

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 10, 2016



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRYANT ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

From left, Fairfax County School Board Student Representative Ben Press, Bryant Principal Tanganyika Millard, FCPS Deputy Superintendent Dr. Steven Lockard, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders and At-Large School Board Members Ryan McElveen and Ilryong Moon stand during the Pledge of Allegiance at the the Bryant Alternative High School winter graduation.

## 56 Graduate from Bryant

Alternative school holds winter term ceremony.

Fifty-six students walked out of the William Cullen Bryant Auditorium on Feb. 17 as high school graduates. Bryant Alternative High School in Alexandria held its winter graduation exercises beginning at 4 p.m. that day.

With students working on a quarterly schedule,

the next graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 16, also at 4 p.m.

Bryant Alternative High School is located at 2709 Popkins Lane in Alexandria. For more information, visit [www.fcps.edu/BryantAltHS](http://www.fcps.edu/BryantAltHS).

— TIM PETERSON



Terry Dade, Fairfax County Public Schools Assistant Superintendent for Region 3, attended the Bryant Alternative High School winter graduation Feb. 17.



Bryant Principal Tanganyika Millard welcomes graduates and families to the Bryant Alternative High School winter graduation, held Feb. 17, 2016.



Bryant Director of Student Services Sylinda Banks confers the class' winter graduation diplomas.



Bryant Principal Millard (left) congratulates Winter 2016 graduate Oscar Moya-Copa.



Runa (left) and Dina Afroza celebrate after receiving their diplomas from Bryant Alternative High School on Feb. 17.

## It Takes a Village

Campaign designed to end homelessness in Fairfax County.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

When speaking with Kathy Albarado, one might not guess that she'd experienced periods of homelessness as an adolescent. Her success, confidence and ability to inspire others are readily apparent. However, her childhood experiences have given her insight into the magnitude of the problem with homelessness in Fairfax County.

"I was in and out of transitional

housing," said Albarado, who is now president and CEO of Helios HR, a Reston-based human capital management consulting and talent acquisition firm. "Transitional housing bridges the gap. It helps [homeless people] get back on their feet."

It is that first-hand knowledge that led Albarado and Helios HR to the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness "Build a Village Campaign," a collaboration of local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups,

SEE IT TAKES, PAGE 5

## Matthew: Guilty Plea for Murders

Agreement means four more life sentences.

Jesse L. Matthew, Jr., now 34, will never leave prison. Matthew was already beginning to serve three consecutive life sentences after he entered an Alford Plea for charges of abduction, sexual assault and attempted murder in Fairfax in 2005.

On March 2, Matthew chose to plead guilty to First Degree Murder and Abduction with Intent to Defile related to the deaths of Hannah Graham and Morgan Harrington, both college students at the time, a release from the Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney said.

Harrington was a 20-year-old sophomore at Virginia Tech who disappeared from a 2009 Metallica concert in Charlottesville. Graham, a Mount Vernon resident, was in her second year at the University of Virginia when she went missing in September 2014.

Matthew was indicted in Graham's case in spring 2015 and for Harrington's defiling and death in the fall.

With Matthew's guilty plea, he takes on an additional four consecutive life sentences and waives the right to release or parole for geriatric or any other condition, as well as any right to appeal.

"This resolution serves the interests of justice by ensuring the defendant will never again pose a threat to public safety," Albemarle County Commonwealth's Attorney Robert N. Tracci said in a statement.

"It is consistent with the wishes of the Graham and Harrington families," Tracci continued, "and provides a measure of legal finality in cases that would have been subject to highly public trials and protracted appellate review. The agreement can be attributed to the outstanding work of law enforcement personnel and volunteers who made Hannah and Morgan's cause their own."

— TIM PETERSON

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**Old Town \$995,000**

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**Old Town \$799,900**

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Spacious master with sitting area & full bath. 2nd full bath between 2 other large bedrooms. Beautiful fenced backyard, sunroom addition, 106 Commerce St.

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**Alexandria/ Carlyle City \$989,000**

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location within the community. Walk to King Street Metro, Whole Foods and an array of Old Town restaurants and shops. 1857 Ballenger Avenue

**Joan Shannon**  
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PHOTO COURTESY OF GERI RODEN

At left is a Havana restaurant owned by the Cuban government, with a tourist window shopping through an open panel. The rear of a working-class apartment building on the right provides stark evidence of the social stratification in Havana.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GLENDA BOOTH

Mount Vernon resident Glenda Booth stands in front of Havana's Parque Central Hotel next to one of Cuba's many old American cars that have been refurbished.

# Local Residents See Cuba Up-Close and Personal

## Witnessing the resourcefulness of the "Cuban Spirit."

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN  
THE GAZETTE

Elect American officials have been making news recently on trips to Cuba, with Gov. Terry McAuliffe and District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser leading the way in January and February. And President Barack Obama will gain more attention with his two-day visit, March 21-22.

But several Mount Vernon residents also have toured Cuba the last two months. While their goals were not trade deals or diplomacy, their observations of America's

former Cold War antagonist are likely more telling than those from carefully shepherded political entourages.

"We wanted to see what Cuba was like before McDonald's got there," said Geri Roden, who enjoyed a four-day visit in late January with her husband Ed and daughter Sylvia. Once there, the extraordinary range of sights and sounds astonished her. "My jaw was open the whole time. I was struck by the colonial-era buildings — the architecture was beautiful, but their dilapidated condition was sad."

The longstanding U.S. trade and financial embargo on Cuba, which the Rodens' guide called el bloqueo (the blockade), presents a bit of a challenge to American tourists. But the Rodens discovered a fairly simple way around the travel restrictions imposed by the U.S. State Department by engaging a tour operator, Just 90 Miles. The company obtained their visas, using the "people-to-people" and "educational" categories of authorized travel, and booked hotels, guides, and airline tickets. On Jan. 28, the Rodens flew from Miami to Havana on the reborn Eastern Airlines, and their flight was technically a charter.

Joe Viar and Bonnie Christ used Avalon Cuban Fishing Centers to arrange a seven-day fly-fishing trip in the shallow flats off Jucaro on the southern coast of central Cuba. Avalon made all of the arrangements, including travel. Viar and Christ flew on Copa Airlines from Dulles on Jan. 21 to Panama City, Panama, and then on to Havana.

Glenda Booth traveled as part of a tour under the people-to-people category packaged by National Geographic. On Jan. 24, she flew from Miami to Havana on an American Airlines charter that operated much like a regularly scheduled flight. The U.S. Department of Transportation is currently processing applications from eight



PHOTO COURTESY OF GERI RODEN

The Roden family, from near left — Sylvia, Cuban guide Raiza, Geri, and Ed — in El Floridita Bar, Ernest Hemingway's favorite.

airlines for normal scheduled air service between the United States and Cuba.

Everyone took substantial amounts of cash because the embargo prohibits credit card transfers. Booth changed her dollars to Cuban Convertible Pesos — "CUCs," pronounced kooks — in Havana. Joe and Bonnie exchanged dollars for Euros in Panama, then CUCs in Havana. The Rodens traded for Euros in Miami, and then CUCs in Cuba. Foreigners are not allowed to use the common Cuban peso.

Viar and Christ spent the first night in the Parque Central Hotel in La Habana Vieja (Old Havana). "It was a lovely place, a five-star hotel," Christ said. The next morning, the hotel's concierge booked a taxi for them, one with an experienced, English-speaking guide/driver. "It was a new vehicle, not one of those old 1950s American cars," she said. "I guessed that 80 percent of the cars in

Havana were those old Chevys and Fords."

They then rode a bus with six fishing friends to Jucaro, where they stayed on a "live-aboard" boat, the Avalon I. Every day, Viar and Christ motored about the coastal bays and inlets, transferring to small, shallow-draft boats to fish for tarpon, bonefish, snapper, and grouper. They returned home on Jan. 30.

Booth's tour group spent the first three days in Havana, also in the Parque Central. True to the nature of their travel category, they talked with the Cuban people wherever their bus took them. Booth also was struck by the deterioration of so many buildings. "Another member of my tour group remarked about the 'beauty of decay.'"

Booth said she was awed by the inventiveness of the Cuban people. "They are so short of resources, they have to make do somehow. Their spirit of persistence is quite strong, and keeping those old cars running is a great example. One Cuban explained the process of making do: 'We 'Cubanize' everything.'"

Both the Rodens and Booth's group most often ate lunch and dinner at a paladar (palate or taste), a privately-run restaurant. The Cuban government partners with foreign investors to operate more upscale restaurants. Those places reflect the chasm between foodstuffs available to government officials and employees, and what the people have to make do with. The Rodens' guide said the elite enjoy fresh milk, but regular citizens get rationed powdered milk.

"I saw very little fresh food," Geri Roden said, "and our guide told us that most food for the common folk is imported from either China or Mexico." Viar and Christ remarked about the good food aboard the Avalon, and especially the fresh fish caught daily.

Booth's tour group left Havana by bus on SEE LOCAL RESIDENTS, PAGE 6



PHOTO COURTESY BONNIE CHRIST

Bonnie Christ and Joe Viar with their fishing guide, Jency Benitas, near Jucaro, Cuba.



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**Alexandria/Braddock Cove \$799,000**  
**2202 Braddock Ct.** Spacious & updated 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial with over 2,700 sq. ft. of living space. Brand new kitchen, family room with fireplace, 4 upper level bedrooms including the Master suite. Lower level with full bath, huge rec room and lots of storage. Located on quiet cul-de-sac across from Ft. Ward Park.  
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**Alexandria/Ivy Hill**  
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**400 Madison St. #505.** In popular Alexandria House, two stoplights to D.C., this 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo with a 31-ft. balcony for grilling and outdoor living, is an amazing value. 6 blocks to the heart of Old Town and to the Metro. Steps to fine dining, parks and Potomac River bike trails. 24/7 concierge, garage parking, extra storage are just a few of the amenities.  
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**Alexandria/Parkfairfax \$348,500**  
**1637 Mount Eagle.** Wonderful 2 BR/2 BA Washington Model. Renovated kitchen w/SS appliances, ceramic tile floor, & custom backsplash. Also includes: updated vinyl windows, gleaming parquet floors throughout, & private fieldstone patio. Minutes from the pedestrian walkway to Shirlington, community amenities, Old Town, & commuting routes to D.C.  
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# It Takes a Village

FROM PAGE 1

non-profit organizations and individuals dedicated to raising awareness and funds to benefit the county's homeless community.

"As my husband says, 'the fall is not that far.' Some people are one paycheck or one illness away from being homeless and we've got the resources in this county to change that," said Albarado. "Fairfax County is one of the most affluent counties in the country. Even if we have one homeless person, it's one too many."

One hundred percent of the funds raised for the Build a Village Campaign will be directed to help end veteran homelessness and house homeless individuals being served through the county's Hypothermia Prevention Program, which provides shelter during freezing temperatures. The hypothermia shelters operate from November through March and have a policy of not turning away anyone in need during freezing temperatures.

"We have been out trying to identify veterans as quickly as possible and house them within 90 days from when we identify them," said Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "The money we raise will provide case management, housing assistance and medical or dental resources."

The campaign was launched in December 2015 and Klein says they hope to reach their goal of \$100,000 by the end of March. "We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless," said Klein. "This campaign will help us to reach our goals and engage as many people and companies as possible to make this happen."

The way the program works is that local chambers of commerce, businesses, faith groups, non-profit organizations and individuals from Fairfax-Falls Church build virtual houses one brick at a time. Giving levels range from \$25 for a single brick to \$500 for a virtual door to \$5,000 for a virtual house. The Build a Village campaign will run through March 2016.

"It is an issue that the business community feels offers an important opportunity to assist," said Jim Corcoran, president and CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

The county is on a trajectory to reach the goal by the end of the month. "We've had very good response since our launch," said Glynda Mayo Hall, Partnership Development manager of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "Our governing board has also stepped up to their leadership."

