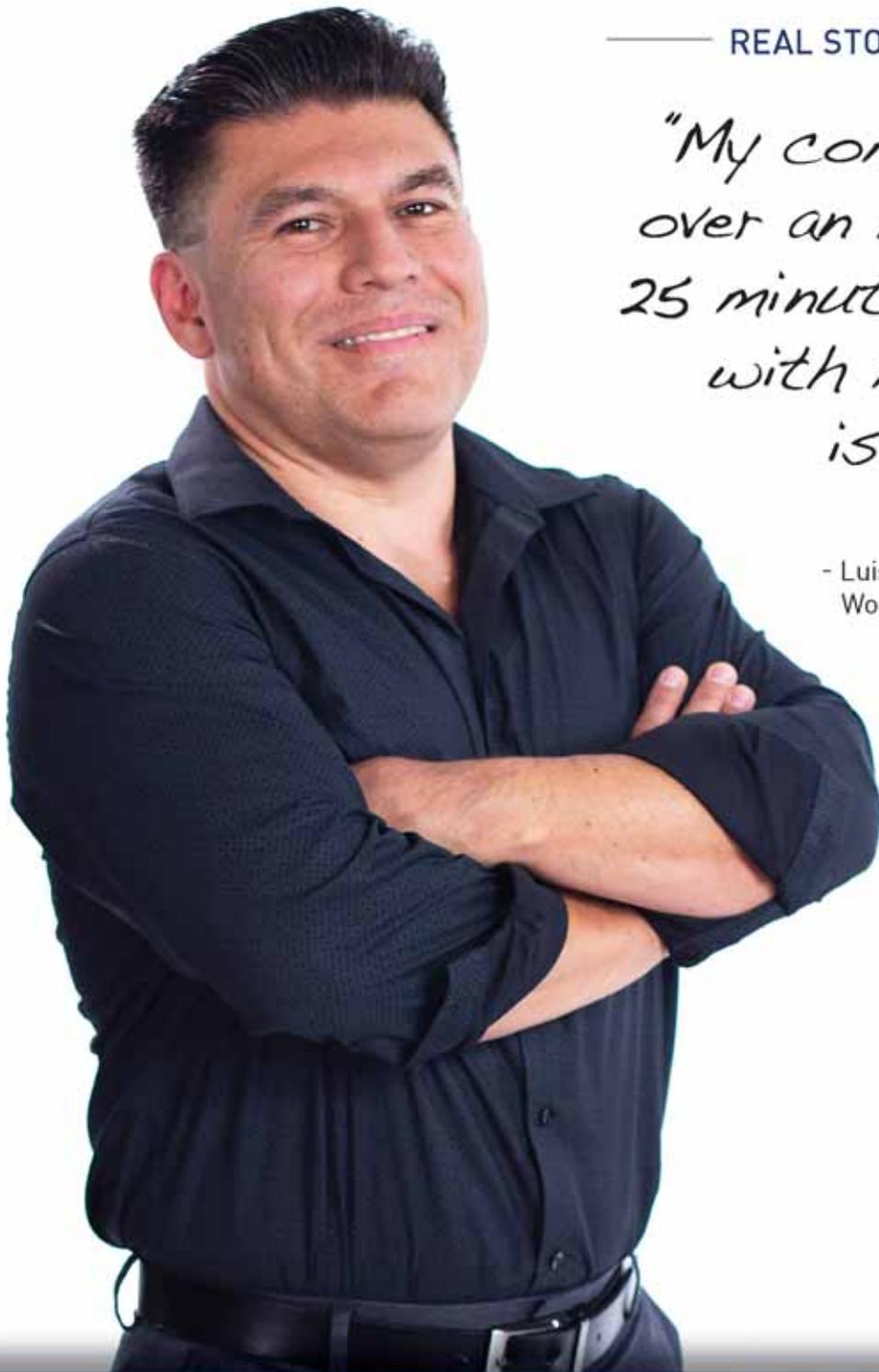
Robert B. McNeil, Jr
Alexandria



Supporting UCM

United Community Ministries (UCM) was a beneficiary of Aldersgate United Methodist Women's 2015 Luncheon and Fashion Show. Pictured presenting a \$2,035 check to UCM Executive Director Nichelle A. Mitchem (far right) in September is Aldersgate UMW President Laura Derby (far left) with Vice President Cindy Harrington. Next year's 2016 Fashion Show Luncheon is scheduled for April 16, 2016.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED



— REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES —

"My commute would take over an hour. Now it takes 25 minutes. I use that time with my family. Family is my priority."

- Luis B.
Woodbridge, VA

Luis from Woodbridge loves how the Express Lanes have helped simplify his life. He takes the Lanes to work and says he never has to worry about sitting in traffic anymore. Now, he gets to spend more time with his family at the beginning and end of each day. Plus, whenever Luis needs to get to a special event or appointment, he doesn't fight traffic and is always on time. Luis also loves that the Lanes are safe and secure, and he knows help is available if he ever runs into trouble.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Luis's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'A Christmas Carol'

Charles Dickens' classic story to play from Dec. 4-19.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theater of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting Charles Dickens' classic, "A Christmas Carol," from Dec. 4-19. The story follows Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian carols, and Tiny Tim, "A Christmas Carol" is a must for the family.

Lawrence O. Grey Jr. plays the role of Ebenezer Scrooge. He said Dickens chose the name Ebenezer, which in scripture means "the stone of help," to describe the help given to Scrooge by the spirits to change his life. He said the surname Scrooge may be from an obscure English verb scrouge, meaning "squeeze" or "press," describing the cold-hearted miser who has pressed the joy out of life and has taken refuge in greed, avarice, and life without emotion and caring.

"Scrooge's story represents to me the ultimate meaning of Christmas," he said. "It is a story of redemption. To a life trapped in darkness that holds only doom and despair comes a message of hope and change and light. Throughout 'A Christmas Carol,' the personality of Ebenezer Scrooge shifts from a man who only cares about himself and his wealth to a man who cares about others."

Nathaniel Burkhead plays the role of Tiny Tim, a sweet, kindhearted and innocent character. "I love how he stays happy and filled with Christmas cheer," he said. "He is the kind of person that will always see the glass as 'half full,' no matter what happens."

He said a challenge in working on this piece was learning to speak in a British accent and learning to walk with a limp, which resulted in a sprained ankle. Lastly, he said there was the challenge of finding the right-sized crutch.

Colin Davies plays the role of Mr. Whitham, also known as one of the Gentlemen. He said the narrator is "essentially the voice of Dickens, responsible for introducing scenes and setting the context and commenting on the action, as a kind of Greek chorus." He adds: "The Gentleman I play is humorous, slightly pompous and good-natured."

He said what was unusual about the role of the Narrator is that he does not actually interact with any of the other characters, apart from the other Narrator (who is played by Dan Lavanga). "He speaks to the audience, but not to the other people on stage, which means he does not develop his relationship with others and broadens his character," he said. "The challenge is to explain what is happening, or about to happen, without detracting from the action."



Actors in rehearsal for The Little Theatre of Alexandria's production of "A Christmas Carol," which will run Dec. 4-19.

