Mount Pernon Gazette

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper



Five year old Nyemah came from Maryland to visit Green Spring Garden in the dress her mom just finished sewing. They are frequent visitors to the park and were happily taking notice of the signs of spring.

Spring Finally Arrives?

The grounds at Green Spring Garden are showing signs that spring has arrived.

Photos by **Renée Ruggles** The Gazette

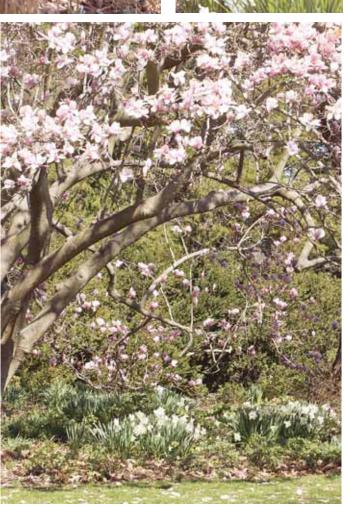








PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION Marcy Mager and husband David Lunter of Lorton worked with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia to set up a scholarship in honor of their daughter Michell, who died in 2009.

Local Nonprofits Awarded \$380,000

Five of 36 grant awardees speak at "Cocktails & Conversation" event.

By Tim Peterson The Connection

hen Lorton residents Marcy Mager and husband David Lunter's daughter Michell Merhige was killed in 2009, they wanted to establish a scholarship in her honor but knew handling the financial logistics would be tricky.

"Michell was a very generous person, with her time and talents," Mager said. "She was a businesswoman, worked for orphanages and the youth ministry at her church."

Mager and Lunter adopted Merhige at 14. She had been homeless, lived in orphanages herself and foster homes.

Four years ago, Mager and Lunter connected with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, a philanthropy organization that helps connect donors around the region with the community. In Fiscal Year 2015, the Foundation awarded \$4.2 million in grants to local nonprofit organizations, faith groups and schools, and \$215,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

"They were a vehicle for us establishing this scholarship," Mager said, which is now awarded to one graduating Fairfax County senior each year. With the Foundation administering the scholarship funds, it allows Mager and her husband to focus on collecting money and organizing the selection committee.

Though not necessarily a requirement, they tend to look for a senior who's overcome obstacles, who may have been orphaned or spent time in foster homes like

See Community, Page 3

March 24, 2016

Spring Fun &

ENTERTAINMENT

Page 12



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Rosemont

\$939,900

Charming Rosemont 3-bedroom, 3-bath home is bright and updated! Great backyard with brick patio and landscaping. Off-street parking and detached 1-car garage. Walk to King Street Metro, Old Town and local area schools. 303summers. mcenearney.com

Sue & Allison Goodhart

703.362.3221 www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Alexandria

\$1,499,000

This gorgeous custom home offers 6 bedrooms, 6.5 baths and more than 6,000 SF of luxurious living space. The gourmet kitchen, family room, the more formal dining and living rooms and deck span the back of the house where three sets of French doors offer panoramic views of the deep flat back yard.

Robin Arnold

703.966.5457 www.RobinArnoldSells.com



OLD TOWN \$899,900

Stately 1,800-SF, 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath brick townhouse, just 2.5 blocks to King Street's shops & restaurants! Updated kitchen with Viking range & wine fridge. Bright, open living room with gas fireplace & built ins. Master bedroom with vaulted ceilings and en-suite bath. Hardwood floors throughout, fenced garden & reserved offstreet parking, 326 S. Alfred St.

Wendy Santantonio 703.625.8802 www.WendySantantonio.com



Charm is throughout this updated 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath Colonial starting at the entry with picket fence and front porch. Totally renovated in 2011, there is an open kitchen/family room, generous storage and a wall of windows overlooking the level backyard.

Elizabeth Lucchesi 703.868.5676 www.LizLuke.com



Wilton Woods

\$729,000

A true classic that has been re-imagined, renovated and loved on a large wooded lot. This center-hall colonial offers a great kitchen with gas cooking, 2 fireplaces, 2-zoned heat and AC, wide brick patio, fully-fenced rear yard, and screened-in porch. Room for pool or addition.

Ann Duff

703.965.8700 www.AnnDuff.com



Paul Anderson 703.408.0676 www.paulvanderson.com

many period details, gorgeous wood floors, new kitchen, baths, and garden. Located on a fantastic light, corner location at corner of North Patrick and Cameron Streets. Also zoned commercial. 1001 Cameron Street



Alexandria

\$779,000

Curb appeal and a fantastic yard. 3 bedrooms and 1 bath up, 1 bedroom and bath on the main floor. Finished basement with another full bath! Walk to Blessed Sacrament. 2200 Minor Street

Laurel Conger

703.577.6899 www.AlexandriaLiving.com



McLean

\$1,625,000

The exquisite Cameo kitchen and the lushly landscaped private lot will take your breath away. This six-bedroom, seven-bath Olde Swinks Mill colonial also offers a captivating view of the in-ground pool and lush yard from an expansive sun room

Joan Shannon & Chris Pritchard 703.507.8655 | 703.475.7520 www.JoanHome.com

Old Town \$2,595,000



Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079 www.LaurenBishopHomes.com





LUXURY PORT/OLIO

News Briefs

Forum Explores Effects of Drugs on the Adolescent Brain

The effects of drugs on the adolescent brain and new Fairfax county and public school initiatives for students with mental health and substance abuse issues will be the topics of the 2016 NEXUS forum for families and professionals Thursday, March 31, at the Fairfax Public Schools Virginia Hills Center, 6500 Diana Lane, Alexandria. The afternoon session is from 1-6 p.m. and the evening session is 6–9 p.m. The public is invited.

At the evening session, researcher Emily Einstein, from the National Institutes of Health / National Institute on Drug Abuse will describe the latest research about the influence of drugs (from marijuana to opiates) on the adolescent brain. She will discuss how chemicals change the brain, myths about recovery and the factors most likely to engender success in different types of recovery programs.

Lyn Tomlinson, assistant deputy director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) who serves on a Fairfax County inter-agency task force for prescription drug and heroin use at the State Substance Abuse and Mental Health Council, will talk about heroine/opioid epidemic prevention and treatment and specific local interventions in partnership with other agencies.

Beka Martinez and her son will give a personal perspective on what happens when autism, mental health problems and drugs intersect in an adolescent life. Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck will discuss the Board of Supervisors' priorities for turning problems into opportunities for improving the mental health of the young.

During the afternoon session, participants will hear from Tisha Deeghan, executive director of the CSB, which oversees county mental health services, and others involved in the county Behavioral Health System of Care and Diversion First initiatives.

Youth with mental health and substance abuse issues often encounter the juvenile justice system. Capt. Shawn Martin, commander of Mount Vernon District police station, and others will discuss the outcomes of a pilot program called "restorative justice," that offers alternatives to detention to first time nonviolent offenders. Other speakers will address recognizing and preventing gang activity in Fairfax County, youth and adult mental health first aid courses, and a student-to-student support program.

To register for the seminar, contact Lainge Bailey, at 703-660-2327 or laingebailey@earthlink.net.

Park Board Approves Mastenbrook Grant for Little League

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board approved a Mastenbrook grant at its meeting on March 9, that will help support Little League in Northern Virginia.

Fort Hunt Little League requested and will receive \$16,579.87 in matching funds through the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program to renovate the infields on Fields 1 and 2 at Hollin Hall Park in the Mount Vernon District. As part of the renovation, the infields will be laser graded to improve drainage and provide a more consistent playing surface. Infield mix will be added, and the grass will be replaced with new sod. Fort Hunt Little League has been a participant in the Adopt-A-Field program for several years, and over the years has contributed funds towards maintenance and multiple athletic field improvements at Hollin Hall Park, as well as other park and school fields.

The Mastenbrook bond-funded grants provide limited matching funds for projects in Fairfax County parks. In 1998, John Mastenbrook, a 21-year veteran of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, suggested the creation of a grant program to encourage public and private ventures that would improve Fairfax County parks and park facilities. The program was designed to fill a gap between limited bond funding and the community's desire for new neighborhood park facilities.

Since 1999, 140 Mastenbrook Grant projects and more than \$1.1 million in awards have been made, resulting in projects throughout Fairfax County valued at more than \$7.4 million.

News

Community Foundation Awards \$380,000 in Local Grants

From Page 1

their daughter. Or it may be a student who has to work to help support their family.

Mager and Lunter joined other donors and members of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia March 15 at the Capital Grille in McLean to celebrate the Foundation's Community Investment Fund grantees.

With the biggest cycle of the year, the Foundation awarded \$380,418 to 36 organizations around Northern Virginia. The categories for nonprofits included Child, Youth Development and Education; Health, Mental Health and Aging; Poverty Relief; and Military Personnel and Their Families.

The 36 grantees were chosen from a field of 119 applications by committees filled with community experts in each field that were set up by the Community Foundation.

"These represent our most critical needs," said Community Foundation of Northern Virginia president and CEO Eileen Ellsworth, of Oakton.

Representatives from one grantee from each category said a few words about their nonprofit and the significance of the grant.

Ernie Spycher is Northern Virginia program manager of Serving Together, Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, which provides mental health and other services and resource information for military veterans and their families.

"The Community Foundation is more than a funder, they're a partner," Spycher said. "They help provide connections. It's an amazing feeling, to know we have that support."

For the full list of all 36 local nonprofits that were awarded 2016 Community Investment Grants, visit www.cfnova.org/our-programs/community-investment-funds/2016-awardees.

Grant Recipients

CHILD, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION Child and Family Network Centers, \$10,000

Serving Alexandria Funding will provide free, high-quality bilingual preschool education.

Creative Cauldron, \$2,500

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will support the Technical Theater Training Project, which provides out of school educational opportunities for at-risk Homestretch youth.

Edu-Futuro (Educacion Para Nuestro Futuro), \$10,000 Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will support the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP), a leadership development program that supports at-risk immigrant youth in the pursuit of a higher education.

+Fairfax Choral Society, \$5,000 Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will help provide top quality music education to children ages 0-10 in Northern Virginia.

HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND AGING

Insight Memory Care Center, \$10,000

Serving Fairfax County

Funding will provide daily care, support and education for individuals with dementia and their family caregivers.