Albarado's staff at Helios HR in Reston has volunteered with non-profits that offer support to the homeless like the Reston-based Embury Rucker Community Shelter, which provides emergency housing for families and single men and women. Among the



PHOTO COURTESY OF HELIOS HR

**Employees of Helios HR volunteer for Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need. Such charitable efforts help create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people.**

volunteer efforts designed to help the homeless in Fairfax County, Helios employees assembled and delivered bagged lunches to the shelter's residents.

Making a personal connection with those in need

is a benefit that Albarado believes will resonate with her staff and one that she hopes other volunteers will experience. "It made us feel good to see and meet the people we were helping," she said. "It's important to build awareness, because when people are aware they are more likely to get engaged and get involved." In addition to donating money, personal involvement with non-profit organizations like Cornerstones, Inc. in Reston which provides support for those in need of human services such as food, shelter and childcare, helps create an awareness of the extent of homelessness in the

community and breaks stereotypes about homeless people. Meeting people who were helped by the donations and volunteer efforts has had a profound effect on Natalie O'Laughlin, communications manager at Helios HR. "We've been able to meet the individuals who have benefited from the programs and hear their stories, which are heartwarming, and give you a better idea of who is affected," she said.

In addition to donating to the Build a Village Campaign, Albarado hopes that community members will give of their time, which in turn, she believes, will encourage others to make financial contributions. "Volunteering with these non-profits is more effective than reading stats because people don't connect with statistics," she said. "But when you meet the people who are impacted by your work, it's really powerful."

**"We're trying to reduce as quickly as possible the number of people who are homeless and prevent more people from becoming homeless."**

**— Dean Klein, Director, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.**

## Build a Village Campaign

- ❖ \$25 buys a Brick
- ❖ \$250 buys a Gate, Window or Chimney
- ❖ \$500 buys the Door
- ❖ \$1,000 buys the Roof
- ❖ \$5,000 builds each Virtual House

To donate or get more information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/build-a-village/>



**Spring Ahead 1 Hour ~  
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**Mt. Vernon/South Alex. \$609,000**  
**8331 Blowing Rock Road**

Gorgeous Mt. Vernon colonial home with exquisite remodeling which expanded the kitchen, dining room, and family room. The quality and design are exceptional. Stunning eat-in kitchen with all the bells and whistles (skylights, bamboo flooring, SS, granite, high-end cabinetry) and spectacular family room w/gas fireplace. Abundant windows provide natural lighting. 4 BR, 3.5 baths, 3 levels, garage, lovely deck, replacement windows. This is a MUST-SEE!



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$569,000 • 8316 Orange Ct.**

Wonderfully updated new listing – 5 BR, 3 BA Split w/2-car garage, spectacular stained & screened back porch perfect for entertaining. Beautiful hardwood floors, updated kitchen w/hdwd, Corian counter tops & a bump-out breakfast area. Updated baths w/jetted tub in hall bath. Lower level offers large family rm w/gas fireplace, 3rd bath & 5th bedrm. This is the complete package. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S) – 15 mins to Old Town Alex. (N).



**Alex./Stratford Landing • \$529,900**  
**2403 Cavendish Drive**

Lovely 3 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial bursting w/charm – wood flrs under quality carpeting on main & upper levels. Spacious eat-in kitchen w/beautiful oak cabinets & Corian counters – upgraded baths. Family rm & den along with workshop/utility rm on lower level. Tons of storage in both floored attics w/pull-down stairs. Lovely screened porch/carport overlooks a deck & beautifully landscaped & fenced bkdy. Quality home for an attractive price – minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & Old Town, Alex. (N).



**Alex./Wessynton \$679,900**  
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**Alex./Riverside Estates \$519,000**  
**8504 Wagon Wheel Road**

Totally updated 5 BR, 3 BA Split – Updates: Kitchen w/Silestone, ceramic tile, SS, baths, furnace, A/C, HWH, replacement DBL pane windows, roof, 6-panel interior doors, refinished Hdwd floors, freshly painted interior. Large carport & shed plus stunning, large, fenced backyard. Ft. Belvoir 5 mins (S) & Old Town Alex, 15 mins (N). Phenomenal Value!



**Alex./Bucknell Manor \$449,000 • 7013 Colgate Drive**

Beautifully updated 3 BR, 1.5 BA Cape on a landscaped & large .33 acre lot, almost twice the normal sized lot in Bucknell Manor. Updates: Kitchen w/ceramic tile floors, white cabinets & granite counters – HWH 2015, A/C & Furnace 2014, Roof 2005, freshly painted, refinished hdwd floors. Recently updated baths. 4 minutes to Belle View Shopping Center, 7 minutes to Old Town, 20 mins to Natl. Airport – Beautiful house on an amazing lot.



**Alex./Kirk \$524,900**  
**8112 Karl Road**

Stunning & meticulously cared-for 4 level split. Totally updated: Kitchen, baths, windows (DBL pane), roof, furnace, AC, HWH – Beautiful hdwd floors just refinished on main & upper levels. Windows in kitchen & dining rm offer spectacular views of a large, fenced, yard backing to woods – Stunning! 6-panel interior doors & lovely slate & stone walkways accentuate both interior & exterior. Waynewood Elementary – This is a 10!



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# Raising an Assistance Dog Only To Say Goodbye

Volunteers play key role in Canine Companions for Independence.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE GAZETTE

For 40 years, the nonprofit Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) has been raising and training service dogs for people with a broad spectrum of disabilities. CCI enlists both volunteers and professionals to raise dogs so that they can improve lives all over America — from wounded veterans to people affected by other physical setbacks, the only exception being blindness. And, when all is said and done, CCI ensures that these prepared, caring dogs go to their new owners at no cost.

Long-time Alexandria resident Renee Priore is a CCI volunteer who has raised two dogs in the last three years. Her most recent canine pupil, Champ II, was recently selected as a breeder for the program.

"I raised Champ for 18 months," Priore said, "and at the end of that 18 months, last November, he was sent to Long Island for advanced training. That's where all the puppies in the northeast region go when they complete their initial training with volunteers. In most cases, dogs would go to the training center for advanced training to become a service dog. In this case, however, Champ was an intact Labrador and had been designated to become a breeder."

Lauren Ferraioli, the Puppy Program manager for the CCI's northeast region, said it is a rare honor to raise a breeder as opposed to a more standard service dog. Where CCI selects the puppies as potential breeders in the first few weeks of their lives, they won't necessarily become part of the breeding program unless they pass a slew of health and behavioral tests after spending 18 months with their initial volunteer trainers.

"It's pretty rare to have a breeder," Ferraioli said. "We typically limit our Breeders to full-breed Labrador retrievers and full golden retrievers. All of those dogs enter into advanced training with the potential

to be selected for our Breeding Program. They are constantly undergoing evaluations to determine not only will they be appropriate assistance dogs, but will they be fit for our Breeding Program. Along with every single dog in the program, the Potential Breeders undergo extensive health and temperament evaluations before being accepted into either the Training Program or the Breeding Program. Whether or not the dog is selected for the Breeding Program is dependent on many factors, but ultimately it is determined by our National Breeding Program and it is the highest of honors. Essentially the dogs that are selected for the Breeding Program would not only make exceptional assistance dogs but they are so remarkable that we need more dogs like them in the program."

Ferraioli said volunteers like Priore play a major role in molding the ideal dog for breeding: Priore was invaluable in maintaining the proper environment so that Champ's temperament and behavior could blossom.

"The volunteers begin raising the puppies when they are eight weeks of age, and Renee knew when she received Champ that it was possible he would ultimately become a breeder," Ferraioli said. "Due to the way she raised Champ and by providing such a loving home, she added to his success as a breeder."

The dogs, Ferraioli added, are all raised, evaluated and housed in humane, loving environments. The female breeders are limited to producing five litters. Both male and female breeders are taken care of in loving homes and treated as pets. After they retire as breeders, they are instantly adopted, and usually by the families that kept them through their breeding days.



Renee Priore (left) with Champ II visits patients at the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital along with Paula Berntsen, rehabilitation therapist.

so commands that they will learn before CCI gives them to their permanent owner. A lot of the training that I went through with the dogs involved patience and teaching them the ability not to get too excited."

Priore said she had been eager to get involved with CCI long before she actually signed up to raise a one of the puppies. She and her husband both retired from the U.S. Army, and she first heard of the program in its early years while her family was stationed in California.

"I have been interested for a long time," Priore said. "I traveled all over with my husband, and retired in 1995. We were living out in California where CCI had been active, and I always knew that one day I would play a role with the organization."

Priore, who has had her own pet dogs, said that while she is proud of her involvement with CCI, training these puppies can be an emotionally-challenging process.

"It's a great feeling of accomplishment, but when the dogs go after 18 months, there is a big void, too," Priore said. "A lot of people can't do it because they say they wouldn't be able to get rid of the puppies. It's hard, but CCI's motto is 'Raise a Puppy, Change a Life,' and that is so true."

Ferraioli said that there are 169 active puppy raisers in the northeast region alone, which stretches from Virginia up to Maine. She added that that CCI is always looking for more volunteers, though.

"It's the ultimate in volunteering," she said. "It's the best way to work with dogs, play with puppies and really change someone's life." If interested in the program, contact Ferraioli by calling 631-561-0214 or email lferraioli@cci.org.

## Local Residents See Cuba Up-Close and Personal

FROM PAGE 3

the fourth day and traveled to the city of Cienfuegos, which is located 140 miles southwest of Havana on the southern coast. "I really loved the varied topography — the mountains and the white sandy beaches," she said a month later. "Once outside Havana, nothing seemed to have been 'Americanized' — no big signage or neon lights."

After three nights at the Hotel Jagua, complete with American-plan meals, the group stopped at the Museo de Playa Girón, the Bay of Pigs war museum. The facility honors the 1961 Cuban defeat of American-backed invasion force of Cuban exiles. Booth described a quotation from Fidel Castro inscribed on a plaque: "We have made a socialist revolution in their noses."

The Rodens' stayed in a nicely furnished

condominium owned by a Swiss family. It was located near the Malecón, a broad esplanade that runs west from the entrance to Havana harbor. They toured the Havana area by car with a government-controlled guide named Raiza, who Geri Roden described as a "Penelope Cruz look-alike." She was friendly and well-informed, but a little too smooth. "Everything she said seemed scripted," the Rodens said. "But occasionally, she lowered her voice when describing a politically sensitive subject and warned that the secret police might be close by and listening."

The family toured Ernest Hemingway's former home, Finca Vigia (lookout house) just east of Havana, and sipped a mojito at the El Floridita Bar, the writer's favorite. They also toured a cigar factory, sacred

ground to a world of cigar aficionados. "The police watched us carefully," Geri Roden said later, "and wouldn't let us take photos."

As they toured Havana for three days, the Rodens were struck by the poor state of the transportation infrastructure. "I don't see how Cuba can support more tourists with all those bad roads," Geri Roden said. "But the road between the airport and downtown Havana was in great shape, and I'm sure that was because Pope Francis had just visited Cuba."

Many of the Cubans that Booth and the Rodens spoke with talked of the "special period," a time of a severe economic downturn in Cuba in the 1990s. Economic analyses showed the hard times resulted from the precipitous drop in Russian support,

especially petroleum products, after the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union. Famine and illness presented serious problems through the end of the century, and the Cuban GDP fell by a third. The time prompted the make-do attitude that amazed Booth.

"I came away very impressed with the Cuban people and what I call the 'Cuban spirit.' I was taken with their survival instincts and resourcefulness, as well as their warm and friendly attitude." Booth added another comment, one reflecting the recent warm-up in American-Cuban relations. "I saw one man wearing a Barack Obama t-shirt." On the other hand, Viar doesn't recommend Cuba to casual tourists. "The elite live well, but the rest of the country is falling apart."





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## Bringing Back the Electric Chair

### In a word: Barbaric.

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, inevitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam,

Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the representation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire. Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

EDITORIAL

## Pedaling Toward the Finish Line

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



I had the opportunity to support two bills both in committee and on the floor that will make traveling around Mount Vernon a little safer for bicyclists. Senate Bill 117 imposes a penalty for "dooring" bikers, including creating a cause of action for lawsuits and the ability to file an insurance claim.