He adds: "I grew up in England, and so was steeped in Dickens, and I admire the way he can write very touchingly without becoming over-sentimentalized. We are living in difficult and unpredictable times, and Dickens' story seems more relevant than ever. Like many people, I have recently been saddened by the lack of sympathy expressed by some towards those in far worse conditions than ourselves, and 'A Christmas Carol' expresses very effectively the message of Christian kindness and generosity towards others."

Erik Rieloff plays the role of Fred, the nephew of Ebenezer Scrooge and only surviving family member. "Fred is very resolute in his ways and is happy no matter how his uncle treats him or feels about his presence," he said. "I love my uncle no matter what and I am intent on spreading Christmas cheer to him no matter what. Fred is the life of the party and everywhere he goes people love him for his humility and giving nature."

He said his biggest obstacle is that he's not used to playing someone who is so cheerful and constantly happy — no matter what the circumstances may be. "It is a challenge each time our wonderful director tells me to be more cheery, lol, but I guess you can just credit that to my NYC roots," he said.

Rieloff also plays the Ghost of Christmas Future, the most feared and dark character in the play. "He does not speak at all but has a very menacing presence and is symbolic of the most dreadful of outcomes in Scrooge's life should he not take heed of the lessons learned from the previous en-

counters with other spirits," he said.

Daniel J. Calderon plays the role of Jacob Marley, who was just as Scrooge was in the beginning of the play — a shrewd, unfeeling man of business who weighs any situation by the amount of monetary profit he might gain from it. "It isn't until he dies that he realizes how much of a waste that is, and so he has returned to the one friend, and protege, he had in the world — Ebenezer Scrooge — to save him from the same fate in the afterlife," he said.

The challenge for him was the accent. "I've done accents throughout my time on stage, but finding the right one and sticking with it was hard," he said. "Fortunately, I had a patient director and some fellow cast members who could help me find my way."

He said there are no insignificant players in the show; everyone is important to everyone else. "Everyone Scrooge encounters is key to his salvation and I hope the audience sees the correlation in their own lives," he said. "It's not just about being 'nice' on Christmas. It's a story of how to keep that kind of spirit actively working through each of us every day of our lives because — as Jacob Marley found out — it is too late once we are no longer in this world."

Katya Zaitsev plays the role of the little girl Cratchit, a very happy girl who loves her family and who likes to help people. She said a challenge for her is that "sometimes it can be hard to focus on two things at once; like saying a line and getting a basket to decorate the Christmas tree," she said.

Show producer and LTA president Lloyd Bittinger said he wanted to produce because



when the Board of Governors was selecting a director, Rachael Hubbard was asked to direct. "She and I discussed and made a deal that if she would direct, I would produce. She's wonderful to work with and truly loves this story. She also gets the most out of the actors and ends up with a terrific production," he said.

He added: "I like to work in the various areas of the theatre and also do a lot of work on the lighting team, hanging and focusing lights, and running the light board. My goal as producer is to pull all of the elements together to make this the best holiday production the Little Theatre has ever done."

He said he wanted to take on the singular role as producer because he had co-produced the production before and felt like he would be able to do a good job having had that experience.

Between the director, the musical director and himself, they are working to make this year's production the most audience-pleasing "A Christmas Carol" ever. "We want to have the deep and dark scenes because they're important to telling the story, but we are adding some songs and dancing to lighten up the production," he said. "We want the audience to leave the theatre smiling and being happy and singing a song. This is our gift to the community for a happy holiday season."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., is staging "A Christmas Carol" from Dec. 4-19. The show runs Thursdays-Fridays at 8 p.m.; with Saturday and Sunday matinees each at 3 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Call 703-683-0496 or visit thelittletheatre.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Mike McConnell: "Flip Side."

Through Dec. 13, during gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Mike McConnell was a commercial illustrator who recently dedicated himself to fine art. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Green Spring Gardens Art Show.

Through Dec. 27, gallery hours at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Carol Higgs works in batik, oil, watercolor, and collage. Painter Joan Wolfe works with acrylic and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein use watercolors. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

"A Broadway Christmas Carol."

Through Dec. 27, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Created by Kathy Feininger and directed by Michael Sharp, this MetroStage holiday tradition is a cross between the classic Dickens' tale and Broadway parodies. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.metrostage.org.

Tag on 3rd: Gallery 311 Opening Exhibit.

Through Dec. 31, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Associates' Gallery is re-opening in a renovated space on the Torpedo Factory's third floor, studio 311. The exhibit will honor Robert Rosselle, a sculptor who died in July. He occupied Studio 311 for many years, and two of his sculptures will take center stage in the group's new show.

Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance.

Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffeeepub.com for more.

"Nature's Journey."

Through Jan. 2, at American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Darlene Kaplan will exhibit more than 60 of her original oriental brush paintings in a one-person art exhibition. Free. Visit www.darlenekaplan.com for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery:

"Winter Wonderland." Through Jan. 3, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center—Studio 18, 105 N. Union St. Artists working in textile focus on "sparkle and shine, clean and white." Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Christmas at Mount Vernon.

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visit George Washington's estate and see Aladdin the camel on the grounds, in honor of the camel that Washington paid to visit Mount Vernon in 1787. Stroll through Mount Vernon's modern buildings and view sparkling holiday decorations, featuring 12 dazzling Christmas trees, and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Also visit the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion. All is included in the general admission price which is \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

Addison Weeks Trunk Show. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Ivy Lane Living, 309a Cameron St. Find Addison Weeks items at a 20 percent discount. Free. Visit www.ivylaneliving.com.

Alexandria Community

"Nutcracker." Various times at West Potomac High School, Spring Bank Auditorium, 6400 Quander Road. West Potomac Academy and Alexandria Community Dance are teaming up to present their seventh annual performance of "The Nutcracker," the traditional holiday story. Tickets are \$10-20. Visit www.alexandrianutcracker.com for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 3-5

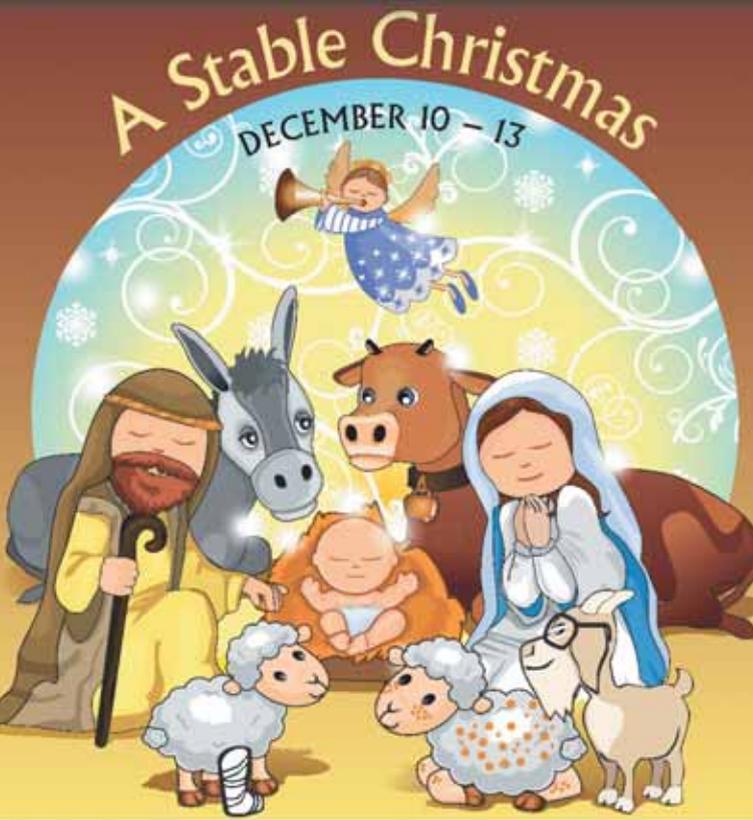
Sleepy Thompson Basketball Tournament. Various times at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. Varsity teams from eight schools will compete for three days of match-ups. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for students per day. Visit www.sleepythompson.com for more.

