



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Benefitting UCM and Leukemia Lymphoma Society

Families filled the Carl Sandburg Gymnasium on April 8 to support the staffs of Waynewood and Stratford Landing Elementary schools. The Waynewood Mascot got the crowd fired up.



Stratford Landing Parent volunteers Jennifer Price (right) and Heather Condon assisted new bone marrow donor registrants. The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, along with UCM, were selected to receive the proceeds from the game. A total of \$2,805 was raised.



Both teams played to win, although the real winner was the money raised for their chosen charities. In the end, the final score was 37-24, in favor of team Waynewood.

Torres Enters Guilty Plea

Former police officer's sentencing set for June 24.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

It was over before it began. Neither prosecution nor defense gave opening statements in former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres' trial for the August 2013 murder of Springfield resident John Geer. Instead on Monday, April 18, Torres pleaded guilty to felony involuntary manslaughter for the August 2013 incident.

Police had responded to a call that day from Geer's live-in girlfriend Maura Harrington that he was throwing her belongings out of the house. Torres and another officer talked with Geer for 40 minutes before Torres fired, hitting him in the chest.

Torres claimed Geer suddenly

lowered his hands, making him think Geer was reaching for a gun.

Harrington and Geer lived together for more than 20 years and had two teenage daughters. Harrington had told Geer that she was moving out.

The Sunday before the trial was set to begin, Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond F. Morrogh said Torres' attorneys contacted him with the plea offer. Morrogh then spoke with Harrington, the family's attorney Michael Lieberman and Geer's parents.

With the deal, Torres would serve 12 months in jail, getting credit for the eight months already served. Being a convicted felon would prevent him from owning a firearm or becoming a police officer again, a priority for Harrington and her daughters, Morrogh said.

SEE TORRES ENTERS. PAGE 15



John Geer



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAHÍ CHIKWENDIU OF THE WASHINGTON POST

Former Fairfax County Police Officer Adam Torres (center) enters the courtroom on April 18, 2016 for what was scheduled to be the beginning of his trial for murder of Springfield resident John Geer.

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Becoming Aware of Child Sex Trafficking

The problem extends throughout northern Virginia.

This story is part of a series focusing on sex trafficking in Northern Virginia.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

Frank Wolf, former U.S. representative from Northern Virginia, reads from the study he commissioned from the Polaris Project in 2011. It identified 21 cities in Northern Virginia with 82 Asian massage parlors suspected of sex trafficking.

She stands on the sidewalk outside the mall with her backpack full of 7th grade science and math books. An older man pulls up and she gets in the backseat of his car. He drives her to a nearby motel and sells her for sex a number of times that same afternoon before she returns to her unsuspecting parents. In the beginning, the victims often return home; later they may disappear and become part of a network, or be driven to other locations including massage parlors. Human trafficking of young teens, mostly girls, has become growing problem in Northern Virginia, according to those involved in the issue. Sometimes the girl is complicit, having been enticed by an attractive older man or teenage boy and slowly groomed until she thinks she loves him. Other times she has gotten herself unknowingly tangled in gang-related activity and is threatened if she wants out.

THE PROBLEM is complex: lack of awareness by teenagers at a vulnerable age, the skill of traffickers to manipulate and groom their victims, the ease of recruitment through the internet, a busy world where parents, teachers or friends don't ask enough questions about changing behavior, insufficient law enforcement penalties or resources and the denial that it couldn't happen here.

According to Melissa Snow, child sex trafficking specialist for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), this Alexandria-based organization has seen an increase in reporting of endangered and runaway children in Virginia. She says one out of five reported in 2015 became a victim of sex trafficking. Seventy-four percent of those were missing from child welfare care which means they already had experienced a fractured home life or came from abusive families.

"The victims often feel inside they are dirty and won't amount to anything. The biggest thing is to get them to understand victimization, what it is," said Deepa Patel, executive director of Trauma and Hope in Springfield.

While many may be puzzled about how a young girl, maybe even their neighbor, could get caught up in this web, Snow said, "We see constantly the importance of online traffickers. They can build trust so quickly because the victim is in her own home where she feels comfortable. The trafficker will spend incredible time finding out the teen's worries, hopes for the future and then use it against her."

Patel said: "We all have vulnerabilities, I'm a therapist and I have vulnerabilities; we all do on any particular day."

Beth Saunders, president of The Just Ask Prevention Project in Northern Virginia, said, "Trying to change is a cultural shift. We need to open up a dialogue, not making talking about human trafficking taboo." Just Ask concentrates on education and prevention working with businesses, schools and law enforcement to "put ourselves out of business by ending teenage sex trafficking."

Just Ask describes itself as "a public awareness campaign designed to expose the growing prevalence of teen sex trafficking in Northern Virginia and to inspire our community to end the scouting, manipulation and recruitment of our teenagers."

Saunders says she was aware of international human trafficking in her prior role as a business executive. The moment she knew it was a local problem was when her good friend at George Mason University's Transnational Crime and Corruption Group discussed teenage sex traffic here in Northern Virginia. "There is still a mindset, and I was guilty as well, of thinking trafficking was bringing girls from another country," she said. "These girls aren't trafficked; we have the infrastructure set up right here."

WHEN DID then U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) realize there was human trafficking of young girls and decide to do something about it? "I think it was gradual," he said. "Back in the 1990s on a congressional trip to Albania, we drove by a house where it was pointed out young women had been sexually trafficked." Wolf said, like many others, he assumed this took place in places like Albania. "Then I started to have people come and tell me sexual trafficking of young girls was happening right in our local neighborhoods."

borhoods."

Since Wolf was then chairman of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Commerce-State-Justice, he had money inserted in appropriations legislation for a study of local Asian massage parlors by the Polaris Project in 2011. The Polaris Project is an anti-trafficking organization that administers the national human trafficking hotline. Wolf and Polaris Project Executive Director Bradley Myles at the time acknowledged there are legitimate businesses performing massage therapy that are meeting all the rules and regulations and not offering sexual favors. But Polaris looked through Web sites where men post information on which massage parlors are most likely to provide sexual services and identified 82 in Northern Virginia.

Polaris did not do any further investigation but felt the circumstantial evidence was there to start a vigorous law enforcement probe. The Polaris Project listed 21 cities in Northern Virginia. Wolf held up the a copy of the study. "I can't give you this," but he began reading: "Alexandria, 6, Annandale, 7, Arlington, 2, Herndon, 8, Springfield, 7, Falls Church, 5, Vienna, 12." He read on. "Most people are stunned when they find out it is occurring right here in Virginia." The massage parlors are difficult to close down because they are sometimes large operations run by individuals who understand licensing and zoning regulations, who move women from place to place and, if under suspicion, just open a new massage parlor in a different location, he said.

Wolf also had money inserted into appropriations legislation setting up a Gang Task Force across Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax and including the FBI, the U.S. Marshals Service and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

He noted the Brenda Paz case in 2003: "She was a 17-year-old girl in the inner circle of a local M-13 gang. She decided she wanted to get out and turned in a lot of information to law enforcement that they didn't have at the time. She was put in witness protection. But the gang found out and planned her killing in a Holiday Inn in Fairfax. They took her to Meems Bottom Covered Bridge in Shenandoah County and brutally slit her throat." Wolf said fear can be one of the factors that keeps young girls from exposing their situation.

When did recognition of the problem begin for U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) who was active on the issue of human trafficking in the state legislature representing the 34th District before filling Wolf's congressional seat in 2014? Comstock said she thought it was when she met a woman in her 20s or 30s who had been a victim when

Resources

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

1-888-373-7888
nhtrc@polarisproject.org

Just Ask

President Beth Saunders
10660 Page Avenue #4161
Fairfax, VA 22030
FCPDHumanTrafficking@fairfaxcounty.gov
1-888-373-7888

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince St.
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175
24-hour call center: 1-800-THE-LOST
703-224-2150

Trauma and Hope

Deepa R. Patel CSOTP, LCSW
Executive Director
5415-C Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151
Cell: 571-366-0086
deepa.r.patel1@gmail.com

she was a 13-14 year old. She learned that Virginia had one of the lowest ratings of enforcement against human trafficking in all the states. During 2012-13 she co-patroned a number of a bills in the state legislature addressing the growth of gangs and increasing the penalty from a misdemeanor for soliciting a minor age 16 or 17 and under for prostitution to a Class Six felony and soliciting a minor under 16 to a Class Five penalty. Comstock worked with Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) who sponsored Virginia's first stand-alone human trafficking statute. Hugo said last July after it went into effect, "Until today, Virginia was the only state in the nation without a decided human trafficking law and was one of only two states that did not specifically criminalize sex trafficking."