This bill fines an individual \$50 when they open a car door without ensuring they can safely do so. This would provide a monetary incentive encouraging motorists to be more cognizant of their surroundings when exiting their cars in traffic and around bicyclists and motorcyclists.

Senate Bill 669 incentivizes localities to build bike lanes. Improving bike safety has many societal benefits, such as improving public health, traffic, and the environment.

Currently, localities that convert highway

lanes into bicycle-only lanes risk losing some highway maintenance funds. SB 669 allows cities and towns that convert to bicycle-only lanes to keep the highway maintenance funds. I agree with the patron and most of my constituents that there should be an incentive for municipalities to build bike lanes rather than a penalty.

However, as we pedal forward, we make one major step backward by extending the coal tax credit. Hundreds of millions of dollars in state tax credits handed out since 1988 haven't changed the fact that these tax credits are a drop in the bucket compared to the decline in key coal prices due to global economic factors.

Between 1988 and 2014, Virginia gave state coal producers \$737 million in tax credits. During that time, annual coal tonnage and employment both declined by 67 percent. Preliminary data show that employment continued to decline another 23 percent in 2015. As of January, Virginia is spending over \$25 million a year to "protect" 2,850 jobs.

The decline of Virginia's coal industry is

COMMENTARY

### Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday. Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. For more information, visit [www.soberide.com](http://www.soberide.com).

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

tragic to the economy of southwest Virginia and the livelihoods of residents there. The economy there is in free fall and southwest Virginia's economy is weaker now than before the recession, according to data from The Commonwealth Institute. However, tax credits for coal utilities and mining companies are doing nothing to change the reality that dwindling coal reserves, production and mining cost increases, transportation costs increases and declining market prices are working against the coal industry.

Tax credits that amount to roughly \$2 per ton of Virginia coal will be minimal when compared to the precipitous drop in the price of coal from a peak of \$200 per ton to around \$85 per ton. Coal's decline has hit southwest Virginia hard, and it needs a hand up. However coal tax credits to utility companies are not the answer. Coal tax credits cost Virginia more than \$9,000 per job, and we could put that money to better use through education, career technical training and investments in our 21st century energy opportunities.

### Advocate For Students

To the Editor:

I am a parent of three children and a resident of the Mount Vernon District. I am writing to applaud Supervisor Dan Storck, along with Supervisors Kathy Smith and John Foust, for voting on March 1 to support a robust community dialogue about school

funding.

We are witnessing the end of a long tradition of excellence in Fairfax County Public Schools. Our best teachers are leaving for better pay (up to \$20,000 more) in neighboring jurisdictions — about 200 instructional positions were open at the beginning of the year, and almost 50 remain unfilled. Class sizes have increased to such an extent that it is regarded as a positive development when the

superintendent proposes a cap of 30 kids per elementary class. And now, after nine years and nearly \$500 million of budget cuts, FCPS is considering the elimination of key programs and services that make our schools great, including needs-based staffing, full-day kindergarten, language immersion, AAP centers, 4th grade strings, and freshman sports. In addition, FCPS may impose costly fees, such as \$300 for each out-of-boundary

student and \$200 per sport for each student.

We need great schools. Families and businesses move and stay here because of the schools. Property values are higher because of the schools. Our economy is stronger because of the schools.

Fairfax County residents are rising up as never before. Since November, thousands of residents have signed petitions, contacted

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

their elected officials, and attended rallies and town hall meetings to protest the failure by Fairfax County and the State of Virginia to provide sufficient funding to sustain the quality of our public schools. Supervisor Storck wanted to give his constituents the opportunity to advocate before the Board of Supervisors on April 5-7 for a tax rate that would enable full funding for FCPS.

Consistent with past practice, the board should have set a higher Advertised Tax Rate on March 1 and considered a lower actual rate on April 26. Instead, the board rushed its decision and set the Advertised Tax Rate at a low level (\$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value) that will create a massive budget deficit for FCPS. In so doing, the board deprived residents of their democratic right to advocate for the appropriate tax rate. We will continue our advocacy, and we will continue to fight for the future of our great schools and our great county. Although we face tremendous obstacles, we have the benefit of a strong ally in Supervisor Storck.

**Matt Dunne**  
Mount Vernon

## Cell Phone Dead Zone

To the Editor:

Trivial though this might seem in comparison to the ugly ongoing slugfest over who will next occupy the White House, I'd like to point out that, a full decade and a half into the 21st century, my wife and I are still living in a cell phone dead zone.

I'm not sure exactly who to thank for our continued relegation to telecommunication hell, but I'm reasonably certain that NIMBYism is involved. Assuming that to be the case (and even if it isn't), I'd like to offer up one of the oak trees in our front yard as a possible support for one of those skinny little cell towers that people in other long-established neighborhoods seem to find tolerable. Other possibilities are McCutcheon Park, which doesn't seem to be serving any other notable purpose, or the two unoccupied wooded areas at the intersection of Sherwood Hall Lane and Fort Hunt Road.

What a joy it would be to no longer have to explain to workmen why they can't access their companies' smartphone apps from here, and how nice it would be if

the people whose cars always seem to be breaking down in front of our house could use their own phones to call AAA.

**Jeff Carver**  
Mount Vernon

## Site C for Outdoor Gym

To the Editor:

Gum Springs is poised to receive equipment for an outdoor exercise gym/fitness station, that is welcomed and supported by the community. The eight pieces of equipment were obtained through a grant similar to the grant the National Park Authority obtained for the outdoor exercise gym/fitness station in Anacostia Park.

The remaining decision is location. There are three sites being considered but the one most economical and viable is Site C, which is in the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Park (MLK Park). Site C allows families to exercise together — adults on the exercise equipment and children on the playground equipment. Playing is children's work. Having the equipment around the playground area

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# Bills Becoming Law as Session Ends

By SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The eighth week of the General Assembly session brought a few vetoes and heated debates as the most contentious bills of the session moved toward final passage.

Eight of my bills have either been signed into law, passed by both houses or are on Gov. Terry McAuliffe's desk awaiting signature. My legislation to revive the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) cleared a final hurdle. FOIA applies to all state and local agencies, from the governor to local school boards and is how citizens can ensure their

government is operating openly and fairly.

Last year, the Supreme Court of Virginia held that government agencies rarely have a duty to redact documents if the documents contain even the smallest amount of information that is exempt from FOIA and that agencies can withhold entire documents. The court also held that government officials' decisions to withhold documents should receive "great weight" during court reviews.

The Virginia FOIA Commission was alarmed by the decision and asked me to partner with Republican Del. Jim Lemunyon and introduce legislation to level the playing field and require that redacted copies be available to the public when possible. Our legislation only received three "no" votes all session, but Governor McAuliffe filed an amendment which basically gutted

the bill. After spending hours with his staff this week, I convinced the Governor to withdraw his amendment and sign the bill. The sun will shine again in Virginia.

My legislation to require school systems using electronic textbooks to have a plan to provide laptops or tablets to all students ran into rough seas. After clearing the Senate 25-14 and a House subcommittee, the House Committee on Education tabled the bill on a 11-10 vote. I argued that if Virginia's school systems do not act soon, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights might do it for us.

One of my consumer protection measures will also likely pass the House after a heavy vetting. In 1975, the Federal Trade Commission enacted "The Holder Rule" which requires finance companies to have provi-

sions in their loans subjecting themselves to the same claims as the sellers of goods. Recently, some companies have stopped doing this, leaving consumers owing thousands of dollars after shady businesses sell shoddy goods and disappear. My bill gives consumers the ability to sue if they are damaged by a failure of a company to include

this language. This week, the last week of this session, will be extremely busy. On Monday, we will debate making the electric chair the default method of execution, revising hospital facility regulation and we the budget for the next two years.

You can monitor my work on Facebook, Twitter and my online newsletter, The Dixie Pig, at [scottsuovell.blogspot.com](http://scottsuovell.blogspot.com). Please share your views at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org). It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

COMMENTARY

## Governor's First Vetoes and Ongoing Supreme Court Battle

By ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



The 2016 General Assembly will be wrapping up its work this week, and of the more than 3,200 bills and resolutions that were introduced, over 1,350 pieces of legislation have passed both chambers. Those bills are now on their way to Governor McAuliffe's desk, who has 7 or 30 days to act on them depending on how close to the end of session they passed. The Governor has approved many of these measures but he has also issued vetoes for a handful of bills that he believes are unnecessary or unconstitutional.

One notable piece of legislation that the Governor vetoed is SB21, which would require the Department of Environmental

Quality (DEQ) to receive approval from the General Assembly before submitting a Virginia-specific plan to comply with the federal Clean Power Plan (CPP).

The CPP is an historic and important step in combating climate change by establishing standards to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 32 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. It will put into place the first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants which account for nearly 40 percent of the carbon pollution produced nationally.

The CPP goes hand in hand with efforts in the development of renewables, stronger fuel economy standards, and increased energy efficiency that seek to address climate change, as well as provide improvements in air and water quality that have more immediate local effects.

In his veto statement, the Governor noted that federal law gives authority to the ex-

ecutive rather than legislative branch in developing plans to comply with CPP, adding that SB21 "constitutes legislative participation in a purely executive process." Senate Democrats were successful in sustaining the veto so SB21 will not become law.

A prolonged fight has been brewing since the summer regarding Governor McAuliffe's nomination of Jane Roush to the Virginia Supreme Court, and last week it came to a head. Justice Roush, who is unquestionably qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, has handled many tough cases including the D.C. sniper trial, and the Republican House Courts of Justice Committee chairman had originally recommended her for this position.

However, House and Senate Republicans were offended that the Governor exercised his constitutional authority to appoint her without their permission, and they have re-

peatedly attempted to block her nomination and replace her with their own candidate. Though Senate Republicans have a narrow 21-19 majority, there has been a stalemate so far this session because one of their freshman members bravely refused to go along with his party's plan to unseat Justice Roush. Her interim appointment has now expired and there was a renewed push this week to confirm her for a full term; unfortunately that effort fell short in the House of Delegates.

Leaving one of the seven seats on our state's highest court vacant has major ramifications in terms of its ability to execute its constitutional responsibilities, and I hope we will reconsider and elect Justice Roush to a full 12-year term so our judiciary can be at full strength.

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

COMMENTARY

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 9

similar to the Anacostia Park concept allows parents/adults to keep a watchful eye on their children while exercising. Site C also has less conflicts with other day-to-day, evening and weekend activities associated with the Gum Springs Community Center (community center) and Head Start programs. Another major advantage for installing the equipment in the MLK Park is that the New Gum Springs Civic Association (Civic Association) has limited funds available that may be used to purchase additional equipment and/or other park improvement accessories. Those funds cannot be used on county property.

Site B is on Fairfax County property at the east end of the community center and appears to be the county's preference despite the

location's challenges. The area is adjacent to the entrance of the MLK Park. It is in close proximity to the heavily utilized pavilion picnic area that is often rented to others by the Department of Neighborhood & Community Services, a county agency. The closest playground is controlled by Head Start and is currently off limits to the community. The remaining playground is in MLK Park (Site C). The cul de sac access point for the outdoor exercise gym is used as a turnaround for Fairfax County buses and the daily pick up/drop off point for Head Start buses. The cul de sac is also used as overflow parking for evening and weekend youth league sports games and special events that may occur on the athletic field or in the community center.

The above mentioned compari-

son of Site B and Site C are just the highlights but shows a clear contrast that Site C (MLK Park) is the most beneficial and desirable location with less challenges than Site B (county property).

Since the grant was obtained mainly by the Park Authority, the equipment should be installed in the MLK Park. The community center currently has an indoor exercise room. The purchased exercise equipment is designed for outdoor use. Therefore, it should be installed outdoors in the MLK Park. There are many advantages for having the equipment in the park and not on county property around the Gum Springs community center. Overall, we want and encourage residents to get out and exercise while exploring its community park. Exploring MLK Park is in alignment with the Park

Authority's explore your parks theme and it's Great Parks ... Great Communities slogan. It also softens the blow from the Park Authority diverting funds from the 2012 bond referendum intended for improving and renovating community parks but used for turf fields at high schools to include Mount Vernon HS and West Potomac HS for more than \$1.5 million each. Certain community parks suffered as a result of the diversion of those funds.