"The Nutcracker." 7 p.m. on Friday and Thursday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday at the Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria and Lorton, presents a classic performance of Clara and her Nutcracker in a journey from her home through the Land of Snow and into the Land of Sweets. Tickets are \$27 for adults and \$21 for seniors and students. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18



The Living Christmas Tree
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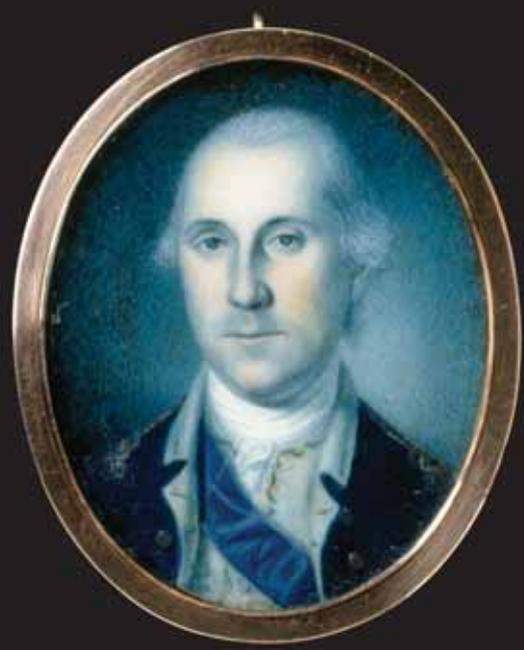
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Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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ENTERTAINMENT

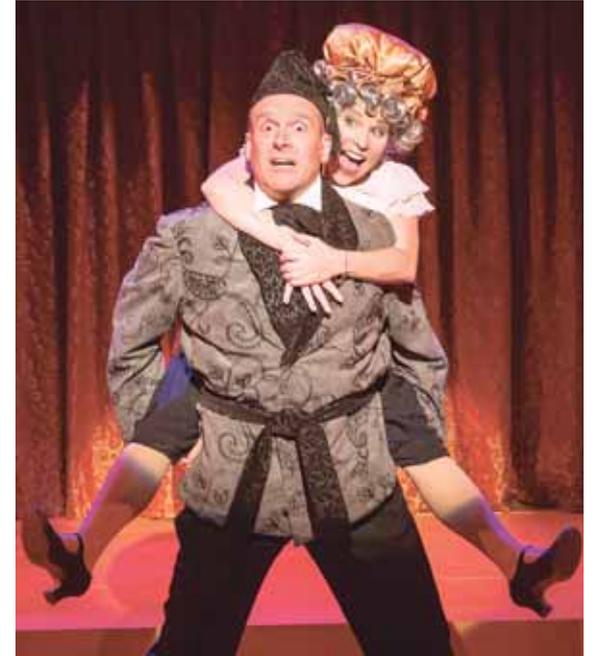
A Holiday Tradition Returns to MetroStage for 6th Season

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, METROSTAGE

Six years ago MetroStage decided that we needed to establish a holiday tradition. "A Christmas Carol," a mainstay at Ford's Theatre, and "The Nutcracker" with the Joffrey, American Ballet Theatre and the Washington Ballet were already booked. And now "Black Nativity" makes a regular appearance at Theatre Alliance. Looking back "A Broadway Christmas Carol" was almost an inevitable choice. It was originally developed at Round House Theatre in Silver Spring and ran for seven sold-out seasons until 2004. A small cast, a musical featuring Broadway show tunes, a classic story with a twist, and ultimately a very funny play with a heart and a soul and a lot of silliness and madcap antics seemed to be the perfect way for this theatre to usher in the holidays. Our productions of "Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)" had been a resounding success on our stage, and it too used familiar Broadway show tunes to spoof the most famous of Broadway composers and had been a huge hit with our audiences.

In its sixth season at MetroStage "A Broadway Christmas Carol" is definitely a certifiable, indisputable tradition and hit show. Patrons return every year introducing more friends and family to this alternative holiday entertainment. Adults love identifying the 35 Broadway shows represented in the score with a some new material included each season (there is a cheat sheet in the lobby for after the show in case you couldn't identify a song or two) and children can enjoy it on a completely different level, given the fast-paced rollicking fun and lightning fast costume/character changes. Familiarity with the material brings added delight as evidenced from our patrons who return every year in anticipation of the same silliness, the remarkably talented cast (and musician), and a unique theatre experience that ushers in the holiday season with charm, exuberance and sharply clever lyrics.

This is a holiday entertainment that is wickedly funny and captures the heightened spirit of the holidays while at the same time telling a story with a very serious message of love, kindness, and generosity among family and friends, and an old miser's ultimate redemption. And it is told (and sung) by



PHOTOS BY CHRIS BANKS



some of the best vocal talent in the area and played by one of the best pianists in the business. The combination of comedy and storytelling is performed by exceptionally talented actors with incredible vocal ranges, comic timing, and exceptional vocal prowess and physical dexterity. A little something new is added to the script every year, and this year is no exception.

If you know one Broadway tune or hundreds, your spirits will soar, and you will be primed and ready to take on the holidays after spending a few hours at MetroStage with the Crachits, Fezziwigs, Belle, Fred, Marley, and the rest of the Dickens' gang.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

DEC. 3-5, DEC. 7-8

"Snow Day." 10:30 a.m. on Dec. 3, 4, 7, and 8; 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Dec. 5 at The Lab Theatre at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon will present "Snow Day" about a young girl's first snow. This play is nonverbal and will feature live music. Tickets are \$9. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Teen Night. 7-10 p.m. at William Ramsay Recreation Center, 5650 Sanger Ave. Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy's Keepit360

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 4-6

Artfête. Various times at The Art League's Madison Annex, 305 Madison St. The Art League hosts an annual art celebration and open house featuring exhibits, live music, artist demonstrations, and refreshments, as well as a weekend-long ceramics and jewelry sale of handmade wares by Art League students and associates. Free. Visit

Club and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria's Above the Influence Club are hosting a night of games, food and more. Free. Text "Titan" to 30644, or email Kim.Hurley@alexandriava.gov to RSVP.

www.theartleague.org.

Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend & Parade. Various times throughout Old Town. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. The weekend celebrates Alexandria's heritage with a parade, a taste of Scotland event, holiday marketplace and more. Visit www.campaigncenter.org/scottishwalkweekend.

DEC. 4-19

"A Christmas Carol." 8 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. The Little Theatre

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ENTERTAINMENT

of Alexandria performs the classic Victorian tale of Ebenezer Scrooge who travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

DEC. 4-20

Del Ray Artisans Holiday Market. Various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray's annual Holiday Market offers handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists (including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, fiber, paper crafts and glass). Find different artists each weekend. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/holidaymarket.