Linden Resources, \$7,800 Serving Fairfax County

Funding will provide life enrichment and community integration activities for Northern Virginia adult residents with disabilities through a day support program.

NAMI Northern Virginia, \$10,000 Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will help identify, train and mentor 20 new Peer Leaders to serve as presenters and facilitators for three key programs: In Our Own Voice, Peer-to-Peer and Connection.

Virginia Hospital Center Foundation, \$10,000

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will support the Virginia Hospital Center Lifeline Assistance Fund to help low-income seniors pay for and maintain the Philips Lifeline Medical Alert system in their homes.

The Women's Center, \$10,000

Serving All of Northern Virginia Funding will provide individual and/or group mental health counseling to clients/residents of community-based shelters and non-profit programs serving low-income, vulnerable people in Northern Virginia.

POVERTY RELIEF

Friends of Guest House, Inc., \$10,000

Serving All of Northern Virginia Funding will provide operating support in key areas like housing, jobs, health and parenting to maintain their

expanded Residential, Aftercare and Outreach Programs.

Goodwill of Greater Washington, \$10,000

Serving All of Northern Virginia Funding will provide comprehensive sector-specific employment services and workforce training at no cost to

120 low-income residents of Northern Virginia who face complex barriers to employment

Northern Virginia Family Service, \$10,000 Funding will support the SERVE Emergency Assistance Program for ongoing staff and related operational costs.

MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES

Serving Together, Mental Health Association of Montgomery

County, \$51,644

Serving All of Northern Virginia

Funding will continue to support service coordination and navigation assistance for veterans and military personnel and families in Northern Virginia for the third year.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND

FACETS, \$6,570 Fairfax

Serving Fairfax County

- This annual grant is made possible by the Huntsman
- Endowment Fund and supports FACETS' operating budget. *Denotes grants made at the Community Foundation's recommendation from the Haymarket Donor Advised Fund.
- +Denotes grants made at the Community Foundation's recommendation from the Hanlon Donor Advised Fund.



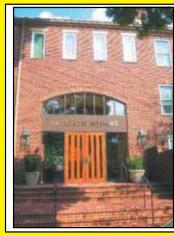
Fighting Fire

Photo by R.E. Stinson

Flames were visible Sunday night at 5845 Monticello Road near Huntington Station in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County. The fire was held fast on neighborhood fences by firemen of the Penn Daw Fire Station led by Captain Pitman.

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Alexandria \$335,000 800 S St. Ásaph St, unit #410. Popular St. Asaph Square! One bedroom condo is updated and ready for new owner. Located in the southeast quadrant, this condo is convenient to dining, shopping, bus, Beltway, and the waterfront. Garage parking and storage are included! Don't miss this adorable unit! Fran Slade 904-476-2691



Alexandria/Del Ray \$549,000 526 E Duncan Avenue. Lovely Del Ray townhome 2 BR/ 2 BA w/a welcoming front porch & spacious open floor plan. Features include crown molding, plantation shutters, recessed lighting & hardwood floors throughout the main & upper level. Finished LL with builtins, 2nd full bath, laundry & walks out to fully fenced yard. Ellen Hunt 703-328-9430

Alexandria \$395,000 400 Madison Street #705. Light-filled 1 bedroom, 1 bath with all rooms opening to the 44 ft. balcony for grills and outdoor living. Many amenities convey, including garage parking, extra storage, bike storage, 24 hr. concierge, roof pool, social room, and saunas. Steps to Harris Teeter, Trader Joe's, Starbucks, fine restaurants, parks and Metro. 2 stoplights to D.C. Lib Willey 703-362-7206



Alexandria/ Thomas Shelton \$970,000 631 S. Saint Asaph St. Stunning historic town house on one of the prettiest streets in Old Town. Four levels all updated! Original pine floors with all the new updates. Designer lighting throughout, custom paint, three wood-burning fireplaces and secluded grotto on lower level. Deep backyard for all your outdoor enjoyment. Just steps to the restaurants and shops of Old Town! Dawn Gurganus 571-237-5161



Alexandria/Chapel Hill \$1,399,000 1120 Key Drive. Fabulous 7 bedroom, 5.5 + .5 bath custom home with approx. 7,000 sq. ft. of living space on 1/2 an acre with a 4-car garage! Impressive 3-story fieldstone fireplace in the living room, spacious gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room and breakfast room. Master suite with soaring ceiling and luxury bath. Screened-in porch, large deck and sports court. Quiet dead-end street steps to Chinquapin Park. *Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



5902 Mount Eagle Dr. #1417. Contemporary, bright, fully renovated condo. Enjoy dramatic views from the enclosed balcony w/slate floor & French doors, perfect for family room or den. Updated kitchen & bath, wood floors. In resort-like Montebello w/35+ acres, shuttle, café, indoor & outdoor pools, tennis, & new fitness center. Minutes to Old Town. TOUR @ 5903mounteagledr1417.com. *Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 & Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010*



Alexandria \$395,000 Condo 1701 – A 2 bedroom, 2 bath, with fireplace framed by lovely built-ins and mantel. A SEW view of the Potomac River, OldTown, and Masonic Temple. Grilling, entertaining, sunrises and sunsets to be enjoyed from this 81 ft. balcony reached from all rooms. *Lib Willey 703-362-7206*



updated with New Kitchen – cabinets, granite, appl, fixtures PLUS New baths – cabinets, mirror, lights and marble. Gleaming hdwds. So easy to commute to Old Town, D.C., Mark Ctr. Walk to Starbucks and grocery. *Julie F. Hall 703-786-3634*



Alexandria/Braddock Heights \$854,000 1303 Quincy St. Fabulous renovation & expansion in Braddock Heights! Quaint stone "cottage" has been transformed into a sleek contemporary with open floor plan, rich hardwood floors, high ceilings and abundant windows. 2 main level bedrooms and 2 upper including the spacious Owner's suite with luxury en suite bath. Large corner lot with fenced back & side yard, patio, shed and manicured lawn with irrigation. Christine Garner 703-587-4855



 Alexandria
 \$460,000

 6050 Estates Dr. Spacious four-level end unit TH (2,070
 SF) on a cul-de-sac in treed community, close to 395/495,

 Metro (1.2 miles) & Kingstowne. Two master bedrooms.
 Wood floors, 3 full baths, skylights, Ig loft & fireplace.

 Updated kitchen. Virtual Tour: 6050EstatesDr.com
 Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 & Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010



Alexandria/Old Town Sophisticated pied-a-terre in the Portner House with 2 parking spaces, 2 bedrooms, fireplace, wood floors, balcony and great charm.

Diann Hicks Carlson 703-628-2440



rested in a Career in Real Estate? Pre-licensing courses are available soon. Call Managing Broker, Mark Ackermann, at 703-888-5100 for further infor



Alexandria/Old Town Office 703-549-8700 • 121 N. Pitt Street



4 ♦ Mount Vernon Gazette ♦ March 24-30, 2016

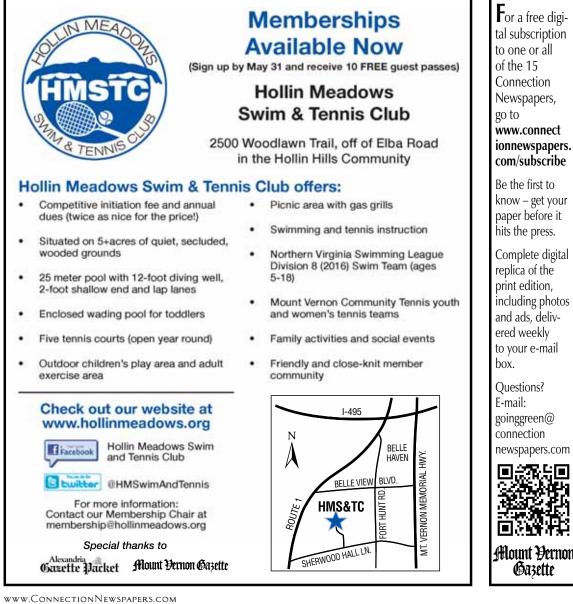
PEOPLE

Silver Award **Project Benefits UCM**

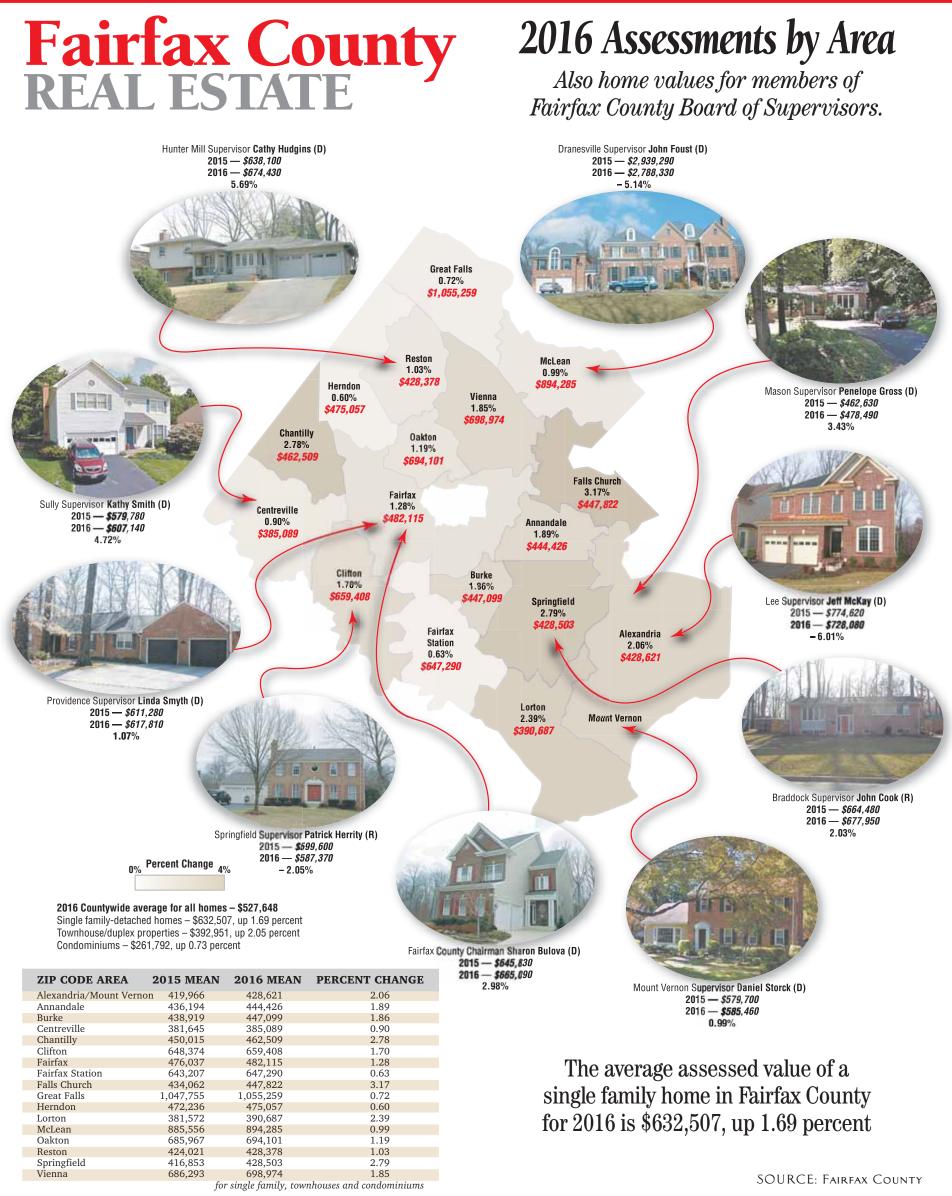
United Community Ministires (UCM) welcomed Girl Scout **Cadette Maryclaire** O'Brien (above) from Troop 3520 for a recent visit to complete her Girl Scout Silver Award project at the agency's main Fordson Road location. The Silver Award is the second highest award of the Girl Scouts of the USA, and the highest award that a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. A seventh grader at St. Mary's **Catholic School in** Alexandria, O'Brien organized a