Comstock said Fairfax County Detective Bill Woolf was instrumental in recommending legislation to her that was needed. "He said we are on the street and we need legislation to increase penalties," she said. "Woolf is a knight in shining armor; he has done so much for this cause."

Woolf said, "I saw the need and started working it." He continued, "Traffickers work in the schools. Victims come from every high school in the county."

Sometimes it is a high school student recruiting in his own school. Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Education for Fairfax County Public Schools, said a new education program established in the county's middle and high schools in 2012 seems to be getting results. She said Woolf recently told her about a middle school student who heard about sexual trafficking in her class and realized this was happening to her friend. The girl told an adult teacher she trusted and the victim was recovered along with several other girls in the same school. "I think Detective Woolf was the first one to break a case, and they just kept coming. It involved so many of our students in high schools of different ethnicities and demographics. We knew we had to do something."

"Most people are stunned when they find out it is occurring right here in Northern Virginia."

**— Frank Wolf,
former U.S. Representative
from Northern Virginia**



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Dir.: G.W. Parkway South from Old Town, right on Tulane & follow Partners Signs.



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Counters, Custom Cabinetry, **Heated Tile Floors** and generous **Breakfast Area** • **Elegant Sunroom** with

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Remodeled Center Hall Colonial

9315 Fairfax Street \$700,000

• **5 Bedroom Brick Colonial** w/Garage • Lovely Formal Living & Dining Rooms • **Family Room** off **Spacious Island Kitchen** with

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Level & **Enormous Storage Room** • Main Level **Laundry/Utility Room** • **Nice Level Lot** w/**Fenced Yard** & **Rear Deck**. Dir.: **G.W. Pkwy past Mt. Vernon Estate, L on Old Mt. Vernon, R on Robertson, L on Fairfax to 9315 on Left.**



5 Bedrooms on a Quiet Cul-de-Sac

Room • **Nice Level Lot** w/**Fenced Yard** & **Rear Deck**. Dir.: **G.W. Pkwy past Mt. Vernon Estate, L on Old Mt. Vernon, R on Robertson, L on Fairfax to 9315 on Left.**

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• **Classic Colonial Style**

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Directions: Braddock Metro, west Braddock, right on E. Spring to 115.



ALEXANDRIA - DEL RAY

NEWS

4-Cent Tax Rate Increase

One additional penny helps close gap for funding schools.

The gap between the Fairfax County School Board and total County budgets is a formality away from being the smallest since before Jan. 7 when FCPS Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza announced she wouldn't be making any additional cuts in her \$2.67 billion Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

In a 7 to 3 vote at an April 19 "markup" session, the Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.13 tax rate per \$100 of assessed value for FY 2017. This one-cent amendment to County Executive Edward Long's Advertised Budget would generate around an additional \$93 million in revenue for the Fairfax County, a release from Chairman Sharon Bulova said.

"This Budget provides a needed booster shot to support our excellent School System and to ensure the quality services our residents expect and rely upon," Bulova said in the statement. "Throughout these past months, our Board heard from thousands of residents advocating for an increase in taxes to address our community's needs."

Funds from the extra penny plus reallocated funds from the Third Quarter Review

would send \$33.6 million more to Fairfax County Public Schools than initially expected from the budget Long advertised.

"This is a clear indication that we're committed to investing in what makes our county great: its schools, its employees, and its services," Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee), the Board's Budget Committee chairman said in a statement.

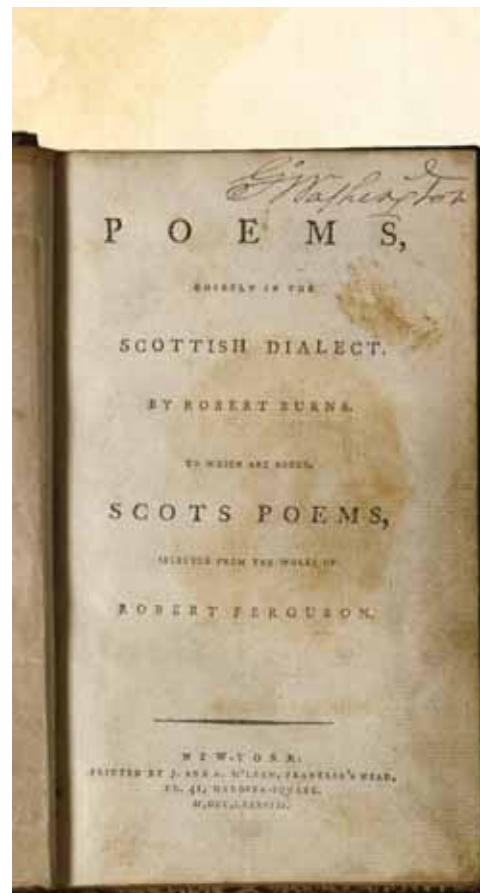
"Education is absolutely a top priority — and this budget reflects that," McKay's statement continues. "I'm also pleased to be able to make crucial steps forward in the areas of public safety, human services, parks, libraries and many of our other vital county services."

Mount Vernon District School Board representative Karen Corbett Sanders also praised the "yeoman's work," in a phone interview, "that both our state delegation and county board worked together as a team. "It's still within the realm where we can get there without significantly impacting our kids," she continued, "and that's what we wanted. This is a values budget that reflects the values of our community, what Fairfax County has been known for."

The Board of Supervisors will formally adopt the marked up budget on April 26. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/fy2017-budget-mark-up-package.pdf.

— TIM PETERSON

APRIL 26
3:30 p.m.
FREE



Celebrate National Poetry Month

at the Washington Library.

Join current Poet Laureate of Virginia Ron Smith and three former Poet Laureates for tea and refreshments, plus poetry tributes to Washington, Mount Vernon, and more.



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mountvernon.org/poetry or 703.667.3620



PHOTO COURTESY OF INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

Guests and donors joined hospital employees and leaders on April 19 to sign the last steel beam to be added to the new Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Veatch Family Emergency Department.

Marking Placement of Final Beam

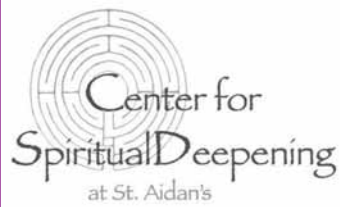
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital CEO Deborah Addo joined other guests, donors, hospital employees and community members April 19 to sign the final steel beam going into the new Veatch Family Emergency Department.

“This milestone celebrates Inova Mount Vernon’s commitment to those we serve; it’s all about partnership,” Addo said. “Together, we are a committed, connected community. They say you should always

be so proud of the work you do, that you would put your name on it. Well, we are and we did.”

The new 21,000-square-foot department, scheduled to open the week of Nov. 14, will feature 35 private treatment rooms, dedicated space for children, “Fast-Track” treatment rooms for patients with less serious injuries and two new rooms for resuscitation emergencies.

— TIM PETERSON



Spiritual Awakening
in the Second Half of
Life: Eco-Spiritual
Perspectives

Dr. Melanie Starr Costello

Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 pm

Eco-Spirituality places our personal unfolding within the larger context of divine self revelation through Creation. Through narrative, poetry and dream analysis we will explore the forces that shape our experience in the second half of life.

Dr. Costello will challenge the dominant association of aging with images of decline and portray spiritual awakening as a developmental goal of the aging process.

Fairfax County Tax Delinquent Real Estate For Sale...

AT AUCTION!

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 @ 2:30 P.M.