DEC. 4-5, DEC. 20

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. 5-8 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Take character-guided tours, listen to caroling, watch 18th-century dancing, and see a reproduction of Martha Washington's "Great Cake" recipe. "Mrs. Washington" and Aladdin the Christmas camel will also be on site. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/christmas for more.

DEC. 4-23

Alexandria's Holiday Market. Various Times at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Visitors can enjoy live entertainment, traditional European food and sweets, wine and beer, while shopping for arts and crafts. Free. Visit www.alexandriaholidaymarket.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Pottery Show and Benefit. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Ave. More than 30 students, faculty and staff will donate ceramic pieces to raise money for the ceramics department. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

Photos with Santa. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at @home Real Estate, 111 S. Alfred St. Families are invited for photos with Santa and hot cocoa. Free. Visit www.athomedcmetro.com for more.

Book Sale and "New Look" Open House. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Barrett Branch of the Alexandria Library, 717 Queen St. Hundreds of gently used books, cds, and dvds will be available for purchase. All ages can make a holiday card for a retired veteran (supplies provided) and listen to the G.W. Middle School Choir. Free. Call 703-746-1713 for more.

A Soldiers' Christmas at Carlyle House. 1-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. The "Soldiers' Christmas" event will feature reenactors from the First Virginia Regiment, who will highlight colonial life in Alexandria during the holidays at the time of the American Revolution. Free, \$1 suggested donations. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

Ornament Decorating Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St. Decorate and take home artifact-shaped ornaments. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Holiday Festival: "Take a Walk in the Woods." 4-9 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. More than 140 artists will keep their studios open late for patrons to shop. The Alexandria Choral Society and the Braddock

Brass Quintet will perform. Santa Claus will visit. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

16th Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights. 5:30 p.m. at Alexandria's waterfront at the foot of Cameron Street near the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Dozens of illuminated boats cruise the Potomac River at the historic waterfront, led by Alexandria's fireboat The Vigilant and Washington, D.C.'s fireboat John Glenn. DC media personality Tommy McFly of 94.7 Fresh FM will be the parade announcer. At the marina before and after the parade, visit the "Holiday Festival: Take a Walk in the Woods" at the Torpedo Factory Art Center to find live music and holiday shopping at open studios. Free. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/holidays.

Holiday on the Avenue. 6 p.m. at Del Ray Farmers Market. Take a stroll down Mount Vernon Avenue and see the "luminarias." Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

John Gorka. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Folk musician John Gorka is touring in support of his 12th studio album "Bright Side of Down." Tickets are \$35, \$10 for students. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-6

Christmas Tree Sale. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Find 4-13 foot fresh-cut Fir trees. Trees priced \$35-175. Call 304-703-1350.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6

Breakfast With Santa. 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Breakfast with Santa features the Metropolitan School of the Arts, of Alexandria and Lorton, Frosty Follies show. Watch a Broadway-style revue, get pictures with the cast, and eat brunch with Santa. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$35 for ages 9 and younger. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Del Ray Studio and Sale Show. 12-6 p.m. at Studio of Del Ray Arts, 8 East Howell Ave. Find carved/turned wood creations, jewelry, pottery, fiberwork, paintings, and more. Free. Email slallypottery@gmail.com for more.

Winter Warm Ladies Tea. 3-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18th-century desserts. Try John Gadsby's special blend of tea or American Heritage Chocolate. Preceded by a free tour. Tickets are \$35. Call 703-746-4242.

Lessons and Carols. 4:30 p.m. at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. The public is invited to the annual Lessons and Carols with the Awarding of the Dean's Cross for Servant Leadership in Church and Society. Free. Visit www.vts.edu/chapel.

Menorah Lighting. 5 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax St. Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille will light a six-foot menorah. Free. Visit www.chabadaa.org for more.

Christmas Reading Program. 7 p.m. at Heritage Hall—Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Listen to a reading of Dylan Thomas' "A Child's Christmas in Wales." Free. Email Paul Bea at pbea@phbpa.com for more.

MONDAY/DEC. 7

Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. class and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dancing at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ballroom dance professional Gary Stephans teaches the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba. Tickets are \$15.

Contact garystephans@me.com or 703-505-5998.

TUESDAY/DEC. 8

Chanukah On Ice. 6-8:30 p.m. at Pentagon Row Ice Skating, 1201 S. Joyce St. Children and adults may ice skate to contemporary Jewish music and classic Chanukah songs. It will continue with a lighting ceremony, greetings from local dignitaries, delicious Kosher food, Chanukah songs and a free raffle. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$13 at the door, price includes skate rental. Visit www.chabadaa.org for more.

Handmade Holiday Card Making. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn card-making techniques. Free. Call 703-746-1754.

Bell's Beer Dinner. 7-10 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union St. Find a special menu paired with beer from Bell's Brewery. Tickets are \$65. Visit www.unionstreetpublichouse.com.

FOURPLAY: Bob James, Nathan East, Chuck Loeb, and Harvey Mason. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Bob James and Nathan East celebrate the release of "The New Cool" with band members. Tickets are \$55. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Parent-Child Music Class. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Accelerando Music is offering a free parent-child music class at the MOMS Club of Alexandria South monthly meeting. MOMS Club of Alexandria South serves at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307. Free. Email Southalexmomms@yahoo.com or visitsouthalexandriamomsclub.webs.com.

"A Christmas Carol." 6:30 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. performance at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Attend a fundraising performance of "A Christmas Carol" complete with a visit from Santa Claus. Proceeds benefit Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us.
"The Historical Impact of Military Chaplains in Shaping the Ethical Climate." 7:30 p.m. at Church of St. Andrew and St. Margaret, 402 E. Monroe St. The Rev. John Weatherly will explore the roles of armed forces chaplains before, during and after the Civil War, including the foundation of the Chaplain Corps. Free. Call 703-963-9616 for more.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Jane Franklin Holiday Celebration GiftFest Performance. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Watch a performance of "Incidence." Find a gift wrap challenge, raffles, food, and "mystery gifts." Free. Visit www.janefranklin.com for more.

"Art Uniting People" Reception. 6:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. "Art Uniting People – A Celebration of Recovery, Creativity and Mental Health," is an art exhibition presented every year to showcase the artwork by local individuals. Free. Visit www.artunitingpeople.wix.com/artunitingpeople.

All That Glows. 7 p.m. at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. The Woodlawn Council invites the public to a holiday open house with a "reimagined" 19th century menu. Tickets are \$200. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/all-that

ENTERTAINMENT

glows-tickets-19335619358.

Holiday Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Ave. The NOVA Community Chorus and Alexandria Band and Jazz Ensemble perform. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10-13

“A Stable Christmas.” Various times at First Baptist Church Alexandria, 2932 King St. Join the cast, chorus, and orchestra of First Baptist Church of Alexandria’s 2015 production of the Living Christmas Tree, “A Stable Christmas.” The production features traditional and contemporary holiday music, a 25-foot Christmas tree filled with 110+ singers and 50,000+ synchronized lights and the story of Jim and Dot, as they begin their lives together. Tickets are \$7 each plus a \$1 service charge per transaction. Visit www.fbcalexandria.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Breakfast with Santa. 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Eat a pancake breakfast, make crafts, and play games. \$5 per person, families of 5 or more pay a flat \$25 family rate. Visit www.facebook.com/MVHSClassof2019.