10.53 ¥ -ch-r UCH CFC #37859

Childrens Book Drive, collecting three boxes of books for UCM's Mount Vernon Kids campaign - plus donated copies of an activity book about reading, which she designed herself. Her project also included the donation of a new bookcase for the UCM main waiting room, which was purchased with funds she earned and solicited. UCM welcomes the opportunity to talk and meet with Scouts who are researching ideas for their Award projects. Visit ucmagency.org and then email Volunteer Coordinator Emily Griffin at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org.



Rex Reiley RE/MAX Allegiance 703-768-7730 rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com Alex./Riverside \$559,000 8332 Wagon Wheel Road Riverside Estates' most popular Colonial Model—5 BR, 3.5 BA w/3 finished levels, 2 FPLs, 1car garage on a lovely lot. 5 large spacious BRs, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels plus new carpet on lower level. Freshly painted interior, new windows, siding & gutters. 6 mins to Fort Belvoir, (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N), & 27 mins to Airport (N). This is a Gem! Alex./Sedgewick Forest • \$559,000 4015 Gibbs Road Large, lovely, updated 4 level split on a beautiful .46 acre lot – Large kitchen w/granite counters & ceramic tile floors – 3 upgraded baths – 2 fireplaces & upgraded DBL pane windows throughout – 2nd lower level offers utility rm, workshop & storage rm. Large double carport overlooks beautiful bkyd w/large shed/workshop w/electric power – $\hat{7}$ minutes to Ft. Belvoir , 15 mins to Old Town (N) - Great Home & Property! Alex./Sulgrave Manor • \$514,900 8802 Adrienne Court Lovely and charming 3 level split on a stunning .53 acre wooded lot and cul-de-sac. 3 BRs, 2 updated BAs, beautiful hardwood floors. Vaulted ceiling between living and dining rooms garage – all this serenity, yet only 30 minutes south of D.C, 7 minutes (N) to Fort Belvoir. Alex./Wessynton \$679 900 3301 Wessynton Way Beautiful Contemporary Split on one of Wessynton's premiere lots backing to over 10 acres of pristine forest, teeming with wildlife and spectacular views. Roof, furnace, A/C, HWH, double pane windows replaced. Great, Great Value at this price. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Alexandria. Community pool, boat ramp and walking trails. 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 eatin 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./Mt. Vernon Hills \$549,900 8620 Curtis Avenue Total renovation of this beautiful 5 BR, 3 BA Split – 2015: New Roof & Exterior Painted -2016: New Kitchen, Baths Updated, DBL Pane Windows, Hardwood Flrs, Carpeting & Interior Painted – Large .31 acre lot with new privacy fence - 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir - 12 minutes to Old Town Alexandria Walk to MVHS - GREAT BUY! 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. For more information: www.RexReiley.com E Each Office Independently Owned and Operated Mount Vernon Gazette 🔹 March 24-30, 2016 🔹 5



6 ♦ Mount Vernon Gazette ♦ March 24-30, 2016

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Hallowing Point River Estates 5909 River Drive, Lorton VA GORGEOUS! 5 br, 4.5 ba, 7,500+ SF of superior craftsmanship & attention to detail. Slope to the river's edge w/125 ft of deeded water frontage, deepwater channel access, new dock. \$2,150,000 Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 MLS # FX8632686



Manors at Mount Vernon 8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA Amazing Value and new price for premiere neighborhood in 22308 w/4 br, 4.5 ba, 2-car garage, renovated kitchen, updates, hardwoods, on a cul-de-sac; walk to Stratford Elem. \$899.000 Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788 MLS # FX9597758



Alexandria South 2719 Woodlawn Trail, Alexandria VA Major Price Reduction! Dramatic open floor plan located at end of cul-de-sac. Opulent moldings galore. Expansive octagonal family room. 4 br, 4.5 bath, 2 offices & fully finished basement. Approx. 4,820 SF. \$849,500 Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400 MLS # FX959231



Old Town Gateway 939 Powhatan Street, Alexandria VA Great location, space and features. 3 br, 2.5 baths, new gourmet kitchen with stainless steel, quartz, tile and grey cabinets, hardwoods all 3 levels, patio and 2 off-street parking spaces! \$735,000 Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788 MLS # AX9591573



Old Town 317 Lee St South, Alexandria VA Historic plaqued jewel box in prime Old Town location. Original house built circa 1800 with beautiful family room addition and updates galore all since 2012. 3 fireplaces. 2 br, 3.5 ba \$1,025,000 Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400 MLS # AX9598683

Coldwell Banker Alexandria **Proudly Welcomes** Rachel Carter as Branch Vice President





Isabella at Monticello Mews 6301 Edsall Rd # 301, Alexandria VA Gorgeous 2 br/2 ba overlooks pool and tree vista. Wood flrs/granite/ss appl/custom tile in kitchen & baths. Underground garage pkg/extra storage. Min to Metro/Old Town/shops/dining. \$385,000 Wendy Smith 703-608-1725 MLS # FX9580525



Old Town Commons 815 N. Alfred Street,

Alexandria VA Fabulous Town House with impressive upgrades! Remarkable price reduction for this 3+ bedroom. 3.5 bath home with 2-car garage, grilling deck, rooftop patio with fireplace and more. \$899,000 Karen Leonard 703-328-7041 MLS # AX9561713



Harbor View 10821 Greene Drive, Lorton VA Colonial Sanctuary! 4 br, 3.5 ba. Private 3/4 acres of Fairfax County waterfront, views to Occoguan River & Belmont Bay, boating access. Surrounded by State, Regional & Federal Park. \$898,900 Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 MLS # FX8748474



Open House Saturday 2-4 pm Beverley Hills 3510 Russell Road, Alexandria VA Renovated Detached home in Beverley Hills. 4 bed, 3.5 bath. 3 fin. lvls. Gourmet kit w/SS app/granite counters, Large Master w/walk-in closet. Lux Bath. Open Sat. 3/26 2-4. \$730,000 Fred Marcellus 703-629-0297 MLS # AX9594102



Riverton Condo 500 Bashford Lane # 3333, Alexandria VA Move-in-ready condo in Old Town. Great location! \$319,000 Tracy Vitali 904-505-1874 MLS # AX9554706

Join us for Virginia Continuing Education, April 22nd at 10:00 AM in the Old Town Office

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

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Mount Vernon Gazette 🗞 March 24-30, 2016 🛠 7

OPINION Purple State

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

hile the case of Virginia gerrymandering argued before the Supreme Court on March 21 does not impact Congressional Districts in Northern Virginia, it shows again that partisan efforts have diminished voter power in the Commonwealth.

This is one of multiple challenges in the courts about how political boundaries are drawn in Virginia.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have cho-Editorial sen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, as we have said in previous editorials. Here are the actual numbers:

In 2013:

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389

Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257

Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612 In 2012:

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542 It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split of five Dems and six Republicans; or five

Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering. Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the voters.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

The courts will have a hand in redrawing boundaries in some Virginia districts. It's past time for courts to challenge political gerrymandering in general. Virginia's current system is an incumbent protection plan. Every incumbent who sought reelection to the General Assembly last November won. Why? Their districts were drawn for them, not for the voters who live there.

Virginia should embrace nonpartisan redistricting that supports the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

> - Mary Kimm MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

More for Schools, the Disabled, State Troopers

BY SCOTT SUROVELL STATE SENATOR (D-36)

ast week, I covered the good news in the state budget for the 36th Senate District. This week, I am detailing some of the important features of the state budget that help the entire state.

First, the budget restores some honesty to the budgeting process. During the McDonnell Administration, the state skipped state employees' retirement plan contributions for two years and then promised to pay missed contributions over a 10-year period with interest. I repeat-

COMMENTARY

edly voted "no" on those budgets, in-part, because

they were an end run around our state constitution's requirement for a balanced budget. The proposed budget prepays all of the entire remaining obligations and funds 100 percent our recommended pension obligations for this biennium.

Second, for elementary-secondary education, we increased per-pupil funding on a statewide basis from around \$4,400 per child to over \$4,900 per child, a 10 percent increase, and included a 2 percent pay raise for all teachers

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to 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.

