

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 28, 2016



GW Parkway Classic: 'Moving' Experience

Runners came from near and far to support causes and each other.



“Go Mom!” A sign by supporters along the roadway.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE

They came from as far away as Cali, Colombia and Bristol, England. They were from Arlington, Burke, Alexandria, Lorton, Reston, Falls Church, and from Colorado and Canada. They were old — 88 — and they were young — 12 year olds and babies in strollers. One woman from Silver Spring was running at 7 months pregnant. One runner was blind.

The Star Spangled Banner resonated across a crowd of 5,330 runners in the sunlight near George Washington's home; American flags snapped in the breeze. People had goosebumps, and not just from the cold air at 7 a.m. because the most moving thing about the George Washington Parkway Classic, now in its 32nd year, was the number of runners who came out to support veterans, the poor, the sick, and the homeless.

The race was supported by an army of volunteers, some of whom have been coming for 20 years. They handed out water and gatorade. The moving company “Two Men and a Truck” took runners' belongings and transported them. Starbucks served coffee. And all along the track, residents came out to cheer on moms and dad, grandmothers and grandfathers, neighbors, and team members.

Sometimes called the “Prettiest run this side of the Potomac,” the annual George Washington Parkway Classic 10-Mile and 5K races are for serious runners, new runners, and runners with a cause. The 10-mile race starts in Mount Vernon, and passes through Riverside Park, Fort Hunt Park, Collingwood Park, the



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE GAZETTE

Staff Sergeant Chris Chavez of Fort Belvoir at the finish line. Chavez said he wants to highlight the importance of mental health issues among veterans. “My team highlights awareness about vets with PTSD, TBI, ODL, ADHD, and things like that.” He ran the 10 miler in fatigues, and gear, carrying a flag that weighs about 15 pounds. His helmet was inscribed with the names of his soldiers who died under his command. Chavez has done six tours as Military Police in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, on past Windmill Hill Park and Founders Park before coming along the finish line at Oronoco Bay Park in Old Town, Alexan-

SEE GW PARKWAY, PAGE 7

Forum: Sex Trafficking Happens Locally

“Invisible victims
... until now.”

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer held a Human Trafficking Awareness forum April 22 at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Alexandria-Ft. Belvoir featuring Scott Santoro from the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at the Department of Homeland Security.

Beyer welcomed the group by explaining he had spent all morning on the phone and no one answered his calls: “So I welcome you for tackling a serious issue just before the weekend.”

He said he first encountered human trafficking in Switzerland where he served as ambassador for four years. “They are more wealthy and educated than the U.S with seemingly no problems. But they had a big sex trafficking problem with only one in seven convicted and then sentenced to seven years and that was suspended.” He added that 5.5 million children

worldwide are sex trafficked.

Michele Leith, Northern Virginia Community Outreach coordinator for the Office of the Virginia Attorney General, said, “Trafficking is happening in our own backyard. We need to get the message out there.”

She described the Attorney General's initiative with phase 1 in 2014-15 to get the message out there. “You've probably seen those billboards on 95 to reach out to families. Phase II is getting rolled out, not just for victims but those who buy sex online letting the perpetrators know we're not going to tolerate this.” She added that Virginia rules.org has 23 current modules for schools. “Some areas in Virginia are not as aware as we are,” she said.

Scott Santoro, a senior training program manager at the Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, says he is a former prosecutor but in seven years in his court, “I probably didn't recognize a lot of sex trafficking victims; they don't readily come forward.” He asked how many in the audience had seen “Taken,” a movie about a young girl kidnapped in Paris and her father comes to rescue her against some Eastern Europeans. But

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer welcomes an overflow crowd to his forum on Human Trafficking Awareness at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites-Alexandria-Ft. Belvoir on April 22. Beyer said he first encountered sex trafficking when he was the ambassador in Switzerland and then found it in his own backyard in Virginia.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