Brunch with Santa. 9-11:30 a.m. at The Pub by Wegmans, 7905 Hilltop Village Center Drive. Families are invited to a breakfast with a special brunch menu and a visit from Santa. Free to attend. Call 571-527-2465 to make a reservation.

Lecture. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union St., #327. Learn the history and impact of Jonathan Roberts, a Civil

War Quaker Scout and Sheriff. Free. Call 703-746-4399 for more.

Civil War Christmas in Camp at Fort Ward. 12-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Visitors meet a Civil War-era Santa at this holiday event exploring how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. The program features living-history interpreters, a Victorian Christmas tree, refreshments, readings of The Night Before Christmas and a patriotic Santa Claus inspired by a Thomas Nast illustration for Harper’s Weekly newspaper. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children. Call 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org.

Christmas Candlelight Service. 5:45-8 p.m. at Alexandria Presbyterian Church, 2405 Russell Road. This service of lessons and carols will feature APC choirs, brass quintet and carol singing. Reception to follow. Free. Visit www.alexandriapres.org for more.

Chanukah Concert. 7 p.m. at Congregation Etz Hayim, 2920 Arlington Blvd., Arlington. Ein Lanu Z’mán is the official band of Agudas Achim Congregation, located in Alexandria. Ein Lanu Z’mán’s music comes from the Jewish tradition, with a repertoire that features folk, classical, and rock influences, among others. Tickets are \$15 in advance for adults, \$18 at the door, \$10 for students, and \$5 for preschool-aged children. Visit www.focusmusic.org for more.

“A Christmas Carol.” 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. NYC actor / playwright, Greg Oliver Bodine performs “A Christmas Carol.” This one-man play is based on the condensed version Dickens himself used on his historic reading tours of

the United States. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Collective Delusion 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow’s Tavern, 710 King St. Local band plays rock songs from 1970s to present. Free. Visit www.CollectiveDelusion.net.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 12-13

Christmas Tree Sale. 12-4:30 p.m. at 2911 Cameron Mills Road. Find 4-13 foot fresh-cut fir trees. Trees priced \$35-175. Call 304-703-1350.

Mount Vernon Mourns Tours. 5-8 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. In honor of the anniversary of George Washington’s death, take a special evening tour through the candlelit Mansion, meet costumed characters, along with history interpreters, who retell firsthand experiences of the events leading up to and following the death of George Washington. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours. 6-9 p.m. on Saturday, 3-6 p.m. on Sunday at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St; Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St; Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St.; and The Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Tour Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, The Lloyd House and Lee-Fendall House. Seasonal libations may be purchased along the tour. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for active military and seniors (65 and older), and \$5 for children (ages 6-17). Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4242.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY

1/6/2016.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/13/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 18

1/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/27/2016.....Community Guide

1/27/2016.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment; Valentine’s Preview

FEBRUARY

2/3/2016.....Valentine’s Dining & Gifts I

2/3/2016.....Wellbeing – National Children’s Dental Health Month

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.



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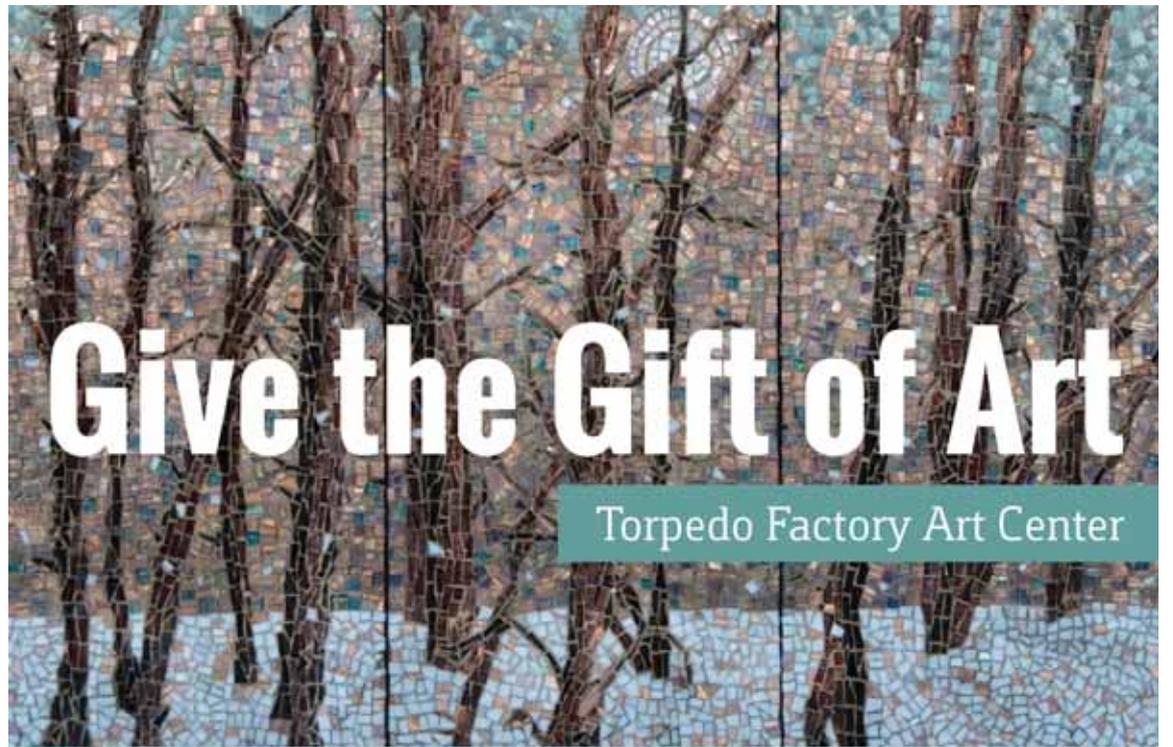
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Historic Discovery

18th Century warehouse unearths more questions than answers.

BY VERNON MILES
THE GAZETTE

Once thought lost to demolition and fire, pieces of a mid-18th century warehouse on Alexandria's waterfront have been reclaimed. The discovery at the construction site of Carr's Indigo Hotel came as a surprise to city historians who had assumed the warehouse was demolished after it was built on top of in the 1770s. The discoveries at the site include a largely intact frame foundation, as well as a beam from the pier, pieces of barrels, and a mammal skull. The warehouse, the earliest historic structure in Alexandria to be archaeologically excavated, was built in 1755 by John Carlyle, six years after Alexandria was founded. Joanna Gohmann from the Office of Historic Alexandria said the building was likely used to store grain and other brewery supplies.

"It influences the interpretation of the waterfront area of the city, which is under development," said Lance Mallamo, director of the Office of Historic Alexandria. "We had hoped to find evidence of this structure because we knew it was at this location. What surprised us was how much of it remained from 1755, eight feet under the mud. We were very pleased to find it there."

According to Gohmann, finding intact 18th century wood is virtually unheard of, especially in such a quantity. The wood typically rots or decays over time. But Gohmann said sand and mud from the Potomac had kept an airtight seal around the wood beams. The staff at the Alexandria archeology museum needed to continually spray



Joanna Gohmann with relics from the 1755 warehouse.

the beams with water to keep them from deteriorating. One of the most intriguing questions brought up by the wood's discovery is its massive size. According to Gohmann, some of the beams were 30 feet long and two feet in diameter.