* 10 Parcels! * Homes, Condo, & Land! *

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By Order of The Circuit Court of Fairfax County, Virginia, at the direction of the Special Commissioners, the following described real estate will be offered to the highest bidder at **PUBLIC AUCTION...**

Parcel 1: (American Realty) 148,561 +/- Sq. Ft.; 5600 Backlick Road, Springfield; Braddock District; Tax Map #0802-01-0016; Acct. #407620309

Parcel 2: (Bengal) 8000 +/- Sq.Ft.; Lantana Trail; Gunston Manor, Lots 50-53, Block 24, Sec. B; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #1194-02240050; Acct. #408079493

Parcel 3: (Berkebile) 1.7783 +/- Ac.; Caisson Road; Sunrise Green; Legato; Springfield District; Tax Map #0563-01-0036; Acct. #407895000

Parcel 4: (Haight) 3.939 +/- Ac. Near Fairfax County Parkway & Hope Park Road; Springfield District; Tax Map #0671-01-0084; Acct. #407569254

Parcel 5 (Improved): (JFM) 8608 Rocky Gap Court, Lorton, VA 22079; Green Ridge Condos Addition; Lot 26; Mt. Vernon Dist.; Tax Map #0983-15-0026; Acct. #408045740

Parcel 6: (Jones) 2.6732 +/- Ac.; 11815 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; Lincoln Park, Lot 30; Tax Map #0671-04-0030; Acct. #407569308

Parcel 7 (Improved): (Kenney) 2547 Five Oaks Road, Vienna, VA 22181; Acredale, Lot 30; Providence District; Tax Map #0383-03-0030; Acct. #407812118

Parcel 8: (Pennsbury) 1.149 +/- Ac.; Carrleigh Parkway; Cardinal Forest, Parcel 11, Section 3; Springfield District; Tax Map #0793-01-0009; Acct. #407975430

Parcel 9: (Second Carr) 2.65 +/- Ac.; Southern Oaks Place; Hooes Road; Newington Commons, Parcel B, Section 1; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #0983-14-B, Acct. #407685462

Parcel 10 (Improved): (Uwazie) 9325 Maybrook Court, Alexandria, VA 22309; Mt. Vernon Grove, Lot 499; Mt. Vernon District; Tax Map #1104-02-0499, Acct. #407715885

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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.



Alex./Hollin Hall Village \$474,000
7924 Jackson Road
1,300 sq. ft. Hollin Hall rambler is an oasis for NATURE LOVERS: perennials abound in the front yard & raised garden beds in the bkyd. Beautiful upscale renovated kitchen. Newly refinished hwd floors & interior painting. 2 baths & 2 bedrooms, but 3rd bedroom could be easily configured from part of the large Family Rm addition. Walk-in closet. Newer HVAC, replacement windows, new hot water heater. Bkyd shed & Studio. WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY.



Alex./Stratford Landing \$619,900
8720 Bluedale Street
Tremendous value in this remodeled and meticulously maintained 5 BR, 2.5 BA Split – Upgrades include: Kitchen, Baths, DBL Pane Windows, Roof & HVAC. Freshly painted interior, beautiful hwd floors & a large deck overlooking a gorgeous, landscaped yard. – 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 10 mins to Old Town (N), along scenic G.W. Pkwy – Great Home!



Alex./Riverside Estates \$524,900
8412 Wagon Wheel Road
Beautifully maintained & updated Split w/4 finished levels – 5 BRs, 3 BAs, gas fireplace, sunroom addition, garage, deck overlooking lovely fenced backyard w/garden space & large shed. Roof & newly insulated attic & expanded concrete driveway in 2013 – Baths 2011, Kitchen 2010 – Double pane windows added in 2013-5. Minutes to Fort Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N), 25-35 mins to Ntl Airport, Pentagon and D.C. Turn Key & Great Price!



Alex./Sulgrave Manor \$479,900
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 – scenic view of the wooded backyard and patio through a wall of windows. Large single garage – all this serenity, yet only 30 minutes south of D.C., 7 minutes (N) to Fort Belvoir.



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 – 7 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N) – Great Home & Property!



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, 1-car garage on a lovely lot. 5 large spacious BRs, refinished hwd 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 National Airport (N). This is a Gem!

For more information: www.RexReiley.com
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OPINION

On the Guilty Plea of Adam Torres

Geer's death exposed "obfuscation ... and a lack of public accountability."

Adam Torres, charged with murder in the death of Springfield resident John Geer, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Monday, Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, with a likely sentence of 12 months, most of that already served. He has been in jail for eight months.

Geer was a Springfield resident, a remodeling contractor and an involved father, always on the sidelines of his daughters' sports games. He was unarmed, standing in the doorway of his own home with his hands raised at the time he was killed.

The police and Fairfax County refused to release any information on the case for more than a year, and only then after repeated court orders. Public outrage over Geer's death was compounded by obfuscation and silence, the failure to communicate, and a lack of public accountability. Change is in the works, but there is much work to do.

There is still much to say about the death of John Geer and its aftermath.

But today, the wisdom of his two teenage

daughters is well worth reading and sharing:

APRIL 18, 2016 STATEMENT BY THE DAUGHTERS OF JOHN GEER

"Justice is rarely a simple matter, and it would be easy to vent our anger, our outrage, our sorrow, and voice opposition to the plea bargain struck between Adam Torres and the Commonwealth. Nobody would question the rawness of our emotions and our response to it; we have lost a father, and there can be no substitute, no future moment of affection, no further opportunities to be close the man who should be present as our greatest supporter. Torres took that away from us, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Police Department hid the truth of what happened to our dad for over a year, and there is no going back. ...

EDITORIAL

"Much like Dad's murder has repercussions for his family and the community, locking Torres in a cell will have an effect on others. Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong. ...

"Where Torres failed to show prudence and mercy, we will show him and his family both.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in covering up the truth and putting Torres in the position to decide life and death given what they

knew about his background. Until such time that the ad hoc committee's recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers. We call upon the Board to immediately adopt and implement the Committee's recommendations without delay for the good of the FCPD and the citizens of Fairfax County.

"No family should have to suffer the loss of a mother, a father, or a loved one under circumstances like ours."

Send in Your Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

CAPPIES REVIEW

'Solid, Time-Tested Piece of Theatre'

BY KYLE DANNAHEY
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Two gamblers, a night club performer with a perpetual cold, and a Christian mission leader longing for the perfect love walk into a ... no this isn't the setup for a bad joke. While the plot of Frank Loesser's "Guys and Dolls" may seem a little bizarre at first, the show has remained a treasure of the American theatre since it first opened in 1950. Mount Vernon High School sought to remind us all why this show is so loved, and they were quite successful.

The musical, with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and a book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, is based on several short stories by Damon Runyon and opened to rave reviews in 1950. The original production won five Tony Awards including Best Musical. Considered one of the best musicals of Broadway's "Golden Age" the vibrant comedy has become one of the most revived musicals on Broadway and led to a 1955 film version starring Frank Sinatra and Marlon Brando.

Nathan Detroit is host of the "oldest established, permanent floating crap game in New York" but is having trouble finding a place to host his next game. The ideal spot wants a hefty down payment of \$1,000. When it's discovered that famed gambler Sky Masterson is in town,

Nathan thinks he can make a bet with Sky that he can't get mission leader Sarah Brown to go to Cuba with him for dinner. Nathan must continually hide his gambling habits from Adelaide, who he has been engaged to for 14 years and has had a cold ever since due to their unmarried status. Hilarity, romance, and boisterous dancing ensue as the two couples try to figure out what they want and how they will be happy.

The show famously opens with a lengthy dance routine that was delightfully fleshed out by choreographers Erin Hugee and Bailey Sudler. This involved nearly every member of the ensemble performing hilarious pantomimes interspersed with well-intentioned dance breaks. Hugee and Sudler's choreography was well planned and executed by the large cast.

Tyler Shores gave a superb performance as Nathan Detroit. Shores carried many of the show's comedic moments and did an excellent job playing the cartoonish aspects of the character in an enjoyable way, without becoming too artificial. Sofi Harai was one of the most entertaining Adelaide's I have seen in a while. Harai embodied the triple threat performer with her brassy belt, excellent acting, and formidable dancing; she also did a fantastic job bringing a thick New York accent without compromising diction at any point. Eva Alpar's performance as Sarah Brown heralded back to



PHOTO BY CARLOS SUANES/LIFETOUGH

From left are Erin Hugee, Tyler Shores, and Samuel Zarek in Mt. Vernon High School's production of "Guys and Dolls."

the golden age of Broadway with a sweet and soaring soprano in several of the most iconic numbers.

Fatemah Bahabib's projection design was vibrant and lively, allowing for minimal physical scenery, which provided immense freedom of space for the performers. Austin Shores' lighting design incorporated a color palette on the cyc to keep the characters and themes close in the audience's mind.

There are few musicals that need very little tinkering or innovation, and "Guys and Dolls" is arguably the greatest example of them all. Mount Vernon High School let the show speak for itself, and the cast and crew did an admirable job doing justice to this solid, time-tested piece of theatre.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper



OPINION

Celebrating Earth Day

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



This Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. It is a day to inspire and motivate ourselves to action to do our part to protect the environment. It is a time to provide an act of service to the planet. It is a day to celebrate nature.

So, in the spirit of Earth Day, I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help clean up Little Hunting Creek in the wind, rain and snow the other week with Senator Surovell and me. And, then again, last Saturday there were numerous other clean up efforts throughout our community, including in Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Gum Springs, and John Byers Park, just to name a few.