Gum Springs welcomes all to explore its community park, Martin Luther King Jr Community Park, that has an outdoor swimming pool, athletic field, a small grandstand with reserved picnic tables, a tennis court, a playground and hopefully home of an outdoor gym/fitness station.

For more information on the

pros and cons of Site B and Site C to include comparison photos, visit Gum Springs community website: [www.ngsca.org](http://www.ngsca.org) or contact the president of the Civic Association at [president@newgumspringscivicassociation.com](mailto:president@newgumspringscivicassociation.com) or 1-888-740-6009.

**Queenie Cox**

President, New Gum Springs Civic Association

## Mainstream Or Extreme?

To the Editor:

In the Feb. 25, 2016 Gazette, my letter was published concerning Senator Surovell's opposition to a Senate Bill that if enacted into law would allow all State judges

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Meet the Chef: Frantz of Majestic

### Chef Frantz discovers sweet spot in kitchen.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

**W**edges of lemon, squares of unsalted butter, curly green onion slivers, low country gravy and blackened shrimp sit mise en place in the prep kitchen at The Majestic on King Street. Lisa Marie Frantz, executive chef at The Majestic, is preparing shrimp and grits made to order for each customer. "This is one of the customer favorites," she says, "along with the fried chicken and what goes with it, Martha's buttermilk biscuits. I brine the chicken 24 hours in a mixture of lemon, garlic, peppercorns and the house home-made stone ground mustard."

Frantz turns on the burner under a well-worn pan. "I'll toss in a little olive oil and put in the shrimp for 2-3 minutes to get them a little color." She adds a splash of white wine and flips the shrimp in the air as the flames shoot up around the pan. Frantz takes a pinch of salt and rubs it through her fingers. "I season a little as I go along, but there's already a lot of seasoning in the other ingredients in the recipe."

A tomato compote has been slowly cooking for 30-40 minutes. Frantz adds a couple of spoonfuls to the shrimp. Next comes what she says is "the base of the dish," the low country gravy that has been made with broth from the shrimp shells, mirepoix (celery, onion and carrots), fresh herbs, bay leaves, a touch of sherry and a little flour to make a roux and thicken it up.

Frantz turns on the burner under a second small skillet to get it hot for the grits. "I use Anson Mills heirloom grits. Grits can be different and people have their preferences. These grits have some texture to them, something to bite on. My father growin' up in the South, I know a little somethin' about grits." The grits have already cooked down for 30-40 minutes in cream, salt and butter and a little chicken stock. Frantz slowly heats up the cooked grits, stirring and dribbles on a little cream as she turns back to the shrimp.

The shrimp come off the heat and the rest is done without more cooking. A little parsley "and a nice little squirt from a juicy lemon wedge." She tosses in two cubes of unsalted butter. "I'll finish it off with a little bit of butter to give it a silky sheen." She

spoons a little taste in her mouth "just to be sure. 'Now I'll plate it up.'" Carefully she arranges the grits down the center of an oval plate, places the shrimp side by side on top, stands back and surveys her work. "Finally I'll spoon the gravy over the top and let it drizzle down the side and that's it." She garnishes with green onion, long and thin, "kind of funky." In 12 minutes she has shrimp and grits for the waiting lunch customer.

She explained that she cooks locally driven American classics with a Southern accent. "It is straightforward, simple like my lamb chops with rosemary popovers. I want to fill you but not over satiate you." Another dish is her roasted golden beets with whipped goat cheese and horseradish. "We're moving to some vegetarian dishes without advertising it as vegetarian. I like to showcase one ingredient. When the ingredients are the best, we want them to shine." She said, they are about to have a menu change that features seared maitake mushroom with toasted farrow and a lobster pot pie with with leeks and roasted pearl onions.

Franz comments that the trend in "farm to market" still seems strong. In addition she sees one thing that pops up a lot is the use of unusual spices, ethnic influences like curries that are very rich and colorful. "The culinary industry is always looking for that next ingredient. Chefs are explorers. My friends travel and bring me back things like rose water from Lebanon." So she invented a combination with chocolate and house made marshmallows for Valentine's Day. "It's my new favorite special ingredient."

Frantz graduated in graphic design but realized it was a hobby. "I was interested in cooking but I'd never worked in a restaurant. I didn't have any confidence." But she said with help of family and friends she went to Le Cordon Bleu in Arizona and, "I found my sweet spot." In 2007 she went to work in a professional kitchen for the first time. When they asked her what she wanted to do, she said, "work the grill. I thought it would be exciting being on the line." He told her she would fail miserably. "In 3-4 months I was a sous chef. I found I have a talent." She has been at Majestic for nine months, coming from Brickside in Bethesda and Founding Fathers previous to that. Frantz said no one in her family ever worked in a restaurant but her father was a butcher. "Maybe somehow in the blood line I got it."



Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz lines up the lemon wedges, curly onion slivers, squares of butter, parsley and blackened shrimp—ingredients for shrimp and grits, one of the customer favorites at The Majestic on King Street. Below, she adds the shrimp to a hot pan with a little oil and cooks them a couple of minutes to give some color but not long enough to make them tough. She pours on a little wine and flips them over in the pan before adding tomato compote.



Anson heirloom grits are heated on a burner next to the shrimp. Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz says everyone has their own favorite version of grits. These have some texture to them and a little bite. They have been cooked in cream, salt, butter and a little chicken broth.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/  
THE GAZETTE

Executive Chef Lisa Marie Frantz has plated up the final dish with grits arranged down the middle of the dish. Shrimp are lined on top and then low country gravy drizzled on the top. The dish is garnished with curly green slivered onions.



### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: "Storytelling/Global**

**Narratives.** Through March 13, gallery hours at Schlesinger Center's Fisher Gallery at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria Campus, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Part of the regional project "Al-Mutanabbi Street Starts Here DC 2016", a book, arts and cultural festival through March throughout the Washington, D.C. area. "Storytelling/Global Narratives" will commemorate the 2007 bombing of Baghdad's historic

bookselling street and celebrate the free exchange of ideas and knowledge. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu](http://www.nvcc.edu) for more.

**"A Salute to Primary Colors."** Through March 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 9 p.m. on second Thursday of each month. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents primary colors in all forms including as gifts, jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces. Free. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**"Wings from Chains."** Through March 13, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists consider the roles and responsibilities in society. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**NOVA Restaurant Week.** Through March 14, The Arlington Chamber of Commerce again partners with the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association to present the 2016 Northern Virginia Restaurant

Week. Visit [www.rosslynva.org](http://www.rosslynva.org) for more.

#### Solo Exhibit: Lynn Boggess.

Through March 15, gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Lynn Boggess paints landscapes from the West Virginian woods to Floridian seascapes with palette knives and cement trowels for texture. Free. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com) for more.

**March 150 Exhibition.** Through



# ENTERTAINMENT

March 20, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The two-week exhibition will feature more than 150 square panels created by more than 100 regional artists, nearly 30 of whom are affiliated with the Torpedo Factory. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**McMurry Artist Showcase.** Through March 23, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The gallery will feature the stylized landscape paintings of local artist, Richard McMurry. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Contradictions."** Through March 26, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Working in the medium of encaustic Julia Dzikiewicz paints, prints and constructs three-dimensional objects with bold colors embedding crystals, pearls or even metals. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "March Melee."** Through March 27, 12-6 p.m. Thursday, 12-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This exhibit features artists' "boldest and wackiest art." Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows).

**Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition & Sale.** Through March 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The show will feature both contemporary and traditional needlework. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Partnerships."** Through May 15, business hours at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. All artwork is available for purchase through Del



PHOTO COURTESY OF USBANDS

**On Saturday, March 19, The West Potomac Band is hosting a USBands Indoor Drumline and Winterguard Competition. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.wolverineband.com](http://www.wolverineband.com).**

Ray Artisans. Artists are donating 20 percent of the purchase price of sold pieces in an equal split between Del Ray Artisans and the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital's charity of choice, Veterans Moving Forward. Free. Call 703-751-2022 for more.

**"Ancient Art of Movement."** 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for

non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit

[www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

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

**Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.** Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

**"Speak, Sister."** 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Local actors will read from diaries and letters of women, Harriet Jacobs, Isabel Emerson and Anne Frobel, who lived in Alexandria during the Civil War, and bluegrass band Dead Men's Hollow will play songs of the Civil War. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

**Spaghetti Dinner: Rising Hope Food Pantry.** 5-8 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. St. Luke's Episcopal Church is holding a spaghetti dinner to support Rising Hope's Food Pantry and two other food programs in the community. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children 12 and under, and \$30 for families. Call 703-298-5987 for more.

**Family Fun Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Ladies Night Out: Painting Van Gogh Style.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Tickets are \$45. Contact 703-944-4381 or [info@metamorphosisaec.com](mailto:info@metamorphosisaec.com), or visit [www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes](http://www.metamorphosisaec.com/mama/classes).

## MARCH 11-APRIL 10

**All City High School Visual Art Exhibition.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Convergence presents the "Alexandria City High School Art Exhibit," a joint effort between Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal High School, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and T.C. Williams High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 19

## AQUINAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### 'Lushness & Lyrical'

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE.  
MAESTRO, ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will present "Lushness & Lyrical" on Saturday, April 2 and Sunday, April 3.

Some music makes me want to sing. Other music makes me want to dance. And there is yet another kind of music that fires my imagination to create pictures and stories. This last category

#### MUSINGS FROM THE MAESTRO

of music is often described as being "romantic." What exactly does that mean? In music, Romanticism refers to the qualities that dominated 19th and early 20th century music: imagination over reason; fantasy over reality; long-breathed melodies over tightly constructed ones; rich harmonies over simple har-

monies; color for color's sake in the realm of harmony; textures and orchestration (choice of instruments); a lushness of sound; etc. Often there is an underlying sense of longing and desire for the unattainable.

James Newton Howard's music is often described as having a "romantic sensibility." His "Peter Pan" is a perfect choice for our concert because the story itself comes out of the same romantic tradition as the music. Howard creates a realm of fantasy where we can imagine a world where we can "never grow up!"



### Hank's Pasta Bar Arrives in Old Town Newcomer has already gained solid following.

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

North Old Town has a new hotspot in the neighborhood. Hank's Pasta Bar, the kid sister to Hank's Oyster Bar on King Street, has taken the area by storm since opening about five weeks ago. From the two fully booked soft openings to a recent Monday night that found the dining room out of space for the evening by 7 p.m., it's clear that residents have a hankering for pasta. And Hank's stands at the ready to accommodate.

Hank's offers 13 varieties of pasta in-house, says Hank's Sabrina Zahid. "There's a pasta machine, but a big majority of them are hand-cut," including the lasagna and the ravioli, Zahid added.

A good deal of the work is done by "our in-house pasta mama," Mirabella Salamanca, Zahid said. "She comes in early, she has a break in the evening, but we're pretty much cranking out fresh pasta all day."

And a quick survey of the menu proves that Salamanca and the rest of the team — helmed by Chef Jamie Leeds — are indeed hard at work. A perusal of the pasta dishes turns into a mini-Italian lesson that is apt to send some diners dashing for their iPhones to look up unfamiliar names while the waiter's back is turned. Paccheri. Malfalde. Bucatini. Mezzalune. There's an option for you, no matter what you're looking for.

If you'd like to get a taste of where it all started, be sure to try Jamie's Favorite Linguine With White Clam Sauce. A top seller, it harkens back to before the pasta bar had come into being and Leeds found



**The mezzalune pasta dish.**

herself at an Italian restaurant in Dupont Circle with pasta on the brain. Spying linguine with white clam sauce on the menu and reminiscing about enjoying that same meal with her father, Hank, she ordered it only to learn it was sold out for the evening. The restaurant's chef, Nicolas Flores, learned of Leeds' plight and went out to purchase fresh clams to make for her that evening, saving the day — and cementing a partnership.