"This tells us there were trees at least that big in the area," said Gohmann. "Dating will

tell us when they were cut and from where." Mallamo theorized that its size and its survival are not unrelated. "It was probably first growth forest," said Mallamo, "some of the original wood in Alexandria that was leveled to build it. That wood tended to harden rather than decay with age."

Currently, samples of the wood have been

sent to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab for analysis. The wood had to be sawed down to 12-foot pieces, the largest the lab could accommodate. The beams' analysis will take three years, which Mallamo said could help show some of the different building techniques used in early Alexandria.



Full foundation of the 1755 warehouse.

'Fairfax County's Founding Fathers' Revisited at History Conference

BY LYNNE GARVEY-HODGE
FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION

The 11th annual Fairfax County History Conference was held Saturday, Nov. 7 at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax, titled "Fairfax County's Founding Fathers - Part I."

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova kicked off the conference that was attended by more than 100 guests and filmed by local Cable Channel 16. Guests included authors and exhibitors: the Burke Historical Society, the BRCWRT, the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Chuck Mauro, Chuck Mills, Carole Herrick and many, many others.

Chairman Bulova presented Greg P. Wilson with the Ross Netherton Award for his fine research on "Jonathan Roberts - The Civil War's Quaker Scout and Sheriff."

An overview on the Fairfax Families and George Washington was provided by the Jenee Lindner. Steve Bashore talked about Mount Vernon's farm and distillery. He had to leave quickly return to Mount Vernon in order to oversee this season's preparation of Rye Whiskey, still in process today.

President George Washington was able to join as well. Guest historian Helen Anderson shared a minuet with the general. As one guest stated, "Virtuoso performances by Dean Malissa (The General George Washington) and Marion Dobbins."

General Washington talked about "E pluribus unum" - a sentiment truly much noteworthy in this day and time. Marion Dobbins re-enacted an 18th-century freed African American woman and in the telling gave us serious insights to her own seventh-generation Fairfax County heritage and the cold, lonesome world of a former slave.

Katrina Krempasky provided an excellent overview of the journey of the wills of George and Martha Washington before being carefully returned to Fairfax County.

A Trivia Quiz throughout the day kept everyone on their toes and a special five-year return from veteran historian Nadine Mironchuk from Chelsea, Mass. was honored. All attendees received a copy of "In the Path of History" authored by Ross and Nan Netherton and Ruth Rose.

A new addition was the "Drop & Swap" book table which had, at its height, 30 books and was whittled down to three by the



Fairfax County History Commission members (from left) Phyllis Walker Ford, Mary Lipsey Carole Herrick (Chairman of the FCHC Commission), Lynne Garvey-Hodge (Chairperson of the Conference and Awards Committees, FCHC Commission), Gen. George Washington (aka Dean Malissa), Sallie Lyons, Jenee Lindner and Mike Irwin.

conference's end.

The conference for 2016 is tentatively set for Nov. 12, 2016 at the Sherwood Com-

munity Center in Fairfax. "Fairfax County's Founding Fathers Part II" will a focus on George Mason.

BUSINESS



Fall Networking

Alternative Paths Training School hosted the Fall Networking event for Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce in September at its Alexandria Campus. Chamber members tour the new facilities at APTS with Kellie Johnson, director of educational services, and Wren Griffith, director of IT and risk management.

Al Tagi, Alternative Paths Training School co-founder and president, helps Holly Dougherty, Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce executive director, draw business cards for door prizes.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Gazette publisher Jerry Vernon and wife Anne, a nurse at Alternative Paths Training School, work with Parsley who is in training to be a seeing eye dog.

BUSINESS NOTES

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

Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living has been selected as a "Caring Star" of 2016, as part of an annual nationwide program honoring service excellence based on consumer ratings and reviews posted on Caring.com, a senior care website.

In a Medicare.gov survey, **Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehab Center** has received 20 out of a possible 20 stars in the nursing homes compare ratings on Medicare.gov the official U.S.

Government site for Medicare.

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital has received a 2015 Guardian of Excellence Award for clinical quality by Press Ganey Associates, Inc. The Guardian of Excellence Award recognizes healthcare organizations that have consistently achieved 95th percentile or above performance in key clinical and patient satisfaction areas.

Visual communications provider **FASTSIGNS** of Alexandria donated new copies of "Signs Sell: Harnessing the Power of Interior Advertising" to Sherwood Hall Library.

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West Potomac Boys' Basketball Opens with Win

Williams Diggins leads Wolverines with 23 points.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac boys' basketball coach David Houston III called a timeout midway through the first quarter of Tuesday's season opener at Hayfield after the Hawks had scored 15 straight points and taken an 11-point lead.

"Take deep breaths," Houston said he told the Wolverines. "We're getting good shots; we're just bricking every shot."

Whether it was deep breaths, improved shooting or strong defense, it didn't take long for the Wolverines to turn things around.

West Potomac outscored Hayfield 31-10 for the remainder of the first half, including 19-4 in the second quarter, and the Wolverines defeated the Hawks 69-49 at Hayfield Secondary School.

Shortly after the timeout, West Potomac junior guard Brandan Lisenby knocked down a 3-pointer. A 3-pointer by junior guard Khalil Williams Diggins cut the West Potomac deficit to 17-10. In the final minute of the opening quarter, senior forward Jamie Sara threw down a two-handed dunk, capping a 9-2 West Potomac run.

"[Williams Diggins] threw it off the glass, I was ready to get it and put it in," Sara said. "We've been working on that, too."

Hayfield led 21-16 at the end of the first quarter, but West Potomac was well on its way to a convincing come-from-behind victory.

The Wolverines limited the Hawks to four points and just one field goal during the second quarter and outscored Hayfield 34-

24 in the second half. The Hawks settled for perimeter shots most of the evening, which stopped consistently dropping after Hayfield made a trio of 3-pointers during their 15-point first-quarter run.

"We changed our [defensive] game plan up a little bit just based on a few things that we saw, adjusted a little bit out there," Houston said. "We were trying to speed them up a little bit and we realized that slowing them down was a little bit better of a strategy. I think we held them to four points in the second quarter, which is when we made that move."

While West Potomac played well defensively, Williams Diggins excelled at the offensive end, leading all scorers with 23 points. No. 1 knocked down a trio of 3-pointers and shot 6-for-9 from the free-throw line, including 4-for-5 in the second half.

Williams Diggins is also a receiver on the school's football team, which reached the second round of the 6A North region playoffs.

"[Williams Diggins was] our starting [point] guard last year," Houston said. "Him, Da'Jon [Bellfield], Jamie Sara were all starters last year, so I expected them to play well. They played well all summer and spring and we did well. I was just anxious because of football. I didn't know really what they were going to give [tonight], so it didn't shock me that we bricked a bunch of shots early on."



Khalil Williams Diggins led West Potomac with 23 points during the Wolverines' season-opening 69-49 win over Hayfield on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

"First varsity game," Houston said, "thought he played well."

Lisenby and Bellfield, a junior forward, each scored nine points. Sara finished with eight.

Junior guard Langston Gaiter led Hayfield with 16 points. Senior guard Romaine Oakley finished with 10 points and senior guard Aaron Jeter had seven.

Bellfield, listed at 6 feet 4, led West Potomac with 10 rebounds. Sara, also listed at 6-4, had seven. Lisenby (5-11) and 6-foot-4 junior forward Idaresit Ekpuk each had five.