We hosted three cleanup sites at Janna Lee Avenue Bridge, Creekside Village Apartments and Mount Vernon Shopping Plaza. Together, over two dozen volunteers removed about 1800 pounds of trash filling 110 trash bags, netting about 10,000 pounds of total trash removed in the six years since Senator Surovell started his cleanup with help from Friends of Little Hunting Creek and the Alice Ferguson Foundation.

I am impressed by how many from the community and surrounding neighborhoods volunteered their time on a cold, snowy morning and participated in the annual cleanup. It was a testament to our community and neighbors of the creek that so many people do value this natural resource. And, I understand that the following week with the nice weather was an even bigger success. We all owe these volunteers a big thank you for sharing their valuable time to protect our environment by removing tons of trash, preventing it from polluting the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay. A fantastic job!

On this Earth Day, April 22, I will be returning to where I was as a little boy on that first Earth Day, in 1970, at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. Burgundy is a wonderful school, and uses the natural world as a classroom. On Earth Day 46 years ago I was a young student at Burgundy. I learned about our ecology and the growing problems of air, water and soil pollution that contributed to today's global warming crisis.

Everyone can celebrate Earth Day in their own way, from carrying a reusable water bottle, to biking to work or school, and significantly, planting trees, which can help lessen pollution by absorbing 48 pounds of carbon over a single year. Thanks for joining me this Earth Day to make a difference to protect our planet, and remember, it's the only one we've got.

COMMENTARY

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule

Saturday:
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass
(en Español)

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

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

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

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\$1,645,000
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LETTERS

Unconvinced On Re-paving

To the Editor:

In the April 7 Gazette, my letter was published in which I disagreed with the re-paving of the streets in my neighborhood, stating that it did not appear to be essential at this time and that the money could be better spent on other transportation infrastructure. In last week's Gazette, one of my neighbors disagreed with me and directed readers to the blog operated by Senator Surovell in which he supposedly outlined the reasons why the re-paving was "long overdue." I visited that blog, and predictably, Senator Surovell used the issue as an opportunity to bash the General Assembly for refusing to raise Virginia's gas tax. He also stated that over 70 percent of secondary roads in Northern Virginia "were rated to have substandard pavement quality."

This week, I telephoned VDOT and spoke to the official in charge of the re-paving project which is identified by the number PM9S15. He informed me that the re-paving contract has cost taxpayers \$6.5 million. He explained to me how the decision is made which roads need to be re-paved. Essentially, a special vehicle is driven over the roads and it takes data that VDOT officials use to determine which roads are in need of re-paving.

In my opinion, this is an example

of "garbage in, garbage out." I don't need a computer to tell me which roads are in need of repair. I can observe cracks, undulations, and potholes. Perhaps the vehicle VDOT uses to make these determinations should be re-programmed.

The official also informed me that a typical road project of multiple lanes costs \$1 million/mile. This means the project now being undertaken could have improved over six miles of roads more important to easing the commute of taxpayers.

Road paving contracts are created by paving contractors and are approved by government officials who spend money appropriated by politicians who are responsible for responsibly spending our tax dollars. Many years ago, I obtained a U.S. patent for a paving contractor in Northern Ohio who was responsible for re-paving roads over a wide area. The patent covered a paving machine. His Rolls Royce and mansion attested to the high profitability to paving contractors of this line of work. One wonders if the approved bid was closely enough scrutinized. I reiterate my opinion that much of the work now being done was not necessary and repair of occasional potholes and cracks could have freed up our tax dollars to be more effectively spent on larger transportation infrastructure needs.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Car Show. 9 a.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. All cars are welcome. Vehicles must be registered by 11 a.m. to be judged. Show registration is \$20 and spectators are free. All proceeds will go to the West Potomac All Night Graduation Celebration. Visit www.angcwestpotomac.com/donate.html to donate.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

Business Networking. 5:30-7 p.m. at ServiceMaster Restore, 7551 Fordson

Road. Join Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce for business networking on. This event is free for members of the Chamber and their guests and \$10 for others. Call 703-360-6925 or visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

North Hill Community Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck will host a community meeting on the development of North Hill. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/



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Details

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Sareth Meas says that her daughters, Alicia and Reaksa Keo, are bright students, but they were not reaching their full academic potential in their local public school. Because of her limited finances, private schools were not an option for her family.

After Meas learned about a program designed to promote academic achievement for deserving students, she was able to send Alicia and Reaksa to Alexandria County Day School (ACDS). Since then she has seen a world of difference in her daughters' learning environment and their academic success.

"[Public school] classes were a lot bigger and kids tended to become a lot more distracted, rather than at ACDS, where classes only have 12-14 kids in the room," said

Meas.

Meas' daughters are enrolled in the Emerging Scholars program, which is based in Arlington. It was founded in 2002 by a group of educators from local independent schools. Its current executive director, Ruth Hazel Little, realized there were many talented students

"One hundred percent of our students who graduate from independent schools are accepted into college"

— Ruth Hazel Little, Emerging Scholars

who would benefit from a private school education, but were not able to afford their tuition due to financial constraints.

"At that time, I was the admission director at a local independent school. We found that those students who had been admitted with significant financial need

never fully assimilated to the environment and never felt part of the community," said Little. "Our goal was to welcome this group of diverse students into our schools and provide them with a platform for their success."

Emerging Scholars identifies students who demonstrate academic promise, prepares them both academically and socially for the rigors of some of the area's top independent schools and assists them with the application process.

Candidates apply and are admitted during fourth grade. To prepare for an academically demanding private school environment, students complete several requirements, including participation in a seven-week session during the summer before their fifth grade year. They also attend Saturday classes during fifth grade at their current school. After completing the requirements, the students will

be eligible to enroll in one of the independent schools with which Emerging Scholars partners.

Students are given need-based financial aid and are assisted with the application process by Emerging Scholars staff. Local educators say the program helps remove some of the barriers to receiving a top quality education that some underserved students might face when transitioning to a private school.

"When they arrive they're prepared both socially and academically for engagement within an independent school community," said Scott Baytosh, Head of School at Alexandria County Day School. "The students view themselves differently and value a community where being a good student and learning are highly valued. Their perspective changes and they have an opportunity to blossom."

Little says that Emerging Scholars partners with independent schools because she finds they offer a combination of high academic standards, personal accountability and small class sizes which allow for individual attention. Part of the training and preparation includes parents as well as students.

"We also require that a family member participate in the program," said Little. "We truly believe parents are an integral part of the process, so we hold parent workshops, which help to reinforce our academic and leadership

For more information on Emerging Scholars, see <http://www.emergingscholarsprogram.org/files/home.htm>

expectations. As a result, we've found that we're actually changing a family, not just the child."

Statistics and success stories underscore the validity of the Emerging Scholars philosophy. "The proof is that we've graduated almost 200 students from Emerging Scholars," said Little. "Our oldest ... scholars are now seniors in college. They are attending top colleges and universities. One hundred percent of our students who graduate from independent schools are accepted into college, compared to the national average of about 70 percent."

One recent Emerging Scholars graduate was accepted into all of the 13 colleges to which she applied. "Many were Ivy Leagues," Little said. "She ended-up accepting a full scholarship at Columbia University, where she is on the dean's list."

Little shared two other success stories. "We have a young man who graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School and is currently studying medicine at UVA." And a female student who is interested in studying neuroscience received early acceptance to Northwestern University.

Meas says that Reaksa has been accepted into two local Catholic high schools and is close to making a decision.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXANDRIA COUNTY DAY SCHOOL

Sixth grade student Alicia Keo and her sister Reaksa Keo, who is in eighth grade, attend Alexandria County Day School as part of the Emerging Scholars program.