"They met over a bowl of linguine with white clam sauce," Zahid said, and the rest was history.

Among other must-try dishes: The mezzalune, a thin, airy pillow-like pasta stuffed with winter greens and ricotta and nestled in a creamy sauce. Or enjoy a plate of simple elegance with the spaghetti all'olio, a hearty helping of spaghetti tossed in olive oil, garlic, and shaved bottarga.

Oftentimes, restaurant desserts are better left untouched; the sweet treat is often overshadowed by the meal itself. But Hank's panna cotta is a thing of beauty. Creamy, custardy and rich, it's not so overwhelming that you and a partner couldn't polish one off with aplomb. Pair it with an espresso or an after-dinner libation and you've got the perfect end to a wonderful evening.

While dinner is proving a popular occasion at Hank's, the restaurant isn't prepared to stay dark during the day for much longer. Weekday lunches will begin March 14, Zahid says, and weekend brunch will be soon to follow that.

"We're definitely going to keep a good number of the pastas on the menu for lunch," Zahid said, adding that the kitchen has some "fun stuff" in the works for brunch as well, including some new bloody Mary recipes for the cocktail menu.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).

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#### Details

##### HANK'S PASTA BAR

**Address:** 600 Montgomery St., Alexandria  
**Hours:** 4-11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 4 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday-Saturday; 4-10 p.m. Sunday.

**Hidden gem:** The lamb chops. "Those are really, really delicious. I think people are definitely more apt to order pasta, but I've gotta tell you, those are some of the best lamb chops I've ever had," says Hank's Sabrina Zahid.



# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

pursuits of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from each of the four schools have collaborated in what they hope will be an annual event. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**Talent Hunt.** 12-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Alexandria hosts a talent hunt for high school with a \$400 first place prize. Free. Email [talenthuntpsinu@gmail.com](mailto:talenthuntpsinu@gmail.com).

**Tea with Lady Washington.** 2-3 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join "Lady Washington" for an intimate fireside tea and conversation. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for children. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**"Her Story: Women in Action for Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies."** 3-4:15 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and their accompanying adults will participate in hands-on activities and add their own future goals to a timeline of Juliette Gordon Low's story. Participants will talk with a panel of current and former Girl Scouts and discover how scouting empowered them. Tickets are \$6. Visit [www.alexandriahistory.org](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Evening Woodcock Walk.** 5:45 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his courtship dance and flight. \$6 for residents of Fairfax County, \$8 for non-residents. Visit

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) for more. **Generation to Generation Gala.** 6-11 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Support Senior Services of Alexandria. Find cocktails, dinner, and dancing. Tickets are \$150. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org) for more.

**The Music of Ralph Vaughan Williams.** 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Lane. In collaboration with the Amadeus Orchestra, the Fairfax Choral Society Adult Symphonic Chorus, Youth Concert Choir, and Women of the Master Singers present "Quintessentially British." Tickets \$20-45, \$5 discount if purchased in advance. Student tickets are \$10. Visit [www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org](http://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org).

**Wounded Warrior Bowl-O-Rama.** Fort Myers Bowling Center, 224 McNair Road, Fort Myers. Psi Nu Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. of Alexandria hosts an event benefitting the Wounded Warrior Project. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.woundedwarriorproject.org](http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 13

**The Architecture of Carlyle House: Behind the Scenes Tour.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn about the architectural history of the only stone mansion in Alexandria. Tickets for the general public are \$10; \$5 for Friends of Carlyle House. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

**Concert: "Nature's Whimsy."** 4-5:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Join Virginia Bronze for a variety of handbell compositions. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit [www.vabronze.org](http://www.vabronze.org) for more.

## MONDAY/MARCH 14

**Pi Day.** 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. at Pizzeria Paradiso, 124 King St. On Pi Day, Veloce will host a fundraising drive for DC Central Kitchen, while all Pizzeria Paradiso locations will charge \$3.14 for a draft beer with the purchase of a pizza. Terrapin Rye Cubed will be available at Old Town. Visit [www.eatyourpizza.com](http://www.eatyourpizza.com).

**Generative Digital Art Program.** 7-8 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Presentation by computer engineer and artist Cameron Turner. Tickets are \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 15

**Creative Exploration Open Studio.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple watercolor techniques and doodle designs with your child. Tickets are \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Contact 703-944-4381 or [info@metamorphosisae.com](mailto:info@metamorphosisae.com), or visit [www.metamorphosisae.com/mama/classes](http://www.metamorphosisae.com/mama/classes).

**Reenactment: Another Way to Share Your Genealogy.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Charles Belfield's family has lived on the same Virginia farm since 1700. Watch him reenact his genealogical story. Free. Visit [www.mvgenalogy.org](http://www.mvgenalogy.org).

## MARCH 15-APRIL 10

**Art Exhibit: "Art into Fashion/Fashion into Art."** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Fiber artists explore art

inspired by fashion designers and fashionable wearables inspired by artists. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

**Book Discussion.** 10:15-11:45 a.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. A discussion group for parents, grandparents, teachers, caregivers, and child advocates. Discuss "Children's Imagination: Creativity Under Our Noses." Free. Visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

**Sanctuary Studio.** 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Using drawing, watercolor, and collage materials, explore line, shape, and color as a meditative process. Free, but donations accepted. Visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Matt Kelley known for his guitar work with Big Boy Little Band, joins forces with keyboardist Ian Walters for blues-influenced swing. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**Campagna Center Toast to Fashion.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. For almost two decades, The Campagna Center has ushered in spring with its annual Toast to Fashion. Tickets are \$60 in advance, \$65 at the door. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) for more.

## THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MARCH 17-18

**Women's Golf Meeting.** 2-4 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive. The

Greendale Women's Golf Association (GWGA), an 18-hole league that plays once a week on Thursday mornings is meeting with current members and potential new members to discuss the upcoming golf season. Free. Visit [www.gwgl.wordpress.com](http://www.gwgl.wordpress.com).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 18

**March150 Exhibition Art Party.** 7-10 p.m. at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The two-week exhibition will feature more than 150 square panels created by more than 100 regional artists, nearly 30 of whom are affiliated with the Torpedo Factory. During the Art Party, work is priced at \$100. Guests have an opportunity to mingle with other art enthusiasts and meet many of the artists who have contributed to the show. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Dance to live music provided by the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

**Organ Recital.** 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to an organ recital by Marilyn Keiser. Free. Visit [www.vts.edu/chapel](http://www.vts.edu/chapel) for more.

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1427 Braddock Road. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be prayed in a musical setting for choir and organ by Franz Liszt. The Adult Choir will sing with Ann Carney, organist. Free. 703-998-6100 ext. 103 for more.

**Bottle Rockets.** 8:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. St. Louis based Bottle


The Campagna Center's

# 16th annual Toast to Fashion

*Grab your friends for an evening of  
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**Thursday, March 17, 2016**  
6:30 to 9:30 PM  
Belle Haven Country Club

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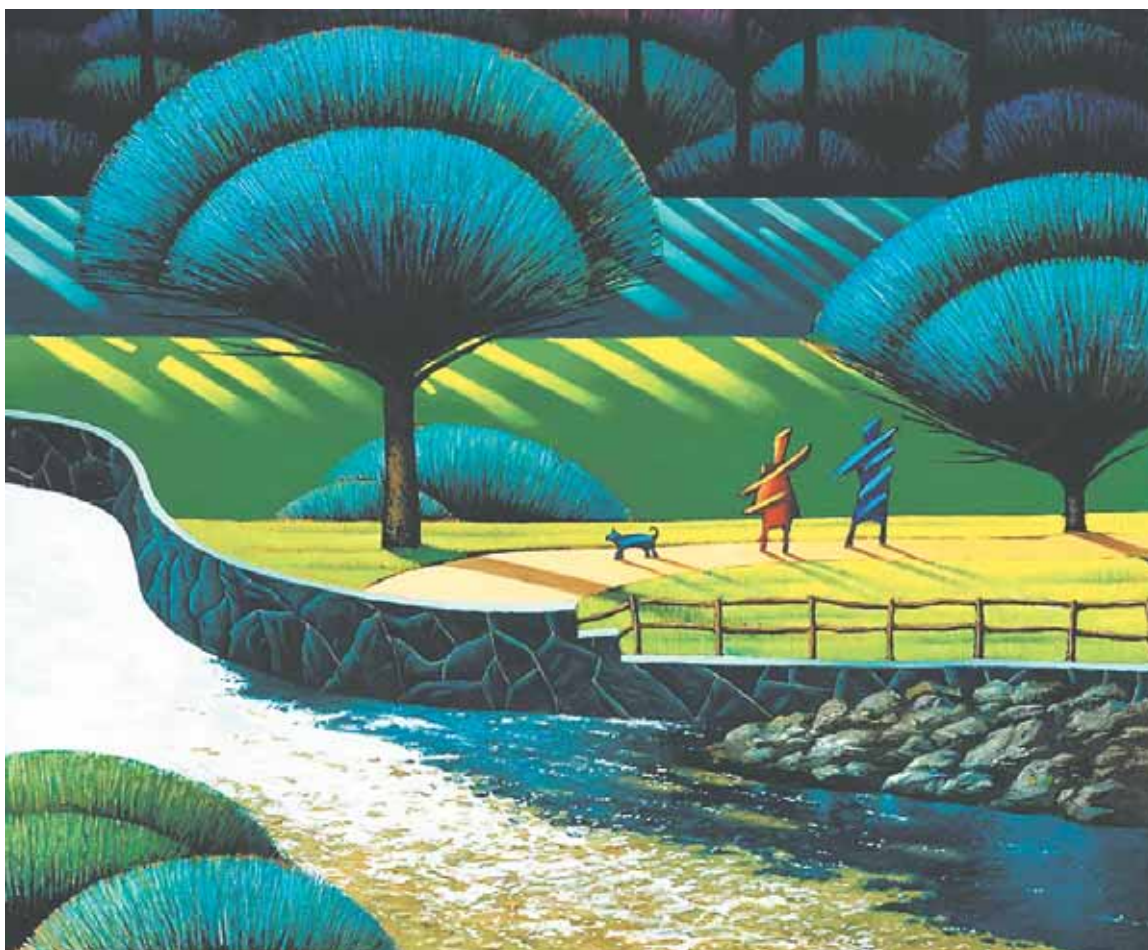


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## ENTERTAINMENT



For the Broadway Gallery March Artist Showcase, the gallery will feature the stylized landscape paintings of local artist, Richard McMurry. The exhibit will hang at 5641-B General Washington Drive through March 23. Pictured here: Peirce Mill, Oil on Canvas. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net) for more.

## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### MARCH

3/23/2016..Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment  
FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

### APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout  
Easter Sunday is March 27

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations,  
Dining & Gifts I

4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

### MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout

5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/4/2016.....Wellbeing

Mother's Day is May 8

5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms,  
Summer Planning

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- Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

Rockets recently released a new album South Broadway Athletic Club. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

#### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 17-20

**Spring Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, and 1-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. All books are \$3 or less, unless specifically marked: Hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books and audio-visual items. All genres. \$5 Bag Sale on Sunday. Call 703-746-1702.

#### MARCH 17-APRIL 24

**Georgia Nassikas: "Oils and Encaustics."** Thursday, Friday, Sunday 12-4 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. In her wax and oil paintings, artist Georgia Nassikas explores the intersection of the abstract and the representational. She focuses on the elemental lines, shapes, and colors at the core of nature. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**History Symposium: Downton Abbey.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This event is made up of four sessions: "History Lesson at Downton Abbey" presented by Debbie Waugh, "Night of Terror" presented by Kathleen Pablo, "Downton Fashion: Two Dresses, Two Eras" presents by Caroline Hottenstein, and "Memorable Downton Moments." Also find tea, a Titanic -era exhibit, and more. Tickets are \$56 for residents, \$71 for non-residents. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

**Program on Plant Propagation.** 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Burke Branch

Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The program will cover the basics of how to start seeds and transplant seedlings, make stem and leaf cuttings, divide plants and use air layering to propagate difficult-to-root plants. Free. Visit [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org)

#### West Potomac Drumline Show.

2-7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. The West Potomac Band is hosting a USBands Indoor Drumline and Winterguard Competition. There will be more than 19 different units performing. Tickets are \$10. Visit [www.wolverineband.com](http://www.wolverineband.com).