ONGOING

The Mount Vernon Estate has released "The Winter Patriots," a video presentation about George Washington crossing the Delaware

♦ Mount Vernon Gazette ♦ March 24-30, 2016

and support staff effective Dec. 1. Virginia's elementary-secondary education system has taken it on the chin for the last seven years, and we still have a long way to go - especially with lagging revenue increases at the local level.

The state budget also boosts higher education \$255 million, including over \$55 million new funds for student loans and grants. The final budget rejected a 3 percent tuition increase cap, as some proposed, but state colleges and universities have been put on notice that tuition increases should be more modest. We are still funding higher education at only 50 percent of our goals.

The proposed budget funds over 400 new developmental and intellectual disability waivers (in addition to those required by court orders). We agreed to provide modest increases in mental health funding, substance abuse treatment and funds to implement the "Fostering Futures" Program, a program that provides services to foster care children until they are 21.

We upped Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance by 2.5 percent and are providing an additional \$20 million to help provide other services to low-income families plus \$10 million for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. The budget also anticipates the closing of Virginia's juvenile detention facilities in favor of community-based placements.

We approved funding for 20 vacant judgeships, more funding for court-appointed attorneys and \$4 million in much-needed raises for district court deputy clerks. State employees are also going to see a 3 percent pay raise, and we are hiring 20 new state troopers — the first new trooper positions in over a decade.

Finally, we made significant transportation investments, including \$350 million in modernization of the Port of Virginia, \$140 million to start designing the widening of Interstate 66 inside the Beltway and \$50 million to help keep United Airlines at Dulles International Airport.

The budget now awaits the Governor's action. As always, please email me your views and suggestions at scott@scottsurovell.org.

> family members, and/or friends to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time. Find a list of groups in the National Capital Area at www.alz.org/nca.

Hlount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

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

ADVERTISING: For advertising information sales @ connection new spapers.com703-778-9431

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

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

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

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

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

Publisher Jerry Vernon jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

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

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

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

A Connection Newspaper



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

mountvernon.org/winterpatriots. Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. nd Tuesday of For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "Keeping Organized as a Caregiver: What Works?" Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices. Band musicians are invited to join the

River on Christmas Day 1776. Buy

the film for \$4.99 or rent for \$2.99 at

Mount Vernon Community Band. Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30

9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or www.mvbands.com. **Alzheimer's Association support** groups provide a place for people

with Alzheimer's, their caregivers,

EDUCATION

Private Schools Leaving Unexpectedly

policy is largely budgetary. "Most schools require a contract and a deposit because the separation of a

student does not materially decrease the expenses

of the school since staff, services, and provisions are

contracted for the year in advance," said Mary

Herridge, director of Enrollment Management for

cally as possible is the best option for avoiding fi-

nancial loss, there are circumstances that arise which

are beyond one's control. For these instances, many

families purchase the plan as protection," said

everyone's best interests to work together to find a

reasonable solution," said Mark H. Sklarow, CEO,

Independent Educational Consultants Association.

"The school wants to make the situation work as

much as the parent do, so the parents should immediately reach out to the school officials to see what

can be done. Often times a school will temporarily

reduce the fee, hoping that the family's situation will

The same advice holds true, says Sklarow in the

event of an academic or behavioral issue: The first

action should be a meeting with school officials.

"They hope to retain the student and will work closely

with families to find the necessary support, in most

cases," he said. "Of course, if the school judges there

to be a danger to a child or fellow student, the help

offer will be to assist with an outplacement." An in-

dependent educational consultant may be helpful in

case a therapeutic or intense learning disability op-

"We offer tuition insurance and recommend that

"If a family's financial situation changes, it is in

schools offer parents a safety net option.

While making the decision to commit as methodi-

The Madeira School in McLean.

Herridge.

improve."

tion is needed.

Spring is time to commit to one's school of choice.

By Marilyn Campbell The Gazette

hen Ashley and Clark Leonard enrolled their son in a local independent school, they were excited about the prospect of him thriving in a new, smaller academic environment. He left his local public school after what the Leonards described as a "bullying situation." However, midway though the year at his new school, the family decided that the private school was not a good fit.

"He just wasn't happy, so we decided to take him out," said Ashley, who lives in Bethesda, Md. "But we lost about \$30,000."

Now that the application period for most independent schools is over and acceptance letters have been disbursed, the next step in the process, for those fortunate enough to have been admitted, is making a commitment to one's school of choice. This often requires that parents shell out a hefty deposit and sign a contract, agreeing, among other things, to pay tuition for the upcoming school year.

However, some families may face changes in their financial situation and can no longer afford the tuition. Other families may relocate during the school year or have a child who becomes ill and is no longer able to attend school.

Or, like the Leonards, a family may simply decide the school is no longer a good fit.

Many parents are surprised to learn that even if their circumstances change, their financial commitment to pay full tuition remains. The reason for this

Bulletin Board

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

SUPPORT GROUP

Family Support Group. 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Gartlan Center, 8119 Holland Road. Opportunity for discussion, information and support for families with members experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Professionally facilitated. Program varies, may include guest speakers, movies. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Free. For more information or to preregister, contact Nga Nguyen at 703-799-2726, TTY 711.

THROUGH MARCH 27

Easter Services. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Call 703-360-4220 for more.

- Maundy Thursday Service and Dinner, Thursday, March 24, 6-8 p.m.
 Good Friday Service, Friday, March 25
- Good Friday Service, Friday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.
 Easter Vigil Celebration, Saturday,
- March 26 at 8 p.m.
 Easter Sunday, March 27 at 8:30 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

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

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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 703-303-4060 or info@mountvernonathome.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

NEXUS 2016 Conference. 1-9 p.m. at Fairfax County Schools, Virginia Hills Center, 6500 Diana Lane, Alexandria. NEXUS 2016 Conference: Succeeding Together and Celebrating Partnerships is sponsored by the Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for Community Mental Health Center whose mission focuses on the mental health of children, youth and their families. The conference brings together the community with professionals to focus on coordinated systems of mental health care and ices available for childrer court serv and youth, and includes a NIH/NIDA speaker describing the impact of drugs on the adolescent brain. Free and open to the public. Includes a complimentary Roy Rogers sandwich/salad dinner. Contact laingebailey@earthlink.net to review the full program and register.

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.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Richmond Legislative Wrap-Up. 2-4 p.m. at Virginia International University, Conference Room VD-102, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Social Action Linking Together (SALT) will sponsor a Richmond Legislative Wrap-Up hosted by the Virginia International University. Northern Virginia legislators will discuss safety net issues. Hear from state legislators what happened regarding the successes and challenges of the 2016 General Assembly. All are welcome. Free and open to the public. Visit www.S-A-L-T.org or contact John Horeisi at jhorejsi@cox.net or Dr. Klara Bilgin at kbilgin@viu.edu.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 6

Meet a Police Officer. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 17

Lushness & ALEXANDRIA Symptomy Orchestra LYRICAL

Lushness & Lyrical pairs James Newton Howard's score to **Peter Pan** with three Romantic masterpieces: excerpts from Tchaikovsky's **Swan Lake**, Smetana's "The Moldau" from **Má vlast** and Bruch's **Scottish Fantasy** performed by violin soloist Jenny Oaks Baker.

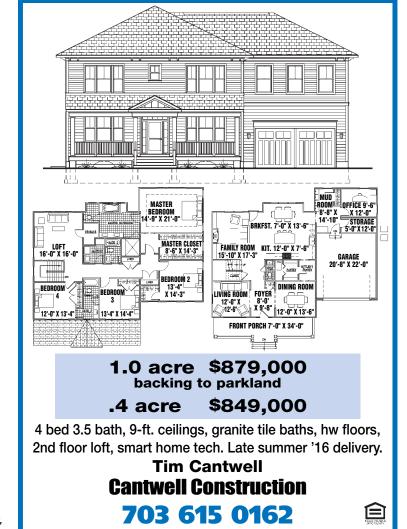


Kim Allen Kluge, Music Director Jenny Oaks Baker, Violin

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2016 AT 8PM Rachel M. Schlesinger Center

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016 AT 3PM George Washington Masonic Memorial \$20-80 Adult • \$5 Youth (18 and under) (703) 548-0885 • www.alexsym.org

~ 2 Lots Available ~ Alexandria • Clermont Area



Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 March 24-30, 2016 🛠 9



CHRIS WHITE

Planning to sell in 2016? Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White! Leading the Area in Real Estate. SOLD!!!



4002 Adrienne Drive \$549,000

Spacious contemporary on gorgeous large lot just minutes from Mt Vernon Estate.

Spectacular great room with soaring cathedral ceilings and glass walls lead to custom stone patio and wood deck which overlook park like rear grounds. Other features include 4-5 bedrooms and 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, and oversize two car garage. Exceptional opportunity!



Open floor plan, high ceilings and walls of glass capitalize on beauty of rare 3/4 acre wooded grounds. 4 BR, 3 BA home has been substantially

updated to include, "Anderson Thermal Windows," baths, refinished hardwood floors, and expanded gourmet kitchen. Large deck overlooks private wooded wonderland. A truly unique property!



9419 Mt Vernon Cir \$1,299,000 One of Area's Most **Distinctive Properties!**

Custom estate caliber nome with classic French Provincial flair. Premier location in Mt Vernon on the Potomac-the only

9019 Stratford Ln

\$567,900

Steps from River -

Just off

GW Parkway!

community in the area with a private marina for the exclusive use of its' residents. Imposing residence with many custom touches including open fover with double curved stairway, custom white brick exterior, high ceilings, spacious room sizes and oversize garage. Columned veranda overlooks pool and gorgeous grounds.

fabulous features include hardwood floors, living room with wood

burning brick fireplace, master with private bath on main level, large

sunroom & covered parking. Large exterior deck overlooks private rear

yard. Great home in prime location for reasonable price.



Stunning Floor plan-Main Level Master! Truly spectacular opportunity! Wakefield Homes custom built property is loaded with

2606 Woodlawn Trail

\$829,500

apgrades and options. Unique home featuring highly sought after first loor master suite, 3 fin. Iv/s, 4BRs, 3.5BAs, hdwd firs, high ceilings and 2 car garage. Pristine move-in condition. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac, mins from Old Town.