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Carlyle Towers 2181 Jamieson Avenue 910-911, Alexandria VA
Rarely on the market! This 3 br, 3.5 ba condo has even more! Library/den, Powder Room, open balcony next to kit, sitting room. Garage parking for 3 cars! Come See! \$929,900
Marie Louise Meyer 703-929-1002 MLS # AX9612585



Mount Vernon On The Green 9174 Rosemary Lena Way, Alexandria VA
Colonial with 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, 2-car garage, finished basement, family room plus recreation room, covered gas cooking center in back yard. Wired for sound inside and out.
\$920,000 Bob & Nicole Hamilton 703-966-8532 MLS # FX9610173



Open House Sunday 2-4 pm Madison of McLean
6630 Madison McLean Dr, McLean VA Rarely on market! "A" Model end TH in much desired Madison of McLean. Needs updating. 3 br, 2 full/ 2 half bas, enclosed patio, 2 FP's, 2 wet bars, detached 2-car Gar, Large family room. \$910,000 Ed Pagett 571-237-4753 MLS # FX9624411



**Open House
Sunday 1-4 pm
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6036 Buttercup Ct, Alexandria VA 3 br, 2.55 ba town house in popular Van Dorn Village. Approx 1 mile to Metro and easy access to 95/495! Spacious floor plan, rear deck, walk-out basement, fenced yard, backs to trees!
\$415,000
Ann-Marie Grotticelli
703-501-4092
MLS # FX9626156



Chancery of Kingstowne 6534 Grange Lane #102, Alexandria VA
Beautifully remodeled 2 br/2 ba Kingstowne condo with patio, hardwoods throughout, renovated with open kitchen with granite, MBR with large walk-in closet & more! \$304,900
Karen Leonard 703-328-7041 MLS # FX9619622

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Tackles classic play set in 1930s Alabama.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "To Kill a Mockingbird" from April 23 to May 14. Based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel set in Alabama during the Great Depression, the play follows the journey of Jem and Scout Finch, whose father has been appointed to defend Tom Robinson, a black man framed for a crime he didn't commit. As the trial progresses, Jem and Scout witness their community in a tense tug of war between justice and racism.

Director Frank Pasqualino said "To Kill a Mockingbird" is one of the greatest American stories ever told. "It is a timeless story of coming of age, small town Southern life during the Depression, and the ever prevalent struggle of Black Americans. I believe that as a country we are still struggling with many of the situations depicted in this story," he said.

When he first read the book as a 14-year-old back in 1969, it touched him so deeply that he has never been without a copy of the book since. "I have re-read 'Mockingbird' at least once every five years since 1969, and in doing so during these different stages of my life and maturation, I have gained new insight and life lessons from the story each time," he said.

He said the biggest challenge is doing justice to the Harper Lee story as adapted by playwright Christopher Sergal. "Atticus, Scout, Jem and Boo are iconic figures in American literature. The challenge is bringing these characters to life on stage while trying to stay true to both Harper Lee's inspired words and the audience's preconceived notions of these characters," he said.

Richard Fiske plays the main role of Atticus Finch who can be described as a man with integrity. "Scout's coming of age story is the heart of the show," he said. "Atticus helps her grow through his example and his instruction and his interpretation for her, of things, sometimes terrible things, she sees in Maycomb, (Ala.). Atticus shows us all what we can be."

Because Atticus is an iconic role model,

he said the greatest challenge was to portray him as a human, with human failings and emotions, while maintaining the impossibly high character standard set by author Harper Lee. "Fortunately, Frank Pasqualino's direction and the terrific cast make working on this project a joy," he said.

While much remains to be done, he wants people to see how far we have progressed on racial issues since 1935.

Olivia McMahon, age 9, plays the role of the young Scout in her first lead role in community theater. "Scout is open-minded and curious; she is loving but a bit stubborn and opinionated," she said. "Overall, she is curious because she asks a lot of questions, wonders about everything and is rarely content."

She hopes the audience learns from this play to defend the innocent, to put oneself in other people's positions and don't judge people from their looks, she said — and also to take care of each other.

Melissa Dunlap plays the role of Jean Louise Finch, the adult Scout. "She is reflecting on her childhood, sharing her thoughts and experiences, all while trying to make sense of what happened and how those events shaped her and those she loves," she said.

She said the challenge is that her primary scene partner is the audience. "I am interacting more with the audience than with the other actors; thus, my scene partner won't even show up until our first performance. At present, I am talking, quite literally, to the wall," she said.

She hopes the cast and crew are able to transport the audience to Maycomb, Ala. in 1935. "I hope that they can see the events through the eyes of the characters and explore what it means to stand in someone else's shoes," she said.

Robert Heinly plays the role of Sheriff Heck Tate, a community fixture in Maycomb County. "He has been in Maycomb all his life and knows everyone and everything that goes on in the town; he is not a tremendously educated man but doesn't need to be to perform his job well," he said.

He said when presented with the challenge of deciding the fate of Boo and Jem at the end of the play, he is not afraid to



The cast in rehearsal for LTA's production of "To Kill a Mockingbird," which will be staged from April 23 to May 14.

stand up to Atticus and insist on "the right thing" even if it does not follow the letter of the law.

He also played the same sheriff in Firebelly Productions in 2006, but added: "This cast is larger, the set more realistic, and the freedom to include further moments from book and film, I think will help the audience to feel at ease in the world Ms. Lee created."

Erin Gallalee plays the role of Maudie Atkinson, the neighbor of the Finch family. "She loves life and the simple beauty in the world around her," she said. "She is a friend to the children and doesn't 'protect' them from the world as many adults would instinctively do, but encourages them to think bigger than their own perspective."

She said she feels a little more pressure when performing either a well-known play or one based on real people. "It's a balance to try to make it your own while still being true to the original story or person and managing audience expectations who are waiting for those pivotal moments," she said. "Most audiences know this story, either by the book or the movie, so it's trying to break through something they might

have seen (or read) dozens of times and still make it new."

She added: "We've made a lot of progress since 1935 but we still have a long way to go in our society in efforts for equality and acceptance. It'll take all of us to exact change."

Frank Riley plays the role of the Rev. Sykes, a compassionate man who has seen a lot of injustice in his time. He said one of the biggest challenges of this role was making people sense the true spirituality in his character.

He added: "I hope the audience feels a true connection to what life was like in small town Alabama. I hope the audience longs for more after our performance is done. I feel like all of the cast members have brought these classic characters to life, and with a lot of heart."

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is staging "To Kill a Mockingbird" April 23-May 14. Show times are Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-22. The Venue is located at 600 Wolfe St. For tickets, call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

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

Duncan Library Book Sale. Through April 23, 7-9 p.m. Wednesday preview, 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. Friday, 1-3 p.m. Saturday at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Thousands of books for sale, most between \$1-\$3. Adult, teen and kids books, plus CDs

and DVDs. New selections put out daily. All proceeds benefit the Duncan Library; sponsored by Friends of the Duncan Library. Free. Email duncanbooksale@gmail.com.

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.

Art Exhibit: "It's Black and White!" Through April 24, 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 for more.

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 landscape, abstract and figurative work. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

Broadway Gallery April Artist Showcase. Through April 27, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive.

Featured will be the pastel and mixed media paintings of local artist, Lynn Goldstein. Free. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net for more.

Art Exhibit: "The Shape of Water." Through April 30, gallery hours at Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St. "The Shape of Water" features paintings by Oenone Hammersley. Free. Visit www.oenonehammersley.com for more.

Exhibit: "Creatures from the Sea." Through May 1, 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 for more.

Art Exhibit: "Misfits." Through May

1, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Artist Teresa Oaxaca's latest paintings blend portraiture and still life in tightly cropped compositions. The artist poses 21st Century individuals in Victorian and Baroque costumes, paired with dolls, bones, teacups, fresh flowers, and masks. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Spring 2016 City of Alexandria Tree Sale. Through May 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Trees and shrubs available for purchase include White Oak, Scarlet Oak, American Holly, Flameleaf Sumac, Eastern Red-Cedar, Maple Leaf Viburnum, Blackhaw Viburnum,

ENTERTAINMENT

and American Sweetgum. All trees are \$20. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

DASH for the STASH. Through May 15. Learn about investing with DASH for the STASH, an investor education contest hosted by the Alexandria Library. Read four game posters at any Alexandria Library location, get a quiz question related to each, and submit your answers to have a chance at winning a \$1,000 retirement investment. Game posters are on display at all Alexandria Library locations. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1751.

Art Exhibit: "Partnerships."

Through May 15, business hours at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. All artwork is available for purchase through Del Ray Artisans. Artists are donating 20 percent of the purchase price of sold pieces in an equal split between Del Ray Artisans and the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital's charity of choice, Veterans Moving Forward. Free. Call 703-751-2022 for more.

APRIL 21-MAY 29

"Black Pearl Sings!" 8 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Black Pearl Sings! is about two women in Depression-era Texas: an ambitious Library of Congress musicologist, searching for the African roots of slave songs, and the discovery of the musical gifts of an African American woman. Tickets are \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Litter Bugs. 2 p.m. at Martha

Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Learn how your family can create a creature of your own using recycled materials in honor of Earth Day. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

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

"Phantom of the Opera." 7:30 p.m.

at Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Watch the restored 1929 silent horror masterpiece "The Phantom of the Opera" with live improvisation by acclaimed organist Dorothy Papadokos. Not for children younger than 10. Free. Visit www.vts.edu for more.