SEE 'INVISIBLE', PAGE 8

4/29/16
REQUESTED IN HOME
MATERIAL
TIME-SENSITIVE
POSTMASTER:
ATTENTION

PERMIT #482
ALEXANDRIA, VA
PAID

U.S. POSTAGE
PRESORT STD
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL
CIRCULATION



A Distinguished & Expansive Home of Stature Old Town Alexandria

Impeccably maintained and richly appointed, this stately residence boasts an elegant interior graced by high ceilings, deep detailed moldings, tall doors and windows, and quarter-sewn hardwood floors throughout. Six stunning fireplaces with detailed mantels lend an air of warmth and character. The well-designed floor plan offers a formal dining room that seats 14 comfortably, and a spacious living room, both with fireplaces. The gourmet kitchen, equipped with stainless steel appliances, an iron pot rack, 6-burner gas stove and breakfast room, is brightened by a sunny wall of windows. Across the way is a relaxing family room with a built-in TV, fireplace and bar area. Read quietly in the handsome wood paneled library with built-in bookshelves and fireplace. Tall French doors from the living room, family room and library open to a peaceful patio and garden area. Offered at \$4,850,000.

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703.851.2255
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Alexandria **\$1,649,000**

Stately and stylish, this home sits on a 1/3 acre lot on the edge of Old Town, ready to host your family and friends. Exquisite master suite, spacious rooms, traditional finishes and beautiful landscaping will far exceed your expectations.

Elizabeth Lucchesi
703.868.5676
www.LizLuke.com



Alexandria **\$1,250,000**

Expanded 6-bedroom colonial is sited on a picturesque and tranquil lot. This crown jewel shines. Three spacious levels includes an attached three car garage and two au pair suites. This landmark property is simply stunning. 2100 Whiteoaks Drive

Sandy McMaster
571.259.2673
www.McMasterRealEstate.com



Alexandria **\$635,000**

Wonderful all brick home on a gorgeous corner lot. Five bedrooms, three updated full baths, renovated kitchen, all new windows and fresh paint throughout. Large new TREX deck overlooking fully fenced private backyard, patio and playset. A must see!! 7701 Kirkside Drive

Robin Arnold
703.966.5457
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Projects Reshaping the Area

Include commercial, residential and historic.

TEXT AND PHOTOS
BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

1 Towne Place Suites by Marriott

Construction has begun on a 92-room Baywood Hotels extended stay hotel in the Woodlawn area, at the corner of Richmond Highway and Woodlawn Court, adjacent to Woodlawn Shopping Center. By summer 2016, the hotel should be completed.



IMAGE COURTESY OF SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Rendering of the extended stay Towne Place Suites by Marriott planned for the Woodlawn Area.

2 Penn Daw area of U.S. Route 1: South Alex

The former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center was rezoned as part of a 2012 Comprehensive Plan amendment for the Penn Daw area and is set to be replaced by a mixed-use development. The development, now named "South Alex," will feature 400 apartments, 41 townhomes and 44,000 square-feet of ground-level retail space. Construction has been approved, but hasn't started yet.

NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

development. The development, now named "South Alex," will feature 400 apartments, 41 townhomes and 44,000 square-feet of ground-level retail space. Construction has been approved, but hasn't started yet.