#### Classical Music Concert.

6:30 p.m. at The Lyceum – Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Pianists Andreas Ioannides, John Urban, Sasha Beresovsky, Mathilde Handelsman, and Elias Dagher perform works by Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Kosenko. Tickets are \$35 in advance; \$20 students & seniors; \$40 at the door. Visit [www.pianistsforsoldiers.eventbrite.com](http://www.pianistsforsoldiers.eventbrite.com)

#### Family Woodcock Walk.

6:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his courtship dance and flight. \$6 for residents of Fairfax County, \$8 for non-residents. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

#### Singalong Concert.

7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Celebrate the release of "Rise Again: A Group Singing Songbook" with musicians Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer, Tom Paxton, Annie Patterson and Peter Blood, and Be Steadwell. Tickets are \$20-25. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more.

#### Best Bib and Tucker Ball.

7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society presents the Best Bib & Tucker Ball with a Mardi Gras theme. Dance to Doc Scantlin's orchestra and songstress Chou Chou. Eat New Orleans-inspired cuisine

featuring oyster bar and drinks. Tickets are \$150. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern) or call 703-746-4242.

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**Tom Teasley.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. Teasley's sound is informed by his multiple tours as a cultural envoy for the U.S. Department of State. Performing with more than a dozen instruments from Africa, India, the Middle East, and Asia, he merges digital technology with ancient instruments to create music that spans cultures and time. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/teasley](http://www.torpedofactory.org/teasley).

#### MONDAY/MARCH 21

**Silly Hat Making Workshop.** 6-9 p.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The workshop fee is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members, plus a \$5 supply fee. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

#### TUESDAY/MARCH 22

**Managing and Maintaining the Vegetable Garden.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The program, offered by Master Gardeners of Arlington/Alexandria, the second in a series for new gardeners, will emphasize best management practices for a healthy garden. Topics will include the importance of pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to identify them; how crop rotation and intercropping can help control the challenges of garden pests; how to identify diseases and weeds; and how to maximize harvests with space-saving techniques. Free. Visit [www.mgnv.org](http://www.mgnv.org) for more.





## Team Takes Top Honors

The Alexandria Wildcats All Star Prep Team took home top honors the weekend of Feb. 6 at the annual Battle of the Capitol Competition. eams traveled from Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, New Jersey and Michigan to compete at this annual event held at National Harbor. Also, on Feb. 6, the Alexandria Wildcats All Star Prep Team competed at its second competition of the

day, the Maryland Cup and again, took home top honors. At both competitions, the Alexandria Wildcats earned a first place bid to attend the U.S. Finals Competition which will be held May 7-8 located in Virginia Beach. Along with winning the first place bid at both competitions held on the same day, the team took home National Championship jackets. The team trains out of Gum Springs Community Center and is coached by Anna Diefendorf. For more information on this team, contact Coach/Owner Anna Diefendorf at [rrdiefendorf@verizon.net](mailto:rrdiefendorf@verizon.net).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



## Help Identify Fraud Suspects

Police are investigating a larceny that occurred at the Costco located at 7940 Richmond Highway on Saturday, Feb. 13. Shortly after 11:30 a.m. the victim's purse was taken from her shopping cart while a second suspect distracted her by engaging her in conversation. The victim's credit card was used a short time later at the Target located at 3101 Jefferson Davis Highway. Officers and detectives are working similar cases that

have occurred throughout Fairfax County.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective M. Goodley at the Mount Vernon District Station at 703-360-8400 or Crime Solvers electronically by visiting [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637)\*\* or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## CRIME REPORT

Following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

**ROBBERY:** 8200 block of Claremont Woods Dr. March 6, 12:14 p.m. a 51-year-old man was delivering food when he was approached by an unknown man. The suspect opened the victim's car door, grabbed the food and attempted to flee. The victim and suspect struggled until an unknown female intervened and the suspect fled without the food. The victim was not injured. The suspect was described as a black male in his late teens, about 6 feet tall. He was wearing a gray jacket and dark pants.

**UNLAWFUL ENTRY:** 1800 block of Sherwood Hall Lane. March 4, 9:04 p.m. A homeowner heard someone enter the home. When confronted, the intruder abruptly fled. He was stopped by officers a short time and distance away and was positively identified. A 27-year-old man of no fixed address was arrested and charged with unlawful entry.

**BURGLARY,** 8100 block of Bianca Place, March 2, 10:03 a.m. A resident

reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**BURGLARY,** 8300 block of Bockham Drive, Feb. 28, 6:50 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property

**ASSAULT/STRANGULATION/ABDUCTION:** 2300 block of Fairview Terrace. Feb. 27, 7 a.m. Police responded for the report of an assault and abduction. An investigation determined the suspect and a 33-year old woman, who were known to each other, were arguing. The suspect allegedly assaulted the victim and would not allow her to leave. Prior to police making entry into the home, the victim was able to exit, and the man surrendered and was taken into custody without incident. A 34-year-old Annandale man was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with strangulation, assault and abduction.

**BURGLARY,** 2600 block of Arlington Drive, Feb. 26, 5:51 p.m. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Puller Institute Students

On Feb. 14, six students — Ryan Huck, Audrey Wilson, David Williamson, Margarita Aleixo, Thomas Wetzel, and Krista Worthington — from West Potomac High School and Mountain View High School in Stafford County travelled to Richmond for the first annual Puller Institute and met with Gov. Terry McAuliffe. The Puller Institute, named in honor of retired state Sen. Linda "Toddy" Puller, is designed to give students the opportunity to experience state government on a first hand basis, develop interest in public policy and leadership in their community.



## National History Day

More than 160 seventh grade students from Walt Whitman Middle School shared presentations in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual National History Day on Feb. 11 and 12. These presentations culminated in a semester-long research project investigating a topic through the lens of this year's National History Day theme: Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History. Not only did students complete re-

search, but they had to present their research in the form of an exhibit, website, documentary, or performance. In addition, students had to provide annotated bibliographies for their sources as well as a process paper describing how they conducted their research and how they assembled their final project. Volunteer historians met with each of the students to discuss their project and then they selected three winners per format. Advancing in the Individual Exhibit category are Iman El-Ghazali, Emma Huddleston, and Brandon Golding. For Individual Website: Genevieve Alpar, Hamayal Tariq, and Jack McCarthy. For Group Website: Anna Arzeta and Kimberly Teo-Estrada. For Individual Documentaries: Sebastien Javaudin, Kevin Delcid-Colin, and Thomas Lee. For Individual Performances: Ava Purifoy and Lena Vallejos. For Group Performances: Saher Farhan and Iris Boateng.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Day of Dental Service

The dentists and supporting staff at Mt. Vernon Center for Dentistry devoted a day of work on Saturday, Feb. 20 to provide emergency dental services at their office for clients of United Community Ministries (UCM). Services valued at more than \$10,000 were donated that day to alleviate the pain of 19 clients suffering with serious dental problems and who lack health insurance. From left are Richard Dobber, UCM Director of Social Services, with Dr. Zeyad Mady who also serves as a UCM board member, Dr. James Geren, Dr. Haley Hausser, and Dr. Jason Marrazzo.





Khalil Williams Diggins seen during the region tournament, led West Potomac with 17 points during the Wolverines' loss to Woodside in the 6A state quarterfinals on March 4.



West Potomac freshman Daryl Mackey Jr. figures to be one of the Wolverines' top returners next season.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

# West Potomac Boys' Basketball Has Bright Future

Wolverines fall to Woodside in state quarterfinals.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he 2015-16 West Potomac boys' basketball team experienced the program's first trip to the state tournament since 1998. Based on which players figure to return next year, the Wolverines might just be getting started.

West Potomac, the No. 4 seed from the 6A North region, lost to 6A South champion Woodside 67-57 in the state quarterfinals on March 4 at VCU, ending the Wolverines' season. Junior guard Khalil Williams Diggins led West Potomac with 17 points. Senior forward Jamie Sara finished with 16 points and freshman guard Daryl Mackey Jr. added 10.

"I thought we played really hard," West Potomac head coach David Houston III wrote in an email. "I thought we made criti-

cal mistakes finishing around the basket when we had open opportunities. We've been accustomed to winning the rebound battle all season, and we lost on the glass by six. I thought Woodside was a tough opponent, so I give them a lot of credit for our mistakes and miscues. The experience that my young guys had playing against a bunch of experienced seniors on that stage is invaluable and we learned a lot going forward in that level of competition at states."

It was West Potomac's third consecutive postseason loss. The Wolverines fell to Battlefield in the region semifinals and West Springfield in the region third-place game.

Despite the end-of-year losing streak, West Potomac produced its deepest postseason run of the millennium.

The Wolverines won the Conference 7 championship, the team's first conference/

district title since 2010, and qualified for states by beating Robinson in the region quarterfinals.

West Potomac finished with an 18-11 record, winning 15 of 17 after a 3-6 start.

"I'm really excited, thrilled and proud of our season," Houston wrote. "I thought we overcame some ... tough, close losses to some good teams early on, but stood strong and made a great push after Christmas."

I thought the work the kids put in with the opportunities we were able to make available to them in the offseason had a tremendous effect on our team growth."

The Wolverines will graduate just one member of its starting five, though Sara, a two-time second-team all-conference selection, was a key contributor.

"I'm concerned about finding out just how valuable Jamie really has been to our program," Houston wrote. "He's been steady for us for a long time. I've loved coaching him."

Starters Williams Diggins, a first-team all-region selection, Mackey, and junior forwards Da'Jon Bellfield and Da'Juan Bellfield

are among the players who figure to return for the Wolverines.

"We have a lot of experience coming back, I'm excited about it," Houston wrote. "If we follow our natural progression of our offseason training, I believe we can be one of the best teams in the area. But, it's March, things happen. We've got our work cut out for us, but we're hungry."

With the amount of youth, freshman Mackey Jr., sophomores [Kevin] Payne, [Jake] Mazzoccoli and five key juniors this year – I think the future is extremely bright for our team and program."

Houston wrote that one of his favorite memories from the season is "Our first-round conference matchup against South County, coming back from down eight with 4 minutes to go with our season on the line."

The plays we made, and the passion the kids played with had me emotional ... once we got back to the locker room."

That rarely, if ever, happens to me — I knew we were a special team."

**"I'm really excited, thrilled and proud of our season. I thought we overcame some ... tough, close losses to some good teams early on, but stood strong and made a great push after Christmas. I thought the work the kids put in with the opportunities we were able to make available to them in the offseason had a tremendous effect on our team growth."**

**— West Potomac boys' basketball coach David Houston III**

## Fort Hunt Little League To Begin Challengers Division

**A**s Opening Day for baseball approaches, Fort Hunt Little League is preparing to offer an opportunity for young aspiring baseball players with disabilities the chance to participate in America's pastime.

The "Challengers Division," modeled after a similar program in the West Springfield Little League, is meant for boys and girls ages six to 15 and will be open to any skill level.

Organizer Tony Castrilli said the new division should have about two to three games in the season, with one to two practices.

"It's an opportunity for players and their families to get out, enjoy the game of baseball and meet other families in the community that have that interest."

Other players from Fort Hunt Little League will be on the field with the Challengers as buddies, helping and coaching.

For more information or to sign-up, visit [www.forthuntlittleleague.org](http://www.forthuntlittleleague.org) or contact Tony Castrilli at [tony.castrilli@gmail.com](mailto:tony.castrilli@gmail.com) or 703-888-7166.