Concertos by Mozart. 8 p.m. at

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The Blessed Sacrament Festival Orchestra will be joined by hornist Tim Huizenga, clarinetist Parker Gimes and pianist John McCrary. Each will perform a concerto by Mozart. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-998-6100 Ext: 103.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 22-23

"Hairspray Jr." 7 p.m. Friday and

Saturday, additional 1 p.m. performance on Saturday at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. GWMS presents Hairspray Jr. inspired by Baltimore's John Waters original film, adapted for the stage by Thomas Meehan, Mark O'Donnell, Marc Shaiman, and Scott Whitman and directed by Robert McDonough. Tickets are \$5. Contact Robert McDonough at robert.mcdonough@acps.k12.va.us.

SATURDAY/APRIL 23

Fort Hunt Preschool Rummage

Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 1909 Windmill Lane. Find baby and children's clothes, toys, books, and more. Free to attend. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com.

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 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.

West Potomac Car Show. 9 a.m.-2

p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. All proceeds from the event benefit the West Potomac all night graduation party. Car entries are \$20. Visit www.facebook.com/events/1049966178410530 for more.

Raptor Rapture. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at

Belle Haven Park, 1201 Bell Haven Road. See live raptors that were injured and have been rehabilitated, but cannot survive on their own. Free. Visit www.fodm.org 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.

Nu Xi Zeta Honors Luncheon. 11

a.m.-2 p.m. at Ft. Belvoir Officer's Club, 5500 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Nu Xi Zeta Chapter and the Nu Xi Zeta Helping Alexandria Virginia Excel Foundation will award scholarships to deserving graduating seniors from Arlington County or the City of Alexandria at their annual luncheon Nu Xi Zeta Honors, "30 Years and Counting: A Celebration of Partnership, Leadership, and Friendship." Tickets are \$65. Email nuxizetahonors@nuxizeta.org.

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. 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.

Program: Herb Gardening. 1:30-3

p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Green Spring Master Gardeners will teach participants how to choose and care for the best annual and perennial herbs that will flourish in your garden or container. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

String Players of the National

Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. A string quartet, solo, and a large string ensemble. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for seniors, free for students 18 and under. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events.

Lloyd Cole. 7:30 p.m. at The

Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Performer Lloyd Cole presents a show titled "2016: My Retrospective Year." \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com

APRIL 23-MAY 22

Mount Vernon Historic Plant Sale.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. At the Mount Vernon Historic Plant and Garden Sale, historic trees, shrubs and plants as well as a wide variety of annuals, perennials, heirloom tomatoes and herbs — each carefully nurtured in the Mount Vernon greenhouses—will be available for purchase. Admission is free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Annual George Washington

Parkway Classic. 8 a.m. at Old Town Alexandria, starting places vary. This course, with lush scenery SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: editors@connectionnewspapers.com


Or to mail photo prints, send to:
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TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

This timeless classic compels us to take an honest look at our nation's past and our moral responsibility to each other.

- This show contains hurtful language and mature themes.
- Talk Back with cast/crew/designers after the performance on Friday, May 6.

SHOW DATES: April 23-May 14



Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street • 703-683-0496
www.thelittletheatre.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Don Taco: New Take On Longtime Favorite

Newcomer to King Street offers wealth of innovative options. Think surf-n-turf tacos.

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

Walk the length of King Street from Route 1 to the river, and you'll see a brand-new restaurant on your stroll. Nestled between Alfred and Columbus streets on the southern side of King, Don Taco Tequila Bar beckons to passersby, inviting the neighbors in for a taco or three and a frosty margarita.

What used to be the Flat Iron Steak and Saloon has morphed into an entirely new identity, eschewing heavy steak dinners in favor of a lighter, leaner variety of dishes ranging from tacos to rice bowls to chips and guacamole. Owned by the same group as its predecessor, Don Taco offers up a fresh take on a family favorite.

Flat Iron "never really hit the mark we wanted it to," said Don Taco co-owner Scott Parker. "Instead of continuing our run at Flat Iron, why not try a ... new concept?"

Parker, who also co-owns Don Tito in Arlington among other restaurants, knows his audience. And his space in Arlington set the course for what Don Taco turned out to be.

"What we realized when we opened Don Tito is that people love tacos and te-

quila and beer," he said. And so far, Don Taco has capitalized on that market with great success.

"That redesign (from Flat Iron) for us has been just as successful as we thought it would be," Parker said, adding that Don Taco aimed to improve its curb appeal from its predecessor's. "... We added a huge bar to the first floor, so that when you look in you see a bar that goes all the way down the left side of the first floor."

But what diners are really here for are the tacos. And Don Taco has them in ample supply.

"Really the goal for our success ...

is tacos, tacos, tacos," Parker said. And the restaurant doesn't disappoint: From banh mi pork to roasted chicken Sriracha, from chipotle quinoa sweet potato to fried avocado, Don Taco's namesake offerings are plentiful.

"My personal favorite is the Mexican short-rib taco. The short rib is just smoked to perfection," Parker said. "I could just eat them over and over and over again."

One thing you'll notice upon sitting down at a booth or table is the sushi-like way you'll or-



From Mexican short rib to fried avocado, find a wide array of taco options.

Details

Don Taco, 808 King St.

Hours: 11 a.m.-2 a.m. daily

Try this: The Sweet Heat cocktail. "That has jalapeno-infused vodka, blueberries, and house-made lemonade," co-owner Scott Parker says.

Hidden gem: "I wish more people would try our desserts, especially the Nutella banana split tacos," Parker says. "They're in a really soft but crunchy cinnamon sugar shell. ... People are just over the moon for them when they do try them."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

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/parkway-classic.

Birding for Beginners. 8 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn about the park's birds and some basic identification skills. Program begins with an indoor discussion. Fee is \$8 county residents, \$10 non-county. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Carpenter's Shelter Cook Off. 12-3 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. During the cook off, 25 area restaurants will offer samples and compete for four different awards determined by judges and guests. Special guest judges include Emily Sprissler, a former Top Chef contestant, and Vikram Sunderam, a James Beard Award winner. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$15 for children. Visit www.carpentersshelter.org/cook-off.

Take a Stroll in Simpson Gardens. 1-3 p.m. at Simpson Gardens, 420 E. Monroe Ave. VCE Master Gardeners who maintain the Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens will be in the

garden to welcome visitors, show off spring blooms and provide information and handouts on pollinators, native plants, herbs and other garden-related topics. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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 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, sung by The U.S. Army Chorus. Book signing to follow. Free. Visit www.ctkalexandria.org/events.html.

A Benefit Performance for Lakota Mission 2016. 6 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St. The concert is to

benefit the Lakota Mission Team, a long standing Mission team that is sponsored by the Church of the Good Shepherd-United Methodist. The Dominion Brass ensemble will perform. Free. Visit www.chapelhillchurch.com.

MONDAY/APRIL 25

Managing and Maintaining the Vegetable Garden. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The program, intended for new gardeners, will emphasize best practices for managing and maintaining a healthy garden. It will cover the importance of pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to identify them; how crop rotation and intercropping can help control garden pests; how to identify diseases and weeds; and how to maximize harvests with space-saving techniques. Free. Visit www.mgnv.org for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 26

Train Like an Astronaut. 3:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Get moving with NASA-inspired activities used to exercise the same body parts as astronauts do in training and on

missions in space. Grades K-5. Free. Call 703-746-1721.

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. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

Book Signing and Discussion. 5-7 p.m. at Woodlawn & Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Historian David Plater focuses on the family living at Woodlawn in a discussion called, "Nelly and Lawrence; Frances and Edward; A First Family?" Free, but books will be for sale for \$30. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org.

Meet the Artist: "The Shape of Water." 6-7:30 p.m. at Sonoma Cellar, 207 King St. "The Shape of Water" features paintings by Oenone Hammersley. Free. Visit www.oenonehammersleycontemporaryart.com for more.

tomato to keep the avocado lively.

And, finally, the cocktail menu contains some must-trys, as well – this is a tequila bar, after all. The restaurant sports 33 different kinds of tequila, Parker says, and they make up some of the best drinks on the cocktail list. Don't miss the jalapeno margarita, which brings plenty of spice to every sip without overpowering the rest of the drink.

After six weeks in Old Town, Parker says his team is feeling the love.

"The reception from Old Town has been so warm and so loving," Parker said. "... We are so excited to be a member of the neighborhood and to get to know everybody locally."