8931 Fort Hunt Rd \$719,000 Prime Location-

Updated Throughout! Best value in prestigious Plymouth Haven! Fabulous updated 5BR home on magnificent half

acre lot. Prime location just across from Ft Hunt Park. Spacious home is loaded with upgrades and custom features. Stunning beautiful grounds with custom in-ground pool. Waynewood School. Adjoining property just sold for \$1.6. Other recent neighborhood sales \$1.5 - \$1.7. Super value.





9329 Mt Vernon Cir \$1,099,000 One of Area's Most Admired Properties! Classic Georgian manor home crafted by legendary master builder, Eugene Cullinane to serve as

model for homes in upscale Mt Vernon on the Potomac neighborhood. Special home contains builder's trademark features including custom brickwork, elaborate plaster moldings, estate size rooms, stately 10' ceilings & imposing 13' wide foyer. Private marina access in area's leading waterfront community. True one of a kind property!



8611 Gateshead Road \$519,000

Classic three level-**Great Price!** Best price for three finished level colonial in area. Exceptionally spacious property meticulously main-

tained in pristine condition. Features include: Large room sizes, 4 BR, 3.5 BA, including full master suite. Gorgeous hardwood floors, 3 finished levels and garage. Large deck leads to level back yard. Huge house and lot for the money!



3163 Woodland Lane \$950,000 Prime Waterfront-Acre Lot!

Stunning custom home designed by two owner architects featuring delightful combination of classic Mt Vernon inspired exterior with spectacular open floor plan. Glass walls

and meticulously planned siting capitalizes on water views provided by elevated lot. Custom two story dock with upper level deck, 182 ft frontage on Little Hunting Creek. Unique opportunity to acquire a prime close-in waterfront property with dock for under \$1,000,000!



8708 Plymouth Rd \$1,499,000* **Classic American Four** Square Design—*Special **Pre-Construction Price!** Best of both worlds-classic American Four Square exterior combined with stunning modern floor plan and amenities. Numerous

plan, high ceilings, top line kitchen and baths. Prime location on half acre level lot in popular Plymouth Haven. Pre-construction contract provides maximum opportunity to customize and discounted price!





CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028 www.chrisandpeggywhite.com chris.white@longandfoster.com

Alexandria/Old Town Historic - 400 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

LONG&FOSTER - REAL ESTATE -LUXURY HOMES

CHRISTIE'S

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE · MORTGAGE · TITLE · INSURANCE · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

CHRISTIE'S



Michael Manuel 703.615.6317 ALEXANDRIA / Pitt Mews \$ 1,195,000

Beautifully renovated 4BR/3.5BA, brick townhome with 2,700+ sq ft centrally located in the heart of Old Town. Warm wood floors, updated baths, woodburning stone fireplace, private rear fenced stone patio. Finished attic. Plenty of storage. Just blocks from King St, Potomac, shops, eateries. No HOA!



Anita Vida-D'Antonio 202.460.1809 ALEXANDRIA / Wellington Estates \$ 969,000

Stunning center hall Colonial in Waynewood school district. Custom built in 2007, 3,300 sq ft on 2 levels, main level hardwoods, gourmet kitchen, winecooler, separate dining room. 4 large BRs including master suite, 3 5BA, heated floors all baths, 2-zoned HVAC, 2-car garage, storage + large fenced yard.



Martha Deal 703.622.6797 ALEXANDRIA / Old Town "Church Square" \$ 1,249,900

Gorgeous, totally renovated top-to-bottom 3-level townhome! Expanded gourmet kitchen with granite, SSA, wine fridge, tray ceiling. Refinished hardwoods, 2 freplaces, crown moulding, plantation shutters MasterBR with sitting room, walk-in closets and fab bath. Private fenced patio. 2 reserved parking spaces.



MEET DORINE FERREIRA

Dorine loves teaching her clients about the process of buying and selling properties. Her MBS helps her navigate her clients through a fluctuating real estate market. She has been successfully making her client's home dreams come true for the past two years.

Dorine settled in Virginia 15 years ago. She is energetic, very involved in the school community, speaks Portuguese and Spanish, and as a

former military wife, understands the challenges of relocation. Welcome Dorine as one of our newest additions to the Old Town Historic District office.



Cindy Nelson 202.412.8885 ARLINGTON / Windgate of Arlington \$ 560,000

Totally remodeled home with all SSA, granite, hardwoods main and upper levels, 2 wood-burning fireplaces, custom built bookshelves, fresh paint, neutral carpet. Family room on lower level, private deck backs to trees and bike path. Great location - just minutes to Shirlington and DC. Move-in ready.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

ALEXANDRIA / General Washington Club \$ 1,299,000 Masterful renovation of historic George Washington Club with one private residence available. Over 3,000 st of finished space on 3 levels/3BR/2.5BA, large formal rooms, high-end appointments, private outdoor patio with fireplace plus 3 indoor fireplaces, 2-car garage, secluded gated entry.



Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630 ALEX. / Porto Vecchio \$ 399,900 - \$ 1,150,000

If you have never seen the building, now is an opportune time to see a variety of size residences from 1BR - 3BR. Call for information regarding this unique waterfront building and start making plans to live a carefree lifestyle. Extra security, garage parking and efficient staff.



Norma Gants 703.408.2560 ALEXANDRIA / Watergate of Alexandria \$720,000

Walk to everything from this townhome with a renovated kitchen, re-done baths, 2 underground parking spaces and a Palladian window overlooking Koi pond. Over 2,000 sq. ft. of living space. <u>norma.gants@longandfoster.com</u>



Louise Devers 703.795.9944

ALEXANDRIA / Portner Brewery \$854,950

A convenient location! Elegant NY loft-style condo. Living room with exposed

brick and soaring 12 ft ceilings, Palladian windows, wood-burning fireplace,

Georgetown style patio off breakfast room, 2 MasterBR, one with large terrace -

Carrera marble steam shower in second. Den 2 parking spaces

Annelise Smith 703.505.2533 ALEXANDRIA / Marlan Heights / Villamay \$ 625,000

Solidly built 1-level brick rambler with a full basement - situated on a lovely street in this highly desirable neighborhood. This home has 3-4 bedrooms, 25 baths, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces and 1/3 acre lot. For more information, please call Annelise.



SPRINGFIELD / The Forest at Southrun \$445,000

Impeccably cared for home / move-in ready. Bright eat-in kitchen with all new appliances opens to family room with fireplace and deck. Wood floors thru-out main level. LL rec room has closet and full bath. MasterBR with separate shower and soaking tub. Backs to woods. Ample guest parking,



Judy Pisciotta 703.405.4485 ALEXANDRIA / Townes at Cameron Parke \$ 617,500

Stunning 2-car garage end unit townhouse. Fantastic kitchen redesign opens to main living areas. MasterBR has cathedral ceiling, large BA and walk-in closet. Huge 4th floor private suite for guests/office. Mouldings/wood floors on main level. Rec room with gas fireplace. Large deck and private patio. 48R/3.55BA



Long & Foster Old Town Historic District Office 703.683.0400 400 King Street, Alexandria, Virgina 22314



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

, Alexandria, Virgina 22314

Mount Vernon Gazette 🔹 March 24-30, 2016 🔹 11

3 Spots for Al Fresco Dining This Spring

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's time to grab a menu and eat outside.

By Hope Nelson The Gazette

espite Mother Nature's detour over the weekend, signs of spring are popping up everywhere. Cherry blossoms and Easter bunnies are sure signals of renewal, but when it comes to eating out, there's only one way to tell spring is here: The patio furniture is dusted off, set out, and poised to welcome diners once more. Here are three restaurants that are ready to greet the season.

Los Tios Grill

2615 Mount Vernon Ave.

On the first warm day of spring, you'll find half of Alexandria waiting for an outdoor table at Los Tios, the venerable Tex-Mex/Salvadoran restaurant on Del Ray's main drag. Don't get discouraged and leave; put your name on the list and linger with your neighbors, because the wait is worth it.

Once you snag a table, you'd be remiss not to order a margarita or mojito. (Pro tip: When your server asks you whether you want a regular or

whether you want a regular or large beverage, be advised

that the large is indeed quite hefty.) Munch on some chips and salsa while you peruse the menu, which has something for everybody, from the hardest-core carnivore to the most resolute vegetarian.

If you're aiming to get some vegetables in for the day, consider the tostada salad, which incorporates a choice of proteins (including a vegetarian black-bean version) with a heaping helping of lettuce, tomato, radish, and cheese. Lest you feel this is *too* virtuous, it's also served in a tortilla bowl — and it's a strong person indeed who can forgo snapping off pieces of tortilla through-

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

- 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 for more. Art Exhibit: "March Melee."
- Through March 27, 12-6 p.m. Thursday, 12-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday,
- 12 & Mount Vernon Gazette & March 24-30, 2016

out the meal. Or consider the enchiladas, which sing under the cooks' attention. Each style of enchilada comes with a sauce that complements the filling: a green tomatillo sauce for the chicken enchiladas, for instance, or a ranchera sauce with the beans.

Regardless of what you decide on, be sure to say hello to German Mejia, Los Tios' gregarious, everpresent owner. He'll make sure you're part of the family before the night is over.

DRP Belle Haven 1401 Belle Haven Road

Surprised to learn of a newer sister restaurant to the tried-and-true

Del Ray Pizzeria on Mount Vernon Avenue? You're not alone. But the popularity of the Belle Haven storefront is growing, and fast — it's not uncommon to find a lengthy wait for a table, inside or out, at the popular pizzeria these days. But if given the option, choose an outdoor seat, even if it means a few minutes' wait. The patio is well worth the time.

At first blush, the patio seems like a bit of an afterthought — off to the side of the building, nestled in next to an adjacent parking lot. But order a beer and take a closer look around and you'll find a lot of neat hidden elements in plain sight. Most impressive is the vegetable garden the restaurant tends to just behind the patio, growing seasonal veggies all year as the weather allows. And as night falls, look above you — the glowing lights strung up from on high add an air of ambience to the casual scene.

When you're ready to take a break from looking around, order up some grub. As pizza is DRP's stock-in-trade, you'd do well

12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Del Ray

Ave. This exhibit features artists'

Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon

"boldest and wackiest art." Free. Visit

www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/shows.