— TIM PETERSON



# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**Free Cab Rides.** Thursday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Friday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 10

**Power Networking.** 8-9:30 a.m. Monthly Business Breakfast of Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Bring business cards and make new contacts. Cost is \$25 per person for Chamber members and \$35 for non-Chamber which includes a buffet breakfast. Register at [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org) or call 703-360-6925.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 11

**Tax Relief.** 10 a.m. A program at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, to provide help filling out applications for Fairfax County tax relief. Seniors 65 years and older and people who are totally and permanently disabled may apply for tax relief from real estate and personal property taxes. Applicants must meet certain income and asset eligibility requirements to qualify. Registration required. Call 703-765-4573 for reservation.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 12

**St. Patrick's Day Dinner.** 6-8 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The community is invited to a traditional St Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner in the Parish House Common Room at Pohick Church. This is a fundraising event to support the many outreach programs sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Men's Group of Pohick Episcopal Church. \$15 per person or \$30 per family, with children under 12 free. Contact the church office at 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

## MONDAY/MARCH 14

**AARP Virginia Dinner Group.** 4-8 p.m. at Lucky's Sports Theatre and Grill, 7027 B Manchester Blvd., Franconia. AARP has reserved the private room of Lucky's Sports Theatre and Grill for members and friends to enjoy dinner together with a 10 percent discount on dinner entrees. Full menu ordering is available. No seminar program or products will be sold at this event, just a simple welcome from AARP. Come as you are and leave as you wish anytime. Ample free parking. Register at [aarp.cvent.com/Franconia31416VA](http://aarp.cvent.com/Franconia31416VA).

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

**Pilot Talk.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Tony DiFerdinando, a retired Air Force pilot of 26 years, will give a program on "Everything you wanted to know about flying but were afraid to ask." Free, open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

**Managing Digital Accounts.** 1 p.m. Estate planning attorney, Deborah Matthews, presents a program at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, on what happens to one's digital life when it can no

longer be maintained. She will talk about how to prevent the struggle that loved ones face with managing someone else's digital affairs. Free and open to the public. RSVP to Mount Vernon at Home, 703-303-4060.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Boater Safety Class.** 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592 Richmond Highway. Recreational Boater Training, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary meets Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. mandatory boating education requirements. Receive a textbook, laminated wallet card, certificate, free membership in BoatUS, discount coupon for West Marine safety supplies, and a number of Coast Guard reference materials. \$40 or \$60 for two sharing the book. Contact Jean Ponton at 703-362-7079 or [herpomp79@yahoo.com](mailto:herpomp79@yahoo.com). Visit [wow.uscgaux.info/?unit=054-25-08](http://wow.uscgaux.info/?unit=054-25-08).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 27

**Sunrise Easter Service.** 7 a.m. at the Circle in front of George Washington's Historic Mount Vernon. Join the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club and Boy Scout Troop 993 for a Sunrise Easter Service. Sponsored by the Mount Vernon Rotary Club. Usher Services provided by Boy Scout Troop 993. There will be limited seating provided, please bring lawn chairs. The event will be followed by a pancake breakfast hosted by Troop 993.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 29

**Coffee Social.** 11 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Mount Vernon At Home hosts a coffee social with information on Village life, membership and volunteering. Free. RSVP to [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 1-2

**Children's Consignment Sale.** Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Make some extra cash by selling children's outgrown (but in good condition) clothes, equipment/toys, and maternity wear while helping other parents outfit their growing children. Sellers receive 60 percent of the sales price (seller determined) and the UMW receives 40 percent to support local and national charities. Donations also welcome. Call 703-329-9327 or email [CUMC.UMW.CCS@gmail.com](mailto:CUMC.UMW.CCS@gmail.com).

## SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**Car "Boot" Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. St. Luke's is hosting a British style car boot sale. Similar to a yard sale but items are sold from the trunk or "boot" of a car. Sellers: \$20 to rent a parking spot. Free to attend, open to the public. Contact Dawn McMillin at [mcmillin23@cox.net](mailto:mcmillin23@cox.net) or 703-780-9418.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 14

**Economic Outlook 2016.** 8-11:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Current information on trends in the local economy will be presented by experts in economics, real estate, and local development. Economic Outlook 2016 is a joint event of the Chamber and Southeast Fairfax Development Corp. \$35 per person until March 31, \$45 after. Buffet breakfast and Exhibit Hall at 8 a.m., program runs from 9-11:30 a.m. Visit [mtvernon-leechamber.chambermaster.com/](http://mtvernon-leechamber.chambermaster.com/).

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6:30 pm Vigil Mass  
(en Español)

**Sunday:**  
7:30 am; 9:00 am  
(with Sign Language  
Interpreter and  
Children's Liturgy of  
the Word); 10:30 am;  
12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm  
(en Español); 6:30 pm

**Monday-Saturday:**  
9:00 am Mass  
(Rosary at 8:30 am)

**En Español:**  
Monday, 6:30 pm;  
Thursday, 7:30 pm;  
First Friday, 7:30 pm

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## 21 Announcements

### NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION & NOTICE TO CLAIMANTS OF PROCEDURE TO FILE CLAIMS PURSUANT TO Code of VA. § 13.1-746.1(b.)

nge's Properties Inc. (the "Corporation"), a Virginian corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia, has dissolved in the Commonwealth of Virginia as of February 10, 2016. Pursuant to the filing of the certificate of dissolution, the Corporation hereby gives notice to all persons having a claim against the Corporation, other than a claim against the Corporation in a pending action, suit or proceeding to which the Corporation is a party, to present their claims against the Corporation in the manner prescribed below:

1. All claims must be presented to the Corporation in writing and must contain sufficient information reasonably to inform the Corporation or successor entity of the identity of the claimant and the substance of the claim.

2. The mailing address to which such a claim must be sent is: nge's Properties Inc. c/o Robert B. Nealon, Esq., 119 N. Henry Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.

3. The date by which such a claim must be received by the Corporation or its successor entity is May 1, 2016.

1. Any claim that is not received by May 1, 2016 will not be evaluated for payment at this time.

5. The Corporation may make distributions to other claimants or persons interested without further notice to the claimant.

3. Further, any claim will be barred unless a proceeding to enforce such claim is commenced by the earlier of the expiration of the statute of limitations, or three years after the date of publication of this notice.

Robert B. Nealon, Secretary Pro Tempore, Inge's Properties, nc.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY



**Colonel John F C Kenney, Jr, US Army, Retired,** of Alexandria, VA, passed away on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at the age of 90, after a brief illness at the Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was predeceased by his brother William Kenney and his sister Doris Mahaney. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Marie E (Koed) Kenney, his daughter Catherine M Hale and her husband Richard A Hale of Alexandria, his daughter Mary E Brenner and her husband Matthew C Brenner of Onancock, and his grandchildren, Colleen M Brenner, M Ethan Brenner, and Zachary J Brenner, and ten nieces and nephews and their families.

John was born in Boston, Massachusetts on January 19, 1926 to John and Doris Kenney. He graduated from Wellesley Senior High School in 1943, and entered Boston College for Pre-Med Studies. He enlisted in the Army later in 1943, where he trained as a Medical Soldier, then Surgical Technician and served at the newly formed Evacuation Hospital in Fort Lewis, WA. At this time he decided that he was meant to be a soldier, and not a physician, and transferred to Officer Candidate School. He completed Airborne Training in July 1945, and served in Europe until 1946. He returned to Boston College and joined the Massachusetts National Guard. He met and fell in love with Marie Koed of Wellesley, MA. Their wedding plans were postponed 4 years by his appointment as Cadet, United States Military Academy at West Point, class of 1952. John graduated from USMA, June 3, 1952, and he and Marie married the next day.

John served 32 years as an Army Airborne Infantry officer. He earned a BS in Engineering from USMA, and an MA in English Literature from the University of Pennsylvania. He served in many leadership capacities in the States as well as Japan, Korea, Viet Nam, and Dominican Republic. His last assignment was as Director, Army Tactical Data Systems and Tactical Communications, before retiring June 30, 1975 to his much-loved Alexandria, VA. During his career, John received numerous military awards, chief among them the Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Legion of Merit with Two Oak Leaf Clusters.

In retirement, John was a consultant to the Department of Defense and small business owner, an active participant in local politics and neighborhood organizations, an usher at St Mary's Catholic Church, and an enthusiastic golfer.

For many years, John was the executive director of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Advisory Board and president of the Korean War Veterans Foundation. His time, effort, and passion culminated in the building and dedication of the Korean War Veterans Memorial that we have on the mall today.

John's funeral will be held on Tuesday, June 7, at the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel, at 10:45 am. He will be buried immediately after, at Arlington National Cemetery. There will be a viewing on Monday, June 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria, Virginia. Additional information will be available at Demaine's website Memorial.

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**CHRISTINE H. WHITEHOUSE**, age 91, of Alexandria, Virginia, died February 11, 2016 at Goodwin House, Alexandria, Virginia. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Richard E. Whitehouse. She is survived by her devoted children and grandchildren, Richard E. Whitehouse, Jr. his wife, Ellen and children, Jack, Stephanie, Jennifer, Christopher, Patrick and Bethany; Robert Whitehouse, his wife, Mary and children Elizabeth and Bobby. A Memorial Service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA 22309. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 954, Wilton, NH 03086 or St. James Episcopal Church.

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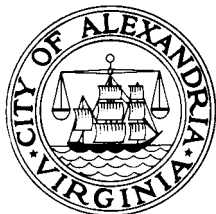
### OBITUARY

**Dorothy Louise Simpson, 88**

On March 1, 2016 peacefully passed away in Bentonville, VA. Formerly of Alexandria, VA. Beloved wife of the late Samuel J. Simpson; she is survived by her children, Laura (Charles) Keller and Richard G. (Barbara) Simpson; grandchildren Johanna P. Carson, Emily L. Simpson, and Charles L. Keller Jr.; and great-granddaughter Amelia M. Carson. The family received friends on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 from 4-6 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 11 a.m. at Rockland Community Church, 2921 Rockland Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630. Interment will be private. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to Blue Ridge Hospice. Additional information may be found at [www.everlywheatley.com](http://www.everlywheatley.com).

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements



Public Hearing will be held by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, in the Council Chambers, City Hall, City of Alexandria, Virginia, on Saturday, March 12, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., or as soon as may be heard on the hereinafter described items.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE authorizing the Tenant of the property located at 728 North Patrick Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for two (2) enclosed stairways along Madison Street to access the rooftop dining at that location

The proposed ordinance permits the restaurant located at 728 North Patrick Street to maintain an encroachment into the right-of-way between the building and the sidewalk along Madison Street at this location in order to construct two stairways to access the rooftop dining.

\*\*\*\*\*  
AN ORDINANCE authorizing the owner of the property located at 600 Wolfe Street to construct and maintain an encroachment for handicapped accessible ramp at that location approved by the City Council on January 20, 2016.

The proposed ordinance permits the Little Theatre of Alexandria to encroach into the public right-of-way adjacent to the sidewalk at 600 Wolfe Street in order to construct a handicapped accessible ramp.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE PUBLIC IS ADVISED THAT AMENDMENTS OR ADDITIONS MAY BE MADE TO PROPOSED ORDINANCES WITHOUT FURTHER PUBLICATION. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PERSONS INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE ORDINANCES OBTAIN FREE FULL-TEXT COPIES FROM THE CITY CLERK AT CITY HALL.  
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## 29 Misc. for Sale

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 16-01-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Elementary General Music Texts.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-01-04 Elementary General Music Texts will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, April 1, 2016. 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

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
Constellation Enterprise, Corp, trading as Mi Pollo, 6464 Landsowne Ctr. Alexandria, VA 22315. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Carmelo Pantano, President  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200

## 21 Announcements

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

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## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

### In Memoriam

In Memory of my loving partner, Lawrence L. Summers, who passed away on March 9, 1996.

Because you are so dear to me and forever in my heart,

Your memory still lingers on as the day we met,

I count each day as wisely and lovely spent,

In which I do some good for someone far away.

You understood me when I was upset and had the blues,

You showed me that time is worth while when share the

Happiness of one enduring smile.

The happiness that you bestowed to me,

Floods memories of us together,

Today, everyday, forever.

They help me in my sorrow, after the storm was over,

I know that God was there.