Hope Nelson owns and operates Kitchen Recessionista, www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

History of 18th Century

Foodways. 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Ellen Donald, consultant for Gadsby's Tavern Museum's recent faux food project, will examine the layers of this complex project, from selecting the new faux food menu to how and by whom food would historically be prepared. Tickets are \$12. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

Historical Society Annual Award Presentation. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 210 S. Washington St. The Alexandria Historical Society will present their annual awards to individuals who have made major contributions to understanding and appreciation of local history. Free. Call 703-746-4144.

APRIL 28-MAY 7

Musical: "Starlight Express." 5 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 p.m. Saturdays at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac's Beyond The Page Theatre presents an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical based on the imagination of a young boy and his toy trains. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

Torres Enters Guilty Plea

FROM PAGE 1

Geer's mother was "vehemently opposed to any agreement," Morrogh said, adding that she "wants a life sentence."

The sentencing is set for June 24, at which point the judge may accept or amend the length of Torres' sentence, or reject the plea altogether. If that happens, Morrogh said, the case would go to trial with a different judge. Torres is the first Fairfax County Police Officer in the history of the department to be charged in a shooting death.

"It's certainly not an ideal or perfect situation," Morrogh said during a press conference following the hearing, outside the Fairfax Courthouse. "My role is to get as much justice as I can, for victims and family."

Morrogh said Harrington was concerned about defense plans to call Geer's 19-year-old daughter — who was at a neighbor's house at the time of the shooting — to testify about her father's past actions and character.

Morrogh also said the defense had an expert lined up to argue that Torres acted reasonably given the situation. "I thought we had real good evidence on where his hands were," Morrogh said, but "those are the kinds of things that can muddy the waters," for a jury.

"I weighed it all, this is my decision and I stand by it," Morrogh said.

IN A PHONE INTERVIEW, Lieberman said he was pleased Morrogh went with the plea deal. He said many prosecutors turn them down, but it can be difficult to get a felony conviction in cases like this with a police officer involved.

Lieberman said the family was also thinking of Torres' wife and children in accepting the plea. He supplied a statement from Geer's daughters in which they say, "Whatever his faults, Torres' wife and children did not murder our father, and it would be wrong to hurt them just to allay our own anger and pain. Robbing other children of time with their father would only make us complicit in another wrong."

The daughters cite the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Police Department, bodies which withheld details of their father's shooting from them for 17 months. That included personnel files and accounts of Torres having a history of outbursts and marital stress.

Until a \$12 million wrongful death case brought by the Geer family forcing the release of information, Fairfax County Police stood by policy they said kept them from releasing

Torres' name or many other details of the shooting while investigations into the incident were ongoing.

"As for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department, we remain appalled by their actions in covering up the truth and putting Torres in the position to decide life and death given what they knew about his background," the daughters' statement continues. "Until such time that the ad hoc [commission's] recommendations are adopted and the policies of the FCPD are changed, we fear that these tragic events can occur again with different victims and different officers."

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Chairman Sharon Bulova and Chief of Police Edwin Roessler sent out statements following the guilty plea that offered sympathy to Geer's family and friends. Though each have previously acknowledged the case wasn't handled as well as it could have been, their statements stopped short of admitting wrongdoing. They focused more on forging ahead.

"The death of John Geer and events that followed have sparked a number of changes in our Police Department to include a transformation in the way officers are trained to respond to critical incidents," Bulova said in her statement. "The Board of Supervisors is moving forward with recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, demonstrating Fairfax County's commitment to maintaining the public trust and mak-

SEE GUILTY PLEA, PAGE 18

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Mount Vernon's Justin Smith (2) defends against T.C. Williams' Phillip Reilly on Tuesday.



Mount Vernon goalie Trey Fulmer had 12 saves on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

TC Boys' Lax Comes Back to Beat Mount Vernon

**Titans outscore
Majors 4-0 during
final 5:29.**

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

As senior members of the Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse team were honored prior to Tuesday's game against T.C. Williams, some of the Majors' favorite memories were shared with those in attendance.

On more than one occasion, a player's memorable moment was last year's 12-11 victory over the Titans, during which the Majors overcame a 7-1 deficit at Minnie Howard. The victory was part of a 10-win season for Mount Vernon that included a trip to the Conference 13 championship game. On this night, however, it would be T.C. Williams overcoming a deficit to win on its opponent's home field.

The Titans outscored the Majors 4-0 during the final 5 minutes, 29 seconds and pulled out an 8-5 victory during the Majors' senior night at Mount Vernon High School.

The win improved T.C. Williams' record to 6-3 overall and 4-2 in Conference 7. The Titans are assured of a first-round home

game in the conference tournament for the first time since 2007.

"I pointed it out to them before the game that they should take notice of when a team says their lasting memory is a come-from-behind win last year against you," T.C. Williams head coach Mike Mulherin said. "[I told them] 'You need to pay them back' and they did."

The Majors entered the fourth quarter with a 5-4 advantage but failed to add to their lead. With 7:29 remaining, a Mount Vernon player received a two-minute, non-releasable penalty for slashing, which opened the door for T.C. Williams.

Playing a man up, TC junior midfielder Sammy Zang's goal with 6:56 on the clock tied the score at 5 and ended a Titan scoreless drought of nearly 27 minutes.

Near the end of TC's man advantage, senior Dillon Smith assisted senior Billy Donohue with what proved to be the game-winning goal with 5:29 remaining.

"I thought it would get them energized because they're pretty confident in those situations when they're a man up," Mulherin said. "We hadn't had a penalty really all night long to capitalize on, so [it was] a huge momentum swing when we got that second goal from Billy. Once we got that and recaptured the lead, you could see the momentum coming our way."

Four days earlier, the Titans took advan-

tage of a non-releasable penalty during a 16-4 win over Forest Park.

"When you're man-up, it's nothing else but goals," Zang said. "You've got to score every single time. That's what we want to do. We don't accept anything less."

Mount Vernon head coach Dan Convery didn't agree with the penalty.

"That was the biggest swing of the game," Convery said. "That's what cost us the game. ... It shouldn't be a two-minute, non-releasable call. He didn't swing it like a baseball bat, he didn't come down hard on it, it should have just been a one-minute, releasable penalty. ... [It was a] horrible call."

Zang led T.C. Williams with three goals. Sophomore attackman Brody Dickson finished with two goals, and senior midfielder Scott Passalugo, senior attackman Phillip Reilly and Donohue each had one.

Junior goalie Pat Clark had seven saves.

T.C. Williams has five regular season games remaining. The Titans haven't had a winning season since 2007 and haven't qualified for the region tournament since 2011. Mulherin said this year's team has improved its skill level through offseason work. "[There is a] reputation of TC being a physical team and just a bunch of guys that are out there playing tough lacrosse," Mulherin said. "We wanted to be a skill team and I think they've shown that this year and the win-loss record has kind of demon-

strated it, as well."

Donohue said the Titans have a different attitude this season.

"In past years, it's really been kind of a down-on-you team," Donohue said. "When we make mistakes we kind of dog each other on it. This year, we're definitely doing different things with that. We've got young leadership with Sammy and then the rest are [senior] captains. ... We're over .500 because we're not yelling at each other. ... We're encouraging rather than scolding."

Zang, Reilly, Passalugo, Donohue and Smith are TC captains.

The loss dropped Mount Vernon's record to 1-8 overall and 1-5 in the conference. It's the Majors' first season competing in Conference 7.

Junior KeShawn Downing led the Majors with three goals during Tuesday's loss to T.C. Williams.

"I think he played great," Convery said. "I think he's been having a great year. [He is a] second-year player. [I'm] definitely looking forward to him next year."

Junior David Gibbs and senior Rick Dobson each scored one goal for the Majors.

Senior goalkeeper Trey Fulmer had 12 saves for the Majors.

T.C. Williams will travel to take on Potomac Falls at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 21. Mount Vernon will travel to face Annandale at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 29.



Two Firsts at Regatta

The Mount Vernon crew women's varsity 2nd four finished first at the Darrell Winslow Regatta on Saturday. From left are Daphne Alpar, Sophia Cabana, Erin Turner, Becky Deville, and (front) Nicki Criqui (coxswain).

The Mount Vernon crew novice men's four placed first at the Darrell Winslow Regatta on Saturday. From left are Alex Sato, Ryan Pringle, Enrico Valerio, Sean Robinson, and (front) Imani Griffin (coxswain).



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Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO), that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot on a proposed set of amendments to the ASCO Bylaws through ASCO's official website, www.asco.org/bylaws-vote between April 22 and May 23, 2016. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or her designee for to be cast at a special members' meeting to be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from 9:30-10:00 AM, Eastern Time, USA, at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email ASCOBylaws@asco.org or call 571-483-1316

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OBITUARY



Retired US Army CW3 Walter R. Fabinsky, age 99, died Saturday, April 16, 2016, at INOVA Alexandria hospital, following a brief illness.