3 North Hill area

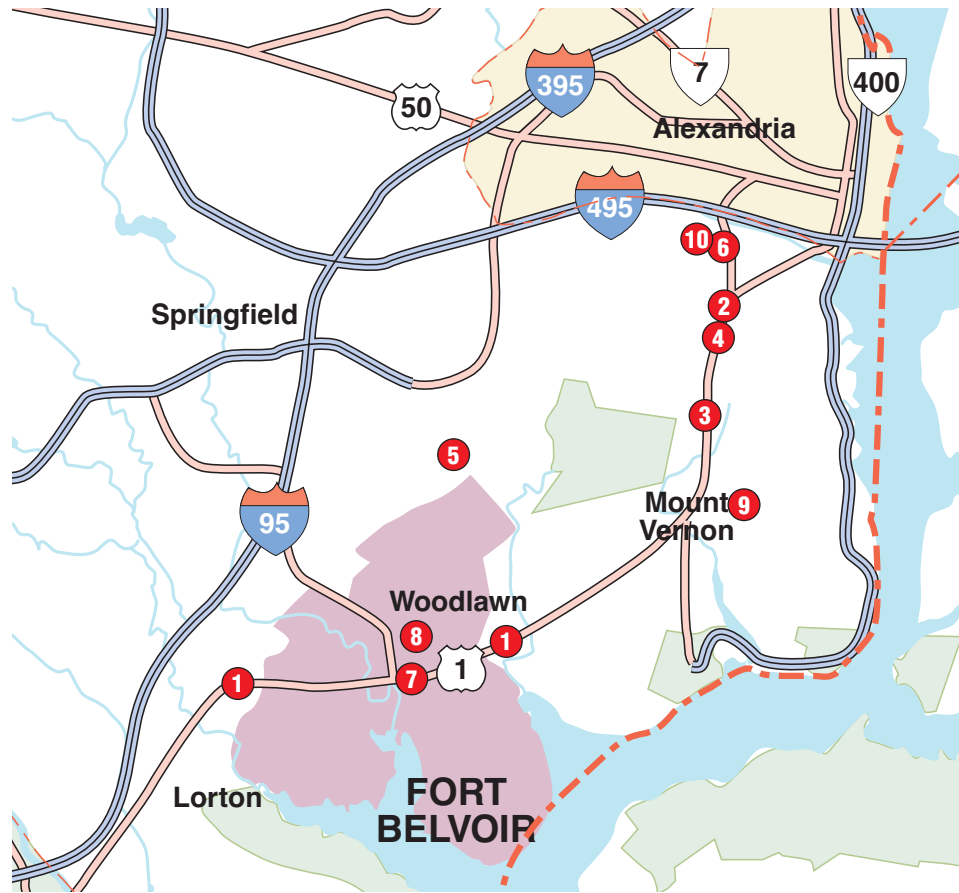
33-acres along U.S. Rt. 1 by Lockheed Blvd.

In March 2015, members of the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing authority voted in favor of moving forward with interim agreement to develop the remaining 33 acres of North Hill. (Fifteen acres out of a 1981 land purchase have been developed as Woodley Hills Estates.) The Community Housing Partners of Virginia and Philadelphia-based developer Pennrose partnership have proposed building 278 multi-family apartments in six separate buildings, up to 195 townhomes and leaving some space for a park. A number of the units would be designated for households with lower incomes. An informational community meeting was scheduled for April 27 at 7 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane in Alexandria. More information is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha/north_hill.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The development in the former Penn Daw Plaza shopping center is set to include 400 apartments and 41 townhomes.



4 New Fairfield Inn & Suites

6421 U.S. Rt. 1

The Hersha Group has finished with demolition of the Fairview Motel and obtained construction permits to move forward with a new 108-room development renamed Fairfield Inn & Suites. Construction is ongoing.

5 Widening of Richmond Highway Still Underway

3.5 miles of U.S. Rt. 1 between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Telegraph Road

The \$180 million project to widen Route 1 from four to six lanes, while also accommodating mass transit, bicycles and walking, is expected to be completed in five segments between late summer and early winter 2016.

"Embark Richmond Highway" transportation and land use planning for Route 1, Bus Rapid Transit and Metro Expansion

The planning team is a collaboration of Fairfax County staff from various departments and agencies working with a 13-

member citizen advisory group to help coordinate community input. Goals of Embark Richmond Highway include implementing a Bus Rapid Transit System running along dedicated lanes on Route 1 from Huntington Metro to Fort Belvoir, and then extending the Yellow Line Metrorail to Hybla Valley.