West Potomac finished with an 8-15 record last season and failed to qualify for the regional tournament, closing the year with five straight losses. Houston said he expects more out of this year's team. "I expect us to be really good," Houston said. "I expect us to be one of the teams hanging around at the end — absolutely. That's what we geared up for — we geared up for this year. We had to get our heads beat in last year a few games. Same guys came back this year [with] a different mentality, a little bigger, a little stronger, a little older, more experienced. The expectation is to play well this year."

Freshman guard Daryl Mackey, Jr., playing in his first varsity game, scored 12 points and made three 3-pointers for West Potomac.

West Potomac will travel to face Friendly at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4, part of four consecutive road games to open the season. The Wolverines' first home game is Dec. 15 against West Springfield.

Ready, Set, Register ... Race

MidAtlantic Erg Sprints Competition to be held at T.C. Williams High.

Registration is now open for competitors and volunteers looking to be a part of the 2016 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints, held annually in Alexandria.

On Jan. 30, the Gerry Bertier Gymnasium at T.C. Williams High School will be transformed into a world-class rowing competition for juniors, college, open, adaptive, masters rowers, lightweights, parents, and kids from across the region. The MidAtlantic Erg Sprints is the second largest of its kind in the world and the largest for high school athletes — it has grown to include more than 100 events for juniors, college, open, adaptive, masters, lightweights, as well as a competition for parents and children.

Races held include 2K, 20 & 30-minute, 500M and marathons.

Qualifying finishers of the day have the opportunity to compete in the 2016 World Indoor Rowing Championship at Boston University's Agganis Arena. Brand new Concept2 Model D/PM5 ergs, fully assembled, "test driven" the day of Erg Sprints, and warrantied, can be purchased at a discount online. Early registration discounts for competing in the 2016 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints are being offered until Jan. 5. Details on this year's event, competition registration, discounted erg reservations, volunteering and vendor information are at <http://ergsprints.com/>.



Registration is open for the 2016 MidAtlantic Erg Sprints.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Merry and Fit

Support groups help members maintain fitness during season of indulgence.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Just after 7:30 on a recent Sunday morning, the steady beat of Cold Play's "Viva la Vida" pulsed through the warm, sleepy air. In the back of the room, lit only by a lavender florescent strobe, were four women perched on stationary exercise bikes. At the command of the instructor, they stood up on the pedals, leaned in to the space in front of them and started to climb a virtual hill.

"If these classes and our workouts weren't fun it'd be hard to get motivated, especially this early in the morning," said Jennifer Henry, one of the women.

The women, all friends, are taking an early morning spin class in an effort to achieve a common goal: to stay in shape and fend off weight gain during the holidays. They've formed what they refer to as a holiday fitness team. During the days between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, the average American will pack on at least an extra pound that they won't shed, according to the New England Journal of Medicine.

So seeking out like-minded people and forming a support group with the goal of staying motivated, disciplined and accountable when it comes to health and fitness is an effective weapon in the war on holiday bulge. The group concept is a fitness trend

that becomes more useful during the season of indulgence, say experts.

"Working out in groups offers camaraderie and accountability," said Paul Raker, YMCA Alexandria, which offered a "Find Your 150" program aimed at encouraging healthy eating and at least 150 minutes of cardio exercise each week. "What you'll find is that people are more likely to show up [for exercise] when they have a friend or small community as opposed to the person who tries to do it on their own."

Henry says her group has created a schedule that, in addition to their Sunday morning spin class, will include a once-weekly power walk at 8 o'clock in the evening, a weekly standing appointment with a trainer and an early morning bike ride. While they say that it is unlikely that each woman will make all of the sessions during the entire holiday season, they hope that having a road map will keep them on track. "If we didn't have any sort of plan, our group would totally fall by the wayside," she said. "We're making it as convenient for ourselves as possible to make sure we stick with it."

Before developing a schedule, there needs to be an acceptance by group members that the season will likely have an impact on one's diet and ability to exercise, said Bethesda, Md.-based Kate Heller, a certified personal trainer and CrossFit trainer.

"Even if you find yourself missing a Zumba class or with less time to spend at

the gym, it's still important to make exercise a priority," she said. "If you are over scheduled and can't get in a full workout, set aside time to at least do something to break a sweat and get your heart rate up."

Heller suggests maintaining a schedule by setting a calendar or smartphone reminder as you would for a doctor's appointment.

Planning early morning workouts, like those of Henry's group, can head off scheduling conflicts.

"No one will have an office holiday party or meeting scheduled for 5 a.m.," said Lauren Blumenthal, an Arlington-based wellness coach.

"Even a short cardio routine that gets your heart rate up and boosts your metabolism can help you feel healthier during the rest of the day."

Meeting a group of friends to plow through a Crossfit workout DVD or having pool of buddies to source when looking for healthy recipes that will hold up against calorie-laden holiday fare is another benefit of group fitness.

"We found that when we offered nutrition seminars and then had a potluck dinner where all of the group members prepared and brought a healthy dish, it was a great way to benefit from shared knowledge," said Raker.

When an evening holiday party is on the calendar and the temptation of heavy chocolate Yule logs and rum-spiked eggnog lurk in the subconscious, meal skipping to conserve calories should not be part of the health plan, says Sarah Leonard, an Oakton-based dietitian.

"You'll be ravenous by the evening and

ready to eat everything in sight," she said. "If you know you'll be in a situation where you're tempted to eat rich and unhealthy food, eat small, vitamin-packed bites throughout the day. Try half of an avo-

cado with a tomato or celery with a teaspoon of peanut butter. These are vitamin-packed and have good fat, so they're filling."

The group should acknowledge that the holiday season will be filled with merriment and temptations to indulge, and it's OK to yield to those desires with caution, says Blumenthal. "The goal of a fitness group shouldn't be to lose 10 pounds before the New Year. That's too restrictive and unrealistic and could backfire," she said. "Focus on not gaining any weight and on maintaining any fitness achievements you've acquired this year, like increased endurance."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH DEC. 4

Accepting Donations. At Christian Relief Services, 8301 Richmond Highway. Christian Relief Services provides more than 2,700 frozen turkeys to its grassroots partners in Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia during the Christmas season. This year, they are asking for support to help ensure children will receive at least one toy from "Santa" this year. Visit www.christianrelief.org.

THROUGH DEC. 11

Citrus Sale Deadline for Orders. The Mount

Vernon Evening Lions Club will be taking orders for oranges and grapefruit. Order deadline is Friday, Dec. 11; delivery on Dec. 19. Call Andrea Corsillo, 703-960-4973.

DEC. 11-JAN. 1

Holiday SoberRide. 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual Holiday SoberRide program will provide free cab rides up to \$30. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Childcare available. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

Mount Vernon District Budget Town Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. Because projected costs for items such as student enrollment growth, state mandated retirement, health insurance costs, and employee salary increases are increasing more than projected revenues, Fairfax County Public School anticipates a significant budget shortfall for the school year 2016-17 (FY 2017). Visit www.fcps.edu/SaveFCPS.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce holds annual breakfast meeting featuring Inova Mount Vernon

Hospital. Cost is \$25. Call 703-360-6925.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Gift-Wrapping Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway; and Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Alice's Kids, a nonprofit that serves hundreds of needy children throughout Fairfax County, will be holding its third annual gift-wrapping fundraiser. \$3 suggested donation. Visit www.aliceskids.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD. PAGE 30

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-Andrew Jackson

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

Title: ITB No. 00000566, Integrated Transportation System Construction Project-Phase II (Re-bid)

ITB Opening Date and Time: January 12, 2016, 3 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-mandatory Pre-bid Conference: December 10, 2015; 10 a.m., prevailing local time at Purchasing Division, 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA 22314.