Highway. The show will feature both

Woodlawn Needlework Exhibition

& Sale. Through March 31, 10 a

4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope

contemporary and traditional

All City High School Visual Art

Convergence presents the

needlework. Tickets are \$15. Visit

www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Exhibition. Through April 10, 10

p.m. on Saturdays at The Gallery @

Convergence, 1801 N. Ouaker Lane.

Bishop Ireton High School, Episcopal

a.m.-5 p.m. on Fridays, 10 a.m.-4

"Alexandria City High School Art

Exhibit," a joint effort between

High School, St. Stephen's & St.

Agnes School, and T.C. Williams

Leighey House, 9000 Richmond

Outdoor dining is available at the historic (and controversial) Wales Alley at Virtue Feed and Grain.

to order one. The Garden offers up a springtime buffet with mozzarella cheese, mushrooms, peppers, spinach, and fresh arugula on top; the Buffalo chicken gives diners a version of wings-on-a-pizza, right down to the blue cheese. Order some roasted cauliflower or tater tots for the table and be prepared to share — and to come home leftover-less. It'll be worth it.

Virtue Feed and Grain 106 S. Union St.

Virtue's outdoor-dining space is perhaps the most controversial in town. The alley the restaurant's al fresco tables sit on, Wales Alley, was the source of some consternation between the city of Alexandria and the Old Dominion Boat Club for quite some time, with the case progressing all the way to the Virginia Supreme Court before a final decision was handed down a couple of years ago. Now, diners can enjoy Virtue's outdoor accommodations in relative peace. Good thing, too, because the scenery — from the historic brickwork and buildings to the Potomac River within Frisbee-tossing distance — is quintessential Alexandria.

Virtue's menu has transformed over the years, and this iteration is its best yet. Come in ravenous or peckish, eat meat or don't, and you'll find something worthy of your attention here. For outdoor dining, the street tacos add an air of authenticity to the experience: Pork barbacoa, fresh fish, steak, or mushroom varieties will give you plenty to chew on. Taste the fresh grilled flavors and revel in springtime.

Or consider the burgers — the umami burger brings a blend of discrete flavors together in symphony. Or the beet bourguignon, a vegetarian take on the meat version that is sure to knock your socks off with its earthiness and herbiness. Toast the evening with a signature cocktail, inhale the spring air, and relax.

Hope Nelson operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

High School. In an effort to recognize and encourage the creative 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 for more. Art Exhibit: "Art into Fashion/ Fashion into Art." Through April 10, 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.

 Art Exhibit. Through April 24, gallery hours at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. Ethiopian artist Daniel Taye will display his art. Taye is known for his evocative landscape, abstract and figurative work. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.
 Georgia Nassikas: "Oils and **Encaustics.**" Through April 24, 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 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.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24 Book Signing: "Steps to the

Promised Land.^{*} 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Gregg Riley, an inspirational speaker, author and retired U.S. Army Colonel will read from and sign copies of his new book "Steps to the Promised Land." Free. Call 703-746-1702.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 24-26

Book and Art Sale. 1-5 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and Saturday at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The Chapel has art, nonfiction hardcovers, and children's books. Hollin Hall has fiction, paperbacks, cookbooks, travel, and more. On Saturday, books in the Chapel are half price and books in Hollin Hall are \$5 per bag. Visit www.mvuc.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 25-27 Guided Tour: "The Mercy Walk."

2:30 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Walk the same streets as the Green family and all of your favorite characters from "Mercy Street." Based on the PBS series, "Mercy Street," Alexandria's "The Mercy Walk" tour will give visitors

and locals alike a feel for Alexandria and what it was like to live in an occupied city during the Civil War. This tour includes stops at the former Marshall House, the Confederate Statue, James Green's furniture factory and the only portion of the Mansion House Hotel still standing today. Tickets are \$7-13. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

- Woodlawn Appraisal Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Meet with one of two expert textile appraisers, Newbie Richardson of Past Crafts LLC or Sarah Hill of Curzon Antiques and see what your item might be worth. Slots are available for appraisal for \$20 per item. General admission tickets are available for \$15. Call 703-570-6903.
- Sketch Hike: Spring Ephemerals. 10 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join park naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler for a hike focusing on spring wildflowers and learn sketching techniques to enhance your observation skills. \$7 for residents of Fairfax County, \$9 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.
- Tune Into Nature News. 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Get in-depth reporting out in the field about the latest eco-updates throughout Huntley's habitats. \$7 for residents of Fairfax County, \$9 for non-residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.
- Lecture: Preserving Our Textile Heritage. 5 p.m. at Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Join Costume and Textile Specialist Newbie Richardson for a lively and discussion of how to preserve new or old family heirlooms. Guests are invited to bring something for the question and answer section. Tickets are \$27.24. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/ preserving-our-textile-heritage-alecture-and-demonstration-bynewbie-richardson-tickets-22499982052.
- **Evening Woodcock Walk.** 6:45 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 for more.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

- The Salute to Women Awards Ceremony. 6 p.m. at The United States Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Alexandria's Commission for Women has announced the names of the honorees for its 36th Annual Salute to Women Awards. Twelve women will be recognized for their accomplishments in civic life and for the improvements they have brought to the well-being of Alexandria's women. Tickets are \$75. Contact Ellen Lamm @alexandriava.gov.
- #FreshAlexandria, 6:30 p.m. at The Hermitage 5000 Fairbanks Ave. Agenda:Alexandria presents "#FreshAlexandria: Eating Local and Growing Your Own " with Pamela Hess, executive director of Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture; Dean Norton, director of horticulture at Mount Vernon; and Fred Sachs, proprietor of Grapewood Farm. Tickets are \$32-47 for members, \$37-42 for nonmembers. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

Craft Supply Swap. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

St. Bring in your unwanted crafts supplies and abandoned projects and pick up something that's new to you. Swap items may be dropped off at the Information desk in advance. Free. Call 703-746-1769 or email jshea@alexandria.lib.va.us.

- Lecture: "Beyond the Call of Duty." 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Join Chris Foard MSN, RN, for an in depth lecture on the diverse practices of male and female Civil War nurses. Discussion includes an important but largely neglected aspect of Civil War nursing—roles and responsibilities of nurses in relation to current practices of today. Lecture is based on historical analysis from letters, documents, books and diaries from The Foard Collection of Civil War Nursing. Admission is \$10. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.
- Music at Mount Vernon. 7-9 p.m at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. "Music at Mount Vernon" is a three-part series designed to educate through music. Tickets are \$175 for all three events, \$125 for members and supporters. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

MARCH 29-APRIL 24 Art Exhibit: "It's Black and

White!" Gallery hours at The Associates Gallery (TAG), 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery will feature two member artists in "It's Black and White!" in a complementary scheme of black and white rendered in two-dimensional and three-dimensional work. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

CryBaby Art Studio. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn simple art techniques and exercise your creativity with your baby by your side. Tickets are \$20. Contact 703-944-4381 or info@metamorphosisaec.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31 "Celebrating Poetry in

- Alexandria." 7 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. To kick-off National Poetry Month and to acknowledge Tori Lane Kovarik's contributions to the Alexandria community, Kovarik will read a selection of her works and works of others. This will be her last official reading as Poet Laureate for the City of Alexandria and before leaving the Alexandria area. Free. Call 703-746-5565 for more. Choir of Christ Church Cathedral,
- Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford. 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel, 3737 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary invites the community to a concert. Free. Visit www.vts.edu/chapel for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 1

- First Friday: "Fools' Day Merriment." 6-8:30 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Guests are invited to dress in silly clothes, listen to music and jokes and more. Advance per person reservations: \$5 residents; \$10 nonresidents. At door: \$10 residents; \$15 nonresidents. To pay online (455205.01): www.elocandriana.gov/wabtrac
- www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac. **Reception: All City High School Visual Art Exhibition.** 7-9 p.m. 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 pursuits

of visual art students from across the city, art teachers from the four schools have collaborated. Free. Visit www.our convergence.org

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-2

Children's Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday at Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road. Buy or sell children's clothes. Free to attend. Call 703-329-9327.

APRIL 1-MAY 1

Exhibit: "Creatures from the Sea." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans interpret real and imagined "Creatures from the Sea." Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org

SATURDAY/APRIL 2 Fort Hunt Preschool Touch a

- Truck. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Children are invited to get up close and personal with buses, trucks, and fire engines. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com. Circles & Pastels: Draw Like
- Circles & Pastels: Draw Like Kadinsky. 1-2:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Parent and children are invited to learn simple art techniques inspired by Master artist Wassily Kadinsky. The workshop fee is \$30 for a parent and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.
- Children's Cherry Blossom Festival. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Visitors can hear a story, try their hand at origami and chopsticks, paint a Japanese style lantern, and seek out beautiful cherry trees on a cherry tree hunt. Admission is free, craft tickets are \$10 each. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.
- UCM Spring Gala. 6 p.m. at the United States Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. United Community Ministries will host a "Viva Las Vegas" themed benefit. Tickets are \$175. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.
- Magi-Whirl 2016. 7 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. This five-act magic show will benefit the Bishop Ireton Theatre Department. Tickets are \$17, \$15 for students 14 and under and seniors 65 and over, \$55 for a family pack of four, and free for military in uniform. Visit www.familymagicshow.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Lushness & Lyrical. 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Jenny Oaks Baker headlines a program of classics telling tales of fancy, fairies and fantasy. Tickets are \$20-80, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

An Evening in the French Quarter. 7 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. The annual Fostering the Future Gala benefits the Fund for Alexandria's Children. Tickets are \$75, adults only. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/ TheFundForAlexChild.

IORTICULTURA

SOCIETY



Easter Sunday - March 27 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:00pm 2:00pm en español

Good Shepherd Catholic Church 8710 Mt. Vernon Hwy Alexandria VA 22309 gs-cc.org



The American Horticultural Society's SPRING GARDEN MARKET at River Farm

Enjoy our annual plant sale and garden marketplace! Fun for all ages!