"This has great potential for revitalization and economic development along the highway," said Edythe Kelleher, executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, "with a lot more and better access for people getting back and forth

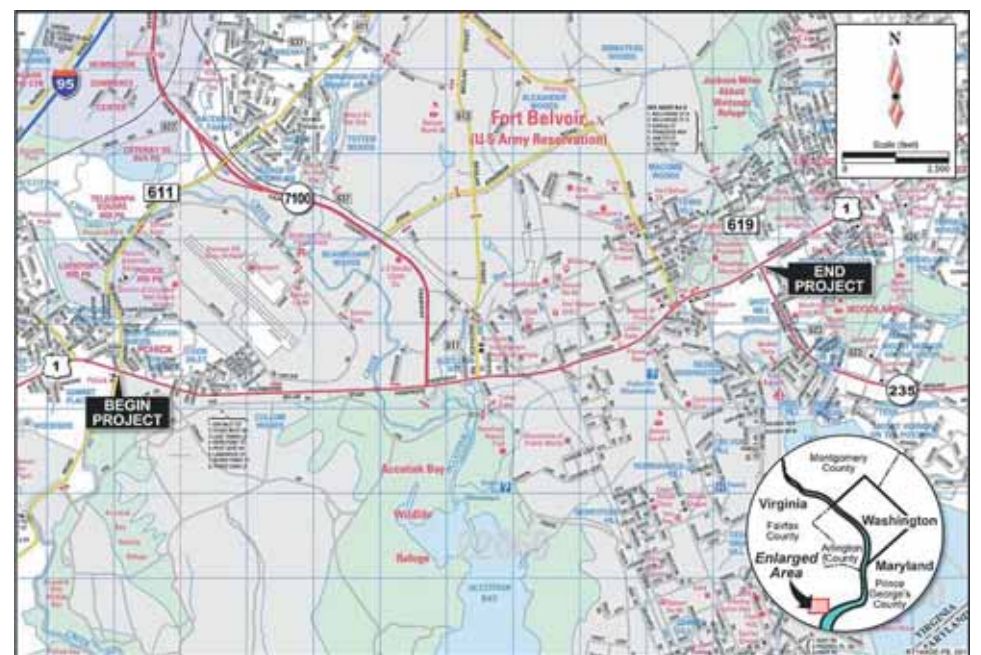


PHOTO COURTESY OF CONTRACTOR CORMAN-WAGMAN, A JOINT VENTURE.

Richmond Highway Widening over 3.5 miles is expected to be completed by winter 2016.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PARKER AT HUNTINGTON METRO

The Parker at Huntington Metro luxury apartment building is open and taking on tenants.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SOUTHEAST FAIRFAX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The future Accotink Village will include 283 residential units and 24,000 square-feet of retail space.

from home to work to shopping to whatever. For bringing tourists down, and other visitors, there's great potential."

The first community meeting is planned for May 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane in Alexandria. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/meetings.htm.

6 Lennar multi-family housing development "Huntington Crossing"

The project team has filed a re-zoning application for the 6.3 acres site adjacent to the Huntington Metro and right up against the water. The draft plan calls for five stories and approximately 360 multi-

SEE PROJECTS, PAGE 22

Responding to Teen Sex Trafficking

Comprehensive approach seeks to educate teens.

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

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

In 2012 Fairfax County Detective William Woolf discovered a 16-year-old girl being prostituted by the MS-13 gang. At the time there was little recognition that the problem existed locally. The girl was recovered and since then Woolf has interviewed 300 recovered victims, some as young as 12-years old. After the initial shock, Northern Virginia businesses, faith communities and educational groups sought to understand the extent of the problem.

While Woolf says there is evidence of teen sex trafficking in every high school in Fairfax County, Arlington County **EDUCATION** Police detective Danny Ohr says that in his 11 years with Arlington County he has never seen a case of teen sex trafficking. Senior Public Safety Information Officer Crystal Nosal of the Alexandria Police Department reports only three cases of teen sex trafficking in the last three years.