He was a veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict.

Mr. Fabinsky is survived by his son, Walter, Jr., and daughter-in-law, Betsy, of Sewalls Point, Florida. He also leaves behind a grandson, Christopher.

An open-casket viewing will be held Saturday, April 23, at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA, from 3 to 5 PM.

He will be interred at a future date in Arlington National Cemetery.

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OBITUARY
Sandra Lee Conley

On April 13, 2016 Sandra Lee passed away peacefully and gently at her home surrounded by her loving, faithful friends and her devoted son, Rudy. She bravely struggled with adult lymphoblastic leukemia for the past year and she was valiant in her efforts. A proud Kentucky woman and educator, Sandra significantly touched the lives of all she met. Services were held at Christ Church on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 11 a.m., 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA. Interment will be at Highland Memorial Park in Kentucky at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Sandra's name to a charity of your choosing. Additional information may be found at www.everlywheatley.com.

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The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for a Recording, Archiving, Encoding & Streaming Video at ACPS Schools.

Emailed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-03-07 Recording, Archiving, Encoding & Streaming Video will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 6, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the email. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACPS web site. No submitted proposal may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

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

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

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Guilty Plea

FROM PAGE 15

ing our Police Department a national model moving forward."

The county recently posted a progress report online for the implementation of the commission's 142 recommended policy changes. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm>).

In a statement, Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) said, "The process to resolve this sad chapter in Fairfax County history has been lengthy and frustrating, much to our own doing."

Though some policies have been changed or updated, including a Diversion First program to direct nonviolent offenders with mental illness to receive treatment services rather than jail time, Fairfax County has yet to adopt or implement an independent auditor or citizen oversight board — two of the recommendations receiving considerable attention.

Roessler's statement added, "The men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department have fully cooperated with all authorities during this investigation. The action of one former employee is not reflective of the honorable work done day-in and day-out by all members of our Department."

Geer's best friend Jeff Stewart, who witnessed the 2013 shooting and went on to serve on the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, responded critically to Roessler's words.

"They weren't compliant," Stewart said in a phone interview, "otherwise we wouldn't have had to involve the federal Justice Department and [U.S.] senators."

Morrogh handed his initial investigation of the incident to the U.S. Attorney Dana Boente, later explaining that Fairfax County Police were withholding information from him. And U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, got involved in November 2014 when he sent formal inquiries to Roessler and Boente about the stagnant case.

AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE following Monday's hearing, Morrogh commented on the Fairfax County attorneys who advised the Board of Supervisors to go along with not releasing the information, saying, "I've never seen anyone act like that. I hope it never happens again, it was dead wrong."

"Because of that, we were left with nothing for 17 months," said Stewart, "which in itself is a crime. What's important now is keeping pressure on the supervisors to make sure a review panel is enacted and they develop some timeline policy for handling these situations."

Near the conclusion of the hearing, Torres said he was "truly sorry for my actions" and "heartbroken" for Geer's children. "No words I can say today ... adequately express my remorse."

Geer's father Don said he didn't hear the apology in the courtroom, and that it was the first one he'd heard from Torres.

"A little late in coming," he said. "Nothing on this has been done in a timely manner."

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SPRING MAINTENANCE SPECIAL \$59⁹⁵

INCLUDES: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*, inspect windshield wipers, tire rotation, check tire condition, check battery (with print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air Alexandria Toyota's 27 pt. inspection & cabin air filters.

*SYNTHETIC OIL WITH MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

WEDNESDAY IS LADIES' DAY 15% OFF ANY REPAIR
Not to exceed \$100

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

GENUINE TOYOTA
SIGHT LINE WIPER BLADES \$10 OFF ANY PAIR
Sight Line only

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
15% OFF ANY ACCESSORIES

• Apparel • Window visors
• I-pad adaptors • All weather floor mats
• Toyota bedliners

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159⁹⁵

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

SPRING SAVINGS



New RAV4s, Priuses Scion IMs and IAs ALL ON SALE LIKE NEVER BEFORE
Spring is here and so are the SAVINGS! Ask one of our sales managers, George, Mike, Yared or Rocky
703-684-0700
WE ARE HERE TO MAKE DEALS!

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
DETAIL SPECIALS STANDARD HAND-WASH & VACUUM
Recommended Monthly
\$39⁹⁵

Vacuum carpets, floor mats, upholstery & trunk, wipe down dash board, console & door panels, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand wash exterior door jams, and dress tires.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
QUALITY HAND-WASH VACUUM & WAX
Recommended Every 6 Months
\$139⁹⁵

Hand wash exterior door jams, wash wheels, tires & fender wells, hand-wax or glaze, vacuum carpets, upholstery & trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather, clean dash board, vents, console, door panels & windows, and dress tires.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
PREMIUM FULL DETAIL
Recommended Every 12 Months
\$295⁹⁵

Full interior & exterior detailing, including trunk, shampoo carpets, upholstery & trunk, clean interior vinyl & leather plus conditioning, wash wheels, tires, fender wells & door jams, hand wax exterior, buff & polish, wax or glaze application, tar & sap removal, dress tires, rubber molding & trim, clean dashboard, vents, console plus door panels, clean overhead line, ashtrays & windows, and engine cleaning.

All details by appointment only.
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$5 OFF \$10 OFF
NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC

INCLUDES: Change oil (up to 5 qts.), install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$5.00 OFF with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99
\$10.00 OFF with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99
\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
\$20.00 OFF with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99
\$50.00 OFF with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
POT HOLE SPECIAL 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$79⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

INCLUDES: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE! BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL

TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$189⁹⁵
POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139⁹⁵
BRAKE FLUSH \$139⁹⁵
FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH \$139⁹⁵
ENGINE PERFORMANCE SERVICE \$219⁹⁵

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/16.

TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS

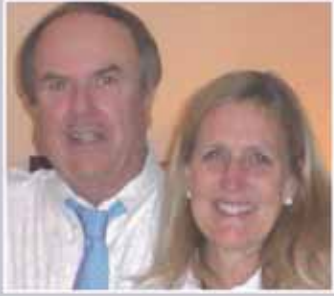
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Let's Go Places



CHRIS WHITE

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



4107 Adrienne Drive
\$525,000

Stunning home and location!

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 home with classic French Provincial flair. Premier location in Mt Vernon on the Potomac-the only

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



9300 Old Mansion Rd
\$750,000

Riverwood-Backs to Park!

Classic three level colonial. Substantially updated in prime Riverwood location on quiet cul-de-sac.

Backs to parkland and overlooks wooded grounds of Mt. Vernon Estate. Features include: open floor plan, Hard wood floors on two levels, updated kitchen & baths. Kitchen with custom cabinetry and top of the line appliances. 4BR and oversized 2 car garage. One of the premiere riverfront communities prime locations!



4520 Dolphin Lane
\$745,950

Unique Opportunity.

Walk to Mt. Vernon Yacht Club from this custom rambler on a sunny corner lot in a premier riverfront community. Open floor plan, fire-

places, huge solarium with soaring ceiling and sunken hot tub, three spacious family rooms, oversized 2-car garage, and half-acre of beautiful landscaping and decks make this home perfect for entertaining indoors and out.



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 oversized two car garage. Exceptional opportunity!



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!



Wakefield Homes Pre-Construction Opportunity!

8717 Plymouth Rd.

\$1,399,000*

\$10,000 Toward Closing Costs!

(using approved lender)

- New Melson II Model- 3,525 sf plus 2 or 3 car garage
- 1/2 Acre Lot in Plymouth Haven
- Open floor plan - High ceilings
- Upgrades throughout
- Finished recreation room & bathroom in basement
- Maximum opportunity to customize



8708 Plymouth Rd

\$1,499,000*

Nearing Completion!

Best of both worlds-classic American Four Square exterior combined with stunning modern floor plan and amenities. Numerous features include open floor plan, high ceilings, top line

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



8931 Fort Hunt Rd
\$719,000

Prime Location—Updated Throughout!



9329 Mt Vernon Cir
\$1,099,000

One of the Areas Most Admired Properties!



2512 Culpeper Rd.
\$565,000

Bright open floor plan High ceilings!



9019 Stratford Ln
\$567,900

Steps from River — Just off GW Parkway!



2606 Woodlawn Trail
\$829,500

Stunning Floor plan



9408 Brambly Lane
\$1,095,000

Builder's Showcase!



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