APRIL 8 & 9

AHS MEMBERS-ONLY MORNING (with current membership card) Fri., April 8, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

PUBLIC SALE

Fri., April 8, 12 p.m.– 6 p.m. Sat., April 9, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

> River Farm is located at 7931 East Boulevard Drive in Alexandria,

Virginia. Parking is \$5 per car (cash only); free for AHS members (with valid member card, receipt, or other proof of membership).

for more information Call (703) 768-5700 or

visit www.ahs.org/GardenMarket.

special thanks to Mount Dernon Basette

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 8-9

Spring Garden Market. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. members meeting Friday, 12 p.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday at American Horticultural Society's headquarters at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. This year's Spring Garden Market at River Farm in Alexandria will feature a variety of plant and garden-related vendors, demonstrations, kids activities, and more. More than 30 vendors from across the Mid-Atlantic region will offer a large selection of edible and flowering plants, as well as garden art, tools, and other accessories. Parking is \$5, admission is free. Visit www.ahs.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

- **Braddock Day.** 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Learn more about the French and Indian War. Meet "General Braddock" and meet costumed interpreters. Tickets are free, \$1 suggested donation. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.
- Transforming Lives Gala. 6-11 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services holds its annual fundraiser featuring silent auctions, cocktails, dinner and more. Tickets are \$200. Visit www.goodhousing.org for more
- www.goodhousing.org for more. **12th Annual Rum Punch Challenge.** 7-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy different rum punch creations from local distilleries, restaurants and caterers and vote for your favorite. Also find period and modern food. Tickets are \$50, VIP tickets are \$100. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

- The Walkers. 10:45 a.m. at Church of God of Prophecy, 6409 Telegraph Road. The Walkers is a southern gospel trio with more than 20 years of experience in performing and ministering. Free. Visit www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/ artist/12491 for more.
- Madame Butterfly Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Attend a Japanese-themed tea at the Madame Butterfly program built around the short story that influenced Puccini's opera of the same name. Discover the prevailing attitudes that brought these characters together in Japan and the "temporary wives" who became real-life "Butterflies." Tickets are \$42, \$12 for the program alone. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.
- **Spring Forward.** 5-8 p.m. at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union St. program includes Motownstyle music by local band HALO and

music by two other musical groups, live auction (bid for a stay in a country home outside of Paris, a Cancun villa that sleeps 8 and more) to benefit Community Lodgings. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door, \$40 for guests under 40. Visit www.communitylodgings.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 12 Creative Exploration Open

- Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com/ mama/classes/.
- Workshop on Planting and Using Herbs. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Participants will learn the elements of an herb garden, tips for successful planting and how to use herbs they've grown. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

The Church. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Church will perform two full sets. The first will feature The Church's classic second album – "The Blurred Crusade." The second set will consist of selections from the band's new album "Further/Deeper" along with other classic tracks. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 15-16

"Guys and Dolls." 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre students perform the musical "Guys and Dolls." Tickets are \$7 for students, \$8 for seniors, military, and Mount Vernon High staff, and \$10 for everyone else. Visit www.mvhstheatrearts.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Huntley Farm Day. 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Find baby animals from Frying Pan Park, homemade ice cream, story-telling, and re-enactors. This prominent farming family owned Historic Huntley from 1868-1946. Tour the house, and stop by the various information stations highlighting local farming history, such as the Woodlawn Agricultural



Society and Green Spring Gardens. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Call 703-768-2525 for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Creative Exploration Open Studio. 10-11:30 a.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Children and parents are invited to learn simple art techniques together. Each workshop is \$30 for parent/caregiver and child. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

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.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Carlyle House Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Stock up on herbs and other plants grown in



Above: Thomas Pandolfi, Kim Allen Kluge, left Symphony Season Ends With 'Lush & Lyrical,' 'Transformative'

"Lushness & Lyrical" on April 2 (Schlesinger Concert Hall) and April 3 (George Washington Masonic Memorial) pairs James Newton Howard's score to "Peter Pan" with three compositions: excerpts from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake," Smetana's "The Moldau" from "Má vlast" and Bruch's "Scottish Fantasy," continuing the season-long theme of "Symphony & Cinema." The season culminates on Saturday, May 7 with "The Transformative," a onenight-only performance at Schlesinger Concert Hall, featuring the music of American composers. Visit www.alexsym.org.

Mount Vernon greenhouses. Check out the selection of items offered by local artisans and crafters. Browse through gently used coffee-table, children's and audio books. Enjoy performances by local musicians. This event is free, however admission to the Carlyle House museum is \$5 for adults; \$3 for children. Visit

www.novaparks.com for more. 83rd Annual Alexandria Historic Homes & Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria. Celebrating the 83rd anniversary of Historic Garden Week in Virginia, this tour features privately owned Old Town homes and gardens plus historic properties like the Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, Carlyle House Historic Park and George Washington's Mount Vernon. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 day of, \$25 for single-site tours. Visit www.vagardenweek.org for more.

www.vagardenweek.org for more. **Civil War Medicine Living History.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site will sponsor a Civil War medical living history program presented by Civil War medical historian and interpreter Von Barron, who portrays U.S. Army Regimental Surgeon Captain Turner Kitt in a field hospital setting that features a variety of medical tools and equipment of the era. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard. Screening: "An American in Paris." 1 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch 1951 Gene Kelly musical. Free. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

- Annual George Washington Parkway Classic. 8 a.m. at Old Town Alexandria, starting places vary. This course, with lush scenery and river views, takes runners down the George Washington Parkway and through the iconic brick buildings lining the streets of Alexandria. Registration is \$10-80. Visit www.RunPacers.com/race/parkwayclassic.
- Georgia Nassikas Gallery Talk. 3 p.m. at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The artist will give a gallery talk where she will discuss, among other things, her organic beekeeping and the process of using the wax from her hives in her encaustic works. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more. An Evening of Poetry and Music. 5





14 🛠 Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 March 24-30, 2016

St. James' Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday!

A joyful and family-friendly service at 10:15 a.m. followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

5614 Old Mill Road, Mount Vernon, Virginia (Just Outside Ft. Belvoir's Walker Gate) Office: 703-780-3081 • www.StJamesMV.org

p.m. at Christ the King Anglican Church, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. An Evening of Poetry and Music with Dana Gioia, Poet Laureate of California and The U.S. Army Chorus; guest soprano Nancy Scimone. Gioia will read from his new collected works, "99 Poems: New & Selected," interspersed with the choral music of Morten Lauridsen. Free. Visit www.ctkalexandria.org.

APRIL 26-JUNE 16

"Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists." Gallery hours at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. The exhibition brings together watermedia floral and landscape painters from the area. Free. Visi www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

APRIL 28-JUNE 12

Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind." Gallery Hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Art on the Rocks. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Art League challenges mixologists from local restaurants to each select a piece of artwork as inspiration to whip up a new, artistic cocktail and pair it with an appetizer. Early-bird tickets are \$55, \$65 regular priced. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Easter

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 25-27

Easter Egg Hunt. 3 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday; 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. the museum's garden will be filled with hundreds of colorful toy-filled Easter eggs. Other activities include games, crafts, refreshments, stickers, temporary tattoos, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter Egg, and each egg hunt session has two prize eggs. All children of elementary school age or younger (ages 0-12 years) are eligible to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt. Older children and adults may participate in other activities. Advance tickets are \$12 for ages 0-12, and \$5 for all others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

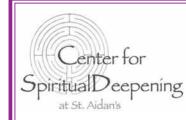
Eggstravaganza. 10:45 a.m. at Four Mile Run Park, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria, National Community Church invites all Arlington and Alexandria area families to this year's event, featuring Easter Egg Hunts, games, bike raffle, food, live music, magic show, Easter Bunny and more. Free. Visit www.eggstravaganzadc.com.

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.

MONDAY/MARCH 28

Fair Trade Eggstravaganza. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Prize-filled plastic eggs will be hidden throughout the store for customers to find. Eggs may include minichocolates, coupons for store discounts, jewelry, and other merchandise to be redeemed at the counter. Free. Call 703-684-1435 for more.



Centering Prayer Introduction and Workshop

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 pm The Rev. Dr. Hillary Smith

Centering Prayer invites us to be transformed through silence and by being intentionally present to the Spirit in that silence.

Come and learn how Centering Prayer works and then practice with the community gathered.

The Rev. Dr. Hillary Smith is a priest, spiritual director, retreat leader and a teacher of Centering Prayer.

Give yourself a gift. Join us on March 30. The workshop is free and open to all.

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church 8531 Riverside Rd. Alexandria



VARIETY



Experience the Nostalgia of an old-time Five & Dime Store

"If we don't have it, you don't need it."

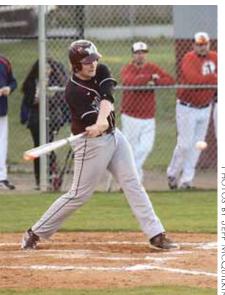
Hollin Hall Shopping Center 7902 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, VA 22308 703-765-4110 hhvs@vacoxmail.com



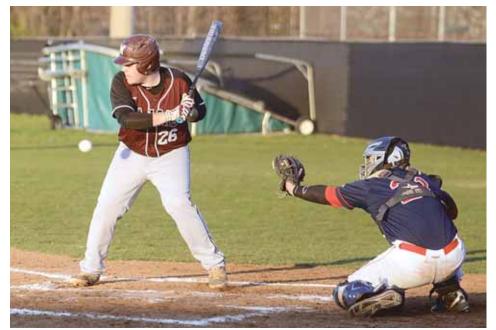
Sports



Dawson Summa is the ace of the Mount Vernon pitching staff, head coach Michael LeMorta said.



Mount Vernon first baseman Sean Anderson went 1-for-3 with a double against Thomas Jefferson on Tuesday.



Mount Vernon first baseman Chris Coakley had two hits and an RBI against Thomas Jefferson on Tuesday.

Mount Vernon Baseball Team Shows Resiliency

Majors surrender four-run lead, get it right back.

> By Jon Roetman The Gazette

fter watching its four-run lead evaporate in the top of the sixth inning, the Mount Vernon baseball team wasted no time getting the runs back.

Mount Vernon's first five batters reached base in the bottom of the sixth and the Majors scored four runs in the frame on their way to a 10-6 victory over Thomas Jefferson on Tuesday night at Mount Vernon High School.

Mount Vernon led 6-2 after five innings, but with starting pitcher Dawson Summa out of the game, TJ clawed back to tie the score with four runs in the top of the sixth, thanks in part to three hits and a pair of Major errors.