The solutions to teen sex trafficking involve education, prevention, law enforcement and rehabilitation. "I believe education is the key," Woolf said. "We want to stress prevention so it doesn't get to the law enforcement stage." To further this goal, Woolf, in his previous role as the only human trafficking detective in Northern Virginia, trained law enforcement officers to recognize the signs of human trafficking, serves as chairman of Just Ask, an organization established to educate and prevent teen trafficking and has worked with the school system to incorporate lessons on human trafficking into the middle and high school curricula in Fairfax County.

Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Educa-



Chris Davies, supervisor of Counseling Services for the County of Fairfax, says there is a long way to go with this issue but he sees much more coordination than several years ago: "It is important to know where we have found success."

tion for Fairfax County said, "The human trafficking court cases started breaking in 2012 and involved so many of our students. The court cases just kept coming. We had to act. We had to ask what did we have in place. As a result, a new curriculum was designed for grades 6-12 grades that incorporated human trafficking into the regular lessons. It involved getting school counselors and resource officers up to speed. We had to train school psychologists. All of this snowballed." In addition, "we had to get over the shock and the myth that it doesn't happen here."

In the summer of 2013, a video was produced to examine the issues and detail the trafficking recruitment process. In March 2014, the new lessons were completed. Payne said all schools were required to have a preview night for parents where the new program was introduced. "Sex trafficking is embedded in the lessons about abuse and community safety," she said. Some parents, mostly of sixth graders, she said, reacted with "My child is too young for this, it isn't happening here, or my child doesn't need to know this." When staff explained the time between 6th-7th grade is when the students gain more independence and may be left at the mall for an hour or two, the message seemed to reach the parents.

The process involves a letter sent home about what the child learned that day with a link for parents. Payne said parents can opt their child out of a particular session or all of it. Last year, out of 13,600 children only 5.5 percent of sixth grade parents opted out, with 1.4 percent of seventh grade parents and .7 percent of 8th grade parents.

Payne said the system is starting to yield results. She said she spoke recently to five middle school girls who had run away and were at high risk. "They said no, no, no problems to me but as soon as I left it was reported to me they started talking about their concern about friends. There is a lot of shame associated with this and the trafficker may have threatened them. But we are finding sometimes they will go to a trusted adult at school," she said.

Arlington Public Schools updated its curriculum last year according to Deborah DeFranco, supervisor of Arlington County Public Schools Health, Physical and Driver Education & Athletics. "Arlington Public Schools has specific health units on human trafficking in grades 7-10. Since it is part of the PE curriculum instead of Family Life, we didn't go through the same procedure as Fairfax County of parental notification — the opt out option and community input. We know sex trafficking is out there and we wanted to get out ahead of the problem. There are so many myths out there; we wanted to give the students facts," she said.

In addition, DeFranco is participating in the Northern Virginia Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. The result of the group's work will be updated and incorporated into these units of study. "It is close by," she said. "We know it is happening locally in south Arlington."



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

Elizabeth Payne, coordinator for Health, Family Life Education and Physical Education for Fairfax County Public Schools reviews online the new curriculum designed for grades 6-12 grades that incorporates human trafficking into the regular lessons. "The teen sex trafficking court cases just kept coming; we knew we had to act," she said.

She said they had members of the Arlington police gang task force talk to the teachers last spring about known incidents, arrest and inquiries in Arlington. DeFranco added, "We are working on sexual violence prevention. When a child comes to report, they can experience double victimization and we need to be aware of that to avoid it happening. I feel that Arlington Public Schools is ahead of the curve trying to bring awareness, education and prevention skills to keep kids safe from this dangerous trend in the secondary health curriculum."

Education can take place in many different ways.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, who was involved in the enactment of legislation increasing penalties for trafficking while serving in the Virginia state legislature, said, "I try to inject this information wherever I am. You realize it is going on in your community so if you drive up to a hotel and see some creepy dude with three girls, start talking to them. What's your team or some conversation. You get vibes."