For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, Contract Specialist III at 703.746.4298.

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

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DC RICHMOND
Passenger Rail Improvement Alternatives Presented

Join the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Dec. 8, 9, or 10, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. for public meetings where you can offer your input on reasonable alternatives to improve intercity passenger rail between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, VA. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate. Contact the Title VI compliance officer at 804-786-4440 or TDD 711. All comments received by Friday, Jan. 8, 2016 will be considered in the alternatives review process. For more information, meeting locations, and comment forms, visit: www.DC2RVArail.com.

DRPT

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-11-07

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Teaching Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-07 Teaching Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 10, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

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

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-11-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Virginia Alternative Assessment Program (VAAP) Teacher Training & Support in the ACPS school district.

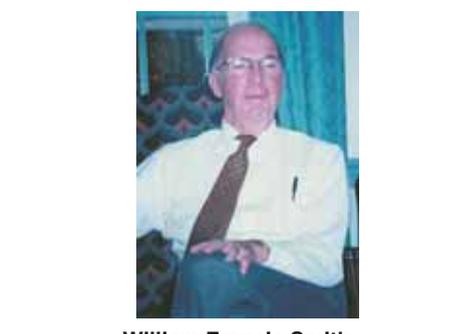
Emailed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-11-05 VAAP Teacher Training & Support will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, December 11, 2015. Proposals received via email shall be transmitted with a date and time stamp. Any email response received where the senders date and time are after this specified time shall not be considered. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

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.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements 21 Announcements



William Francis Smith

Of Alexandria, Va. on November 13, 2015 at age 91. Bill was born October 25th, 1924, the son of Charles Henry Smith and Fanny Ellen Wellford Jones. He attended George Washington and Episcopal High Schools in Alexandria and the University of Virginia. He interrupted his time at The University to attend US Navy Officer Candidate School where he earned the rank of Ensign and participated in WWII in the Pacific. Upon graduation Bill returned to Alexandria where he taught at G.W. High School. He then began his lifelong career in banking, working at Burke & Herbert and Alexandria National. Bill's love of Alexandria led to publishing A Seaport Saga and ultimately to creation of the William F. Smith Special Collection of historic photographs at the Alexandria Library. He served on several boards including the Alexandria Library, Alexandria Library Company, The Salvation Army and the Alexandria Tourist Council. He was a member of the Jamestown Society and various state and local historical groups. Bill was a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal church where he served on the vestry and traced his family to its founding in 1809. He is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Nancy Jane (Leith) Smith, 3 children William Francis Smith, Jr of Delaplane, VA, John Nicholas Leith Smith of Seasmont, ME and Catherine McLean Smith Tyler of Alexandria, 6 grandchildren and his brother, Charles Henry Smith Jr. He was predeceased by his sister, Catherine Wellford (Smith) Spratley. A memorial service will be held December 4th, 2015 at noon at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St., Alexandria, Va., 22314. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church or St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, 1000 St. Stephen's Road, Alexandria, Va. 22314.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Community Ministries seeks volunteers to act as food pantry assistants, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office admin/data entry, community outreach, ESL teachers and co-teachers, and teacher aides. Visit www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html.

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 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 and click on Volunteer Solutions under "Get Involved."

Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit 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 or visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

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

- * The 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/, or email 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 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.

ONGOING

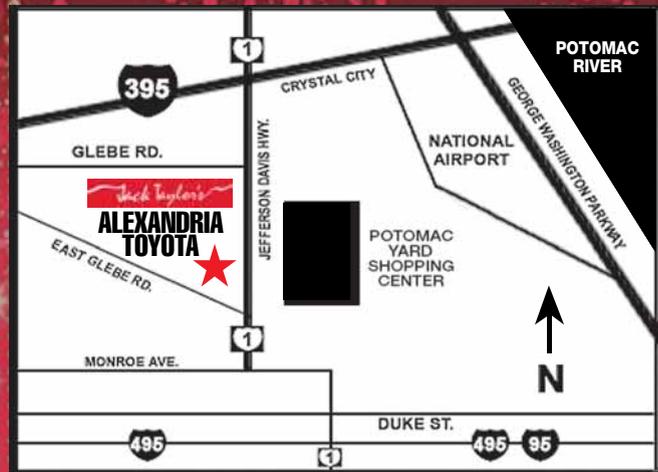
The **Mount Vernon Estate** has released "The Winter Patriots," a video presentation about George Washington crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776. Buy the film for \$4.99 or rent for \$2.99 at mountvernon.org/winterpatriots.

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.

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.

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A Visitor's View of Alexandria

Born and raised in a small town on the Hudson just above New York City, Private Robert Knox Sneden enlisted in the Union army with the 40th New York's topographical engineers and wound up posted to virtually every major scene of fighting during the Civil War, including Brandy Station, where his capture in 1863 by Mosby's irregulars led to a prison stint at Andersonville.

As artistically prolific as he was peripatetic, Sneden sketched and mapped everywhere he went. At his first posting, in Alexandria, he was assigned to Gen. Samuel Heintzelman's III Corps staff at Fort Lyon, now the elevated site of Metro's Huntington Station. From that hilltop aerie, Sneden busily sketched and mapped the city and its immediate surroundings as the defenses of Washington were taking shape.

The map above was drawn in September 1862 and found in Sneden's pocket sketchbook. It depicts an Old Town veined with stockades to

protect its dual railroad hubs and vital roundhouse. A major battery at over-scaled Jones Point covers the Potomac River. Forts Lyon and Ellsworth (on Shuter's Hill) monitor Duke Street, the city's main east-west thoroughfare. To the south, across the stone causeway built in 1810 where Richmond Highway now crosses Hunting Creek, lay *terra incognita*. Intelligence identified the marshland just below Hunting Creek as a den of swamp-dwelling secessionists; Sneden likely avoided it altogether. That may be why he made this particular map's several errors, misidentifying all of the major roads south of Old Town and mistaking Quaker-owned Walnut Tree Farm—later named Wellington Villa and now known as River Farm, just three miles below Alexandria—for George Mason's Gunston Hall, actually located another dozen miles downriver on Mason Neck.

This and other maps and drawings can be found in "Rare & Historic Maps & Views of Mount Vernon, 1760 to 1910," a special exhibit and sale at The Virginia Florist, through January 1, 2016.

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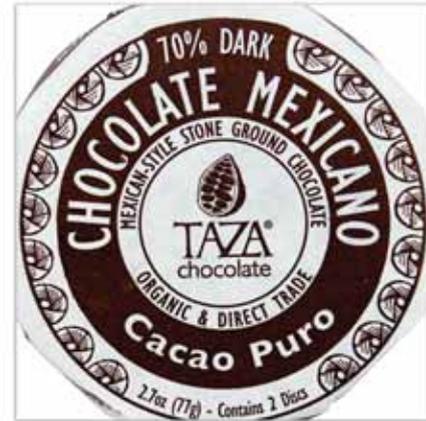
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