With the score tied at 6, Mount Vernon first baseman Sean Anderson led off the bottom of the sixth with a double to deep left-center field. Two batters later, center fielder Daniel Ryan drove in a pair of runs with a single.

"I always found the trick is just to treat it like it's batting practice," Ryan said. "Just clear your head, don't think about the situation, just have fun out there."

Senior left fielder/pitcher Isaac Ocampo also drove in a run with a single.

"Against two 6A teams (Woodson and West Potomac) we couldn't battle back like that," second-year Mount Vernon head coach Michael LeMorta said, "so it was exciting to see them come back and battle get those four runs right back and take the lead."

Mount Vernon catcher Pavel Strain drove 16 & Mount Vernon Gazette & March 24-30, 2016

in a run with a single in the bottom of the first. Shortstop Chris Ginn had an RBI infield single in the third and third baseman Chris Coakley went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI single.

Summa, a junior right-hander, pitched five innings and received a no decision. He allowed two earned runs and six hits while walking two and striking out six.

"I think he did well," LeMorta said. "... He's our No. 1 right now. ... He kept us in the game."

Senior Chip Draper earned the win in relief, allowing no runs and one hit while striking out two in 1 1/3 innings.

The victory improved Mount Vernon's record to 3-2. However, the five results point to a potential problem down the road for the Majors.

Mount Vernon's three wins came against Falls Church (5A), Park View (4A) and Thomas Jefferson (5A). When the Majors have faced 6A competition, the results haven't been pretty. Mount Vernon lost to Woodson 12-1 on March 17 and fell to rival West Potomac 12-2 on March 19.

Why are those losses a potential problem? After competing at the 5A level for two seasons, enrollment numbers pushed Mount Vernon athletics up to 6A for the 2015-16 academic year. Woodson and West Potomac are both Conference 7 opponents of Mount Vernon, though Saturday's game against the Wolverines was a tournament game, not a conference contest.

"I truly feel that this group here can compete with [6A] teams," LeMorta said. "Our first district game against Woodson didn't really show that. I think we were in awe at first. We played [West Potomac] on Saturday ... and I think we were in awe again. I think once we get to South County on [March 30], I really think we can compete with these teams. It's just [a] mental game getting it in their mind that, hey, we're a good team; we can compete against these guys. Our goal is to keep it close [and] give

us an opportunity to win the game."

Summa said the Majors can improve. "If we took the first few innings of the Woodson [game] and combined it with the last innings [against] West Potomac, we can easily compete with these teams," he said. "The game against Woodson, we just blew it at the end. The game against [West Potomac] we just never started until like the sixth inning."

Mount Vernon will host South County at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30 and will travel to take on Lake Braddock at 6:30 p.m. onFriday, April 1.

West Potomac's Williams **Diggins Earns All-State Honors**

fter helping the West Potomac boys' basketball team to its first state tournament appearance since 1998, junior guard Khalil Williams Diggins was recognized as one of the top public school players in Virginia.

Williams Diggins was a VHSL 6A second-team all-state selection for the 2015-16 season. He helped the Wolverines win the Conference 7 championship - the program's first conference/district title since 2010 — and finish fourth in the 6A North region.

Williams Diggins was selected firstteam all-conference and first-team all-region.

Westfield senior Tyler Scanlon was named state Player of the Year and Westfield's Doug Ewell was named Coach of the Year.

Other first-team selections: James Butler (Lake Braddock), Nate Shafer (Langley), Keaton Simmons (Stonewall Jackson), Jerry Carter (Hylton), Chris Orlina (Woodside), Donald Hicks (Oscar Smith) and Daryus Evans (Landstown).

Other second-team selections: Blake Francis (Westfield), Blake Pagon (Battlefield), Lewis Djonkam (West Springfield), Tyland Crawford (Hylton), Cameron Robinson (Woodbridge), Caden Najdawi (Cosby) and Desmian Devane (Oscar Smith).



West Potomac junior guard Khalil Williams Diggins was a secondteam all-state selection.

Bulletin Board

From Page 9

Hall Lane. A Fairfax County Police officer will speak at the MOMS Club of Alexandria South monthly meeting. Children of all ages are welcome at the meeting. MOMS Club of Alexandria South serves at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307. Free. Email Southalexmoms@yahoo.com or visitsouthalexandriamomsclub.wes.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. It is similar to a yard sale but items are sold from the trunk or "boot" of the car. Sellers: \$20 to rent a parking spot. Free to attend, open to the public. Contact Dawn McMillin at mcmillin23@cox.net pr 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 mtvernonleechamber.chambermaster.com/.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

Potomac Watershed Cleanup. 9

CRIME REPORT

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

BURGLARY SUSPECT AR-RESTED. On March 8, detectives at the Mount Vernon District Police Station executed a search warrant at a local residence and found evidence from the Dec. 31 burglary from the Central Super Mercado. A 46-year old Alexandria man was arrested and charged with burglary, grand larceny, and grand larceny with the intent to sell. At about 8:30 p.m., Dec. 31, a man forced his way into the Central Super Mercado, located at 6222 Richmond Highway, took merchandise and left. Approximately two hours later, the man re-entered the store and took more merchandise. Surveillance video

captured images of the suspect ATTEMPTED MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 2800 block of Joseph Makell Court. March 10, 5:40 p.m. Police arrested a 22-year-old man after allegedly attempt to shoot an acquaintance, a 27-year-old man. An investigation determined two men had gotten into an argument and it escalated. The suspect reportedly brandished a handgun and pointed it at the victim then got into his vehicle and started to leave. The victim walked up behind the vehicle and the suspect pointed the gun in his direction and fired one shot, then fled in the vehicle. Police responded and obtained two ints for the suspect tim declined medical attention. Later that night, the victim reported the suspect had sent him several threatening messages and he feared the suspect would show up at his home. Police followed up on an investigative lead and around 1 a.m. on Friday, March 11, saw a man they believed to be the suspect

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a.m. Join in the annual regional watershed cleanup with more than 500 sites across the watershed. For details on cleanup sites, visit www.fergusonfoundation.org.

MONDAY/MAY 2

Scholarship Application Deadline. Midnight. Applications are now available for the 2016 Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce Education Partnership Scholarships. Graduating seniors planning to pursue further education in a business related field are encouraged to apply for a \$2,000 local scholarship. Students may apply online at www.mtvernonleechamber.org/Education-Partnership.html or call 703-360-6925 to request an application.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.** Love boating and have interest in giving back to the community? Learn more about the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Auxiliary is built on four cornerstones: Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations, Marine Safety, and Fellowship. The Auxiliary will begin training staff for the upcoming 2016 boating season. All ages are welcome.
- Email Flotilla2508@gmail.com. The **Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center** for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.
- United Community Ministries seeks volunteers to act as food pantry assistants, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office admin/data entry, community outreach, ESL teachers and co-

walking in the 8100 block of Lakepark

Drive. Officers stopped him and he was

taken into custody, transported to jail

and charged with attempted malicious

tion to law enforcement to avoid arrest.

tim, a 37-year-old man, exited a

Metrobus and was walking and carrying

Walmart bags from his recent purchase.

A man approached him and attempted

to take the bags and his wallet. The vic-

tim fought the suspect off and did not

require medical attention. The suspect

fled on foot. He was described as black,

20-25 years old, about 6 feet 3 inches

tall, with a skinny build. He had a beard

and long, possibly braided hair. He was

Highway. March 12, 3:38 a.m. Three

men were at the Travelodge drinking

when an argument ensued. Two of the

men demanded the third's debit card

and PIN. A physical struggle ensued and

the two suspects took the victim's cell

phone and an undisclosed amount of

cash. The suspects were described as

Hispanic; one with a gray, hooded

sweatshirt and dark, "Skinny jeans." The

second suspect was wearing a black

Lee Avenue. March 12, 2:29 p.m. A resi-

dent reported that someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY: 7900 block of Janna

2300 block of Huntington Avenue,

5700 block of Indian Court, bicycles

3800 block of Laramie Place, phone

shirt and blue jeans.

MARCH 18 LARCENIES

from residence.

from residence.

cigarettes from business

ROBBERY: 6000 block Richmond

wearing a black, leather jacket.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: The vic-

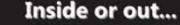
- teachers, and teacher aides. Visit www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-atucm.html.
- The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** needs a volunteer to maintain a fish aquarium upkeep and instructors for the following classes: Basic Guitar,
- Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance. Call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults. The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria
- needth Care Center in Alexandria needs a licensed beautician, a social companion and a Spanish-speaking social companion. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions under "Get Involved."
- Mount Vernon At Home is a nonprofit organization that relies on volunteers to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores, home technology and more. No minimum number of volunteer hours required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or email info@mountvernonathome.org or visit www.mountvernonathome.org.
- opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit
- www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions:
 The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults needs instructors for Mosaic
- Art and Jewelry Making.
 The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center needs volunteer English and Spanish-speaking social companions, and front desk
- volunteer.
 The Gum Springs Senior Center needs a Spanish teacher.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business. MARCH 17

- LARCENIES
- wounding, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and additionally charged with presenting false identifica-8400 block of Graves Street, phone from vehicle 8200 block of Russell Road, beer from
 - business 4200 block of Main Street, property
 - from residence 6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
 - 6800 block of Richmond Highway, phone from business
 - 7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business MARCH 16
 - LARCENIES
 - 7900 block of Audubon Avenue, book bag from business 1600 block of Belle View Boulevard,
 - property from residence 6200 block of Richmond Highway,
 - cash from business 6500 block of Virginia Hills Avenue, wheel lock key from vehicle
 - MARCH 15 LARCENIES
 - 5900 block of Grand Pavilion Way, rims and tires from vehicle
 - 2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from residence
 - MARCH 14
 - LARCENIES 7900 block of Janua
 - 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, golf cart from business 6300 block of Richmond Highwav.
 - merchandise from business 6800 block of Richmond Highway,
 - radio from residence 7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
 - 7600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business
 - 8000 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business









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Mount Vernon Gazette & March 24-30, 2016 & 17





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Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 March 24-30, 2016 🛠 19



20 🛠 Mount Vernon Gazette 🛠 March 24-30, 2016