Your loving husband, Russ

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**THE  
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NEWSPAPERS**

FROM PAGE 10

whether active or retired to carry a concealed handgun without requiring them to obtain a permit. In the State Senate, only six senators opposed the Bill. Since there are 19 Democratic senators in the State Senate, if all the opponents were Democrats, that means 13 out of 19 supported the Bill. Since at least 68 percent of the 19 Democratic Senators supported the bill, my point was that Senator Surovell is out of the mainstream of even his fellow Democrats on this issue. This is just basic math.

Only two people wrote in to the Gazette to disagree with my letter. On an issue so contentious as gun control, this is surprising. One writer supported Senator Surovell's stand, speculating that the Bill if passed into law might result in a "jittery" judge shooting "at the first startling movement around his house." What does this have to do with permits for carrying of a concealed weapon? State law (18.2-308B) permits the carrying of a concealed weapon by anyone in one's place of abode and surrounding property. He also sarcastically suggested issuing guns to newborns in maternity wards. Maybe viable fetuses should be considered, too.

Both writers stated that Senator Surovell is in agreement with their views on this issue. The second writer complimented the senator for going against the mainstream. If this was just an isolated instance, I would agree. I have documented in other letters that Senator Surovell is often in an extreme corner of political thought as demonstrated by his votes concerning a variety of diverse issues. The second writer accused me of incorrectly addressing the substance of the legislation. He correctly stated that there is no restriction on judges carrying concealed weapons if they comply with current law. I don't understand this argument because I never asserted that a judge could not obtain a concealed carry permit under current law.

Like Senator Surovell, the two writers appear not to recognize the special circumstances of a judge who is obligated by his or her oath to sentence criminals to jail terms. The total number of judges in the Commonwealth of Virginia likely numbers in the low four figures or fewer, including those who are retired. Yet this small sampling of the populace is more likely than others to be the target of a criminal act by a vengeful former inmate seeking revenge on a judge who fulfilled his or her oath by taking away their liberty for a period of time.

While the Bill addresses a small issue, it is enlightening concerning the views of Senator Surovell. Unfortunately, Senator Surovell's extreme positions on numerous issues make it less likely Northern Virginia will receive a fairer share of the tax revenue we send to Richmond and that we desperately need to address transportation and education needs. A legislature dominated by Republicans likely has little incentive to assist a way-left Democrat in meeting his campaign goals. The rest of us along with the voters who elected him will suffer the consequences.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Storck Should Identify Wasteful Spending

To the Editor:

The newly elected Mount Vernon Supervisor Storck demonstrated at the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) hearing on March 3 regarding the County Executive's proposed advertised tax rate of four cents that he is a high tax politician.

He made a motion to nearly double the advertised proposed County Executive tax rate from four cents to seven cents per hundred of assessed values. Fortunately for the hard working taxpayers the motion was defeated on a 3-7 vote.

All Mount Vernon residents particularly those who voted to elect Supervisor Storck should ask him to provide his reasons for nearly doubling the real estate tax rate increase. Also, what proposal has he made to cut wasteful spending to provide taxpayers relief instead of increasing the tax burdens?

Here are some examples of wasteful spending: In 2014 the BOS gave certain county employees bonuses totaling \$10 million whether they earned it or not, bailed out a bank for a \$30 million unsecured loan that was made to an arts foundation, having subsidized housing in plush neighborhoods where units sell for a million dollars, buying property paying millions of dollars more than the assessed value and owning 127 vacant parcels of property that are off the tax rolls losing millions of tax revenue. Then in 2015 the supervisors rewarded themselves with a hefty pay raise although they were already being paid more than supervisors of surrounding counties.

There are a number of schools not fully accredited or do not prepare students for college. Yet, the school system is demanding more tax money. The BOS should demand School Board members be held accountable before allocating more money for schools. The students and taxpayers deserve no less. Supervisor Storck should also be asked to discuss his analysis of major taxpayer financed programs and services that he has determined are essential, and if so, are they being administered in the most efficient and economical way to support his contention of proposing to advertise a seven cent instead of a four cent tax rate hike as proposed by the county executive.

All supervisors should get wasteful spending under control and make sure all programs and services are essential and administered economically before they sock it to taxpayers again by raising the real estate taxes.

Let Supervisor Storck hear from you. Silence will only bring about more of the same for the already burdened and hardworking taxpayers.

**Frank Medico**  
Mount Vernon

## Not for Virginia

To the Editor:

As recently as this past week (in South

Carolina), Hillary Clinton reasserted her belief that taxpayer dollars should not be used to finance college for "Donald Trump's daughter." This statement appears to be a refinement of the remark she initially made back in November, during her debate against Bernie Sanders: "I disagree with free college for everybody. I don't think taxpayers should be paying to send Donald Trump's kids to college."

I wonder, is this slogan truly meant to admonish the children on account of Trump's wealth, or is it meant, rather, to admonish "you and I" in consequence of what is to be seen as Trump's political betrayal? After all, in this year's political charade, it seems Trump is to be perceived as the frustrated, disfranchised Democrat, who (supposedly) has come to accept — with superlative vigor and exceptional pertinacity — the special interests of "the Right."

Clinton, on the other hand, is to be seen as the wicked witch of "the Left," jaded, infuriated and determined to exact retribution, taking aim against Trump, or so it is meant to appear.

But I am inclined to interpret Clinton's conveniently crafted rift with Donald Trump as a political ruse, intended merely to establish precedence (and a small smoke screen as well), enabling her to take careful aim against those very "children" Trump, himself, seeks to exploit.

And so who are these un-deserving "kids," the intended targets of Clinton's proclamation? Ordinary citizens. Particularly those who desire to acknowledge God and follow the dictates of conscience, who have been deemed guilty of clinging to religion and espousing the "wrong" worldview (by humanist reckoning). To impugn such individuals to the second generation — in effect, overthrowing the rule of law — would be a groundbreaking accomplishment, even for someone as deeply experienced in this area as Hillary Clinton.

Meanwhile, this entire episode underscores the fact that Trump, himself, lacks the discernment it takes to be the kind of President we need. Otherwise, he might have immediately understood and challenged the implications of Clinton's strange assertion, instead of soaking it up like a sponge, having only the audacity to stand back and thank her for the free press.

He is either too proud or dreadfully remiss to point out that his children are — in point of fact — no less deserving than anyone else. As human beings, we are called to embrace an "inalienable" standard of right, which transcends all class, condition and circumstance. Anything beyond this moral standard is quite immaterial, particularly those indentations concerning the father's wealth, prestige, power, influence, fame. And, yes, even his "reputed" political philosophy (whether favored or ill-favored).

Both Clinton and Trump are considered the "front runners," having dominated the Virginia primaries. But are either of these two candidates a smart match for Virginia? I'm afraid not.

**Joseph A. Glean**  
Mount Vernon

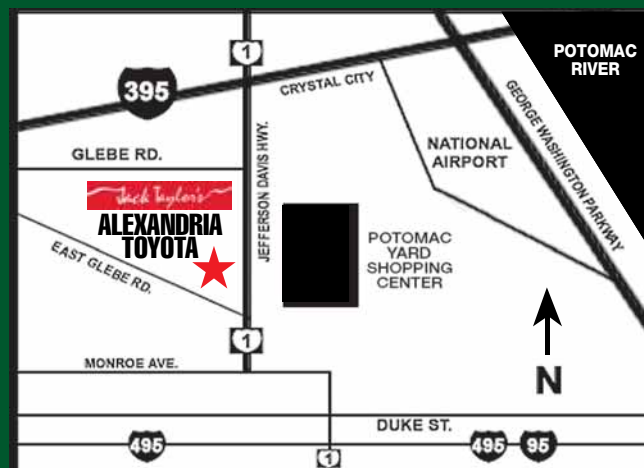
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# Nanny Suites Add Value

High-end live-in quarters attract au pairs and can increase property values.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When Peggy Delinois Hamilton relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and began working full-time after spending eight years as an at-home mother of two children, childcare was one of her top concerns. She decided that a live-in au pair was the best choice for her family.

"I like the live-in because I don't have to worry about issues with transportation on the caretaker's part," said Hamilton. "I don't have to worry about them having competing obligations."

Finding and keeping a live-in nanny in a competitive childcare market can be a high stakes game. To lure and retain experienced, nurturing caregivers, many families shell out as much as \$100,000 to create stylishly appointed living space for their au pairs. From kitchens with marble countertops and stainless steel appliances to bathrooms with luxury showerheads and rich wood cabinetry, local designers create living quarters so enchanting and thoughtfully designed that a nanny wouldn't dream of leaving.

"If you're a live-in nanny, you want your own space. In fact, nannies won't take a job from a family that won't provide it," said Jackie Wood-Gobuluk, owner of Metropolitan Nannies in Herndon, Virginia.

The spaces most often used for nanny suites are the lower level or attic, says Christopher Dietz of Dietz Development. "We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house," he said. "We don't do Formica or IKEA cabinets. We generally use ... granite, marble or Silestone. You don't



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

**The space serves as a nanny suite in an Alexandria home. Additional living areas can increase a property's value, say real estate agents.**

want people to say, 'Wow, we can tell you really cut corners on this space.'"

Maintaining a continuity in quality while being budget conscious requires judicious planning. "We may splurge on custom window treatments and a bedskirt and save on things like furniture using retail pieces," said Marika Meyer, principal of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda.

When an Arlington, Va. family enlisted architect J.P. Ward of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. to design an au pair suite for their home, they wanted him to maintain continuity in both color and materials. A cathedral ceiling, granite countertops, and under cabinet lighting were key as he blended the rich aesthetic quality of the original home with the new space. "We used

a higher end tile and materials that blended with the rest of the house," said Ward. "It turned out to be like a high-end studio apartment that you could get high rent for."

The au pair's space has a separate entrance, something that offers privacy to both the nanny and the family. "We made it so that the au pair has an independent way of

coming in and so they're not working 24 hours a day," said Ward.

Contractors say the cost of adding a nanny suite can range from \$5,000 on a property where there is an existing bathroom and space for a bedroom to more than \$100,000 on properties where plumbing must be installed or an small addition is required. "[A] bathroom is the biggest expense because of the plumbing," said Ward.

**"We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house."**

— Christopher Dietz,  
Dietz Development

Because such an addition requires a significant investment, Kai Tong of Hopkins and Porter Construction in Potomac, Md. encourages clients to think long term. "One of the most important and useful realizations

SEE NANNY SUITE, PAGE 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETZ DEVELOPMENT

**The colors of this au pair suite bathroom are similar to those used in the rest of the house.**



PHOTO BY MORGAN HOWARTH

**Families create spa-like living quarters to attract and retain live-in**



## Nanny Suites Add Value

FROM PAGE 3

when considering nanny suites is that, unlike your kitchen or bath or bedroom, the nanny suite will only be a nanny suite for a finite amount of time in your lives," he said. "As your children grow, the nanny will move on, and the nanny suite is destined to become

something else."

In the Washington, D.C. area, adding an au pair suite to one's home can make a property more appealing. "Particularly in neighborhoods with lots of young, affluent families, nanny suites are a popular, although not essential, amenity," said David DeSantis, Partner and Managing Broker of

TTR Sotheby's International Realty. "Ideally these suites are somewhat separated from the family sleeping quarters and have their own entrance so the nanny can come and go freely."

A nanny suite can offer a good return on investment. "The fact that it could be used as a nanny suite is a plus, but it's the same



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETZ DEVELOPMENT

**The materials and fixtures used in this nanny suite by Dietz Construction mimic those in the in the main part of the home.**

sort of thing as an in-law suite. It offers the ability for multigenerational living with some level of privacy," said David Howell, Executive Vice President and CIO of McEneaney Associates in McLean. "Because these suites are pretty uncommon in this area, it's a real draw for those who really need one."

Having a nanny suite, particularly one with high-end amenities, can increase a property's value.

"I would say that they may make a difference in price from 5 to 10

percent as they ... would count as an additional bedroom," said Nancy Itteilag, of Long and Foster Christie's International Real Estate.

Ann Dozier Michael, an Alexandria-based associate broker with McEneaney Associates, has a current listing that includes a nanny suite.

"When you have a property listed that can serve the various needs of buyers, then that will add value because you have a larger buying pool," she said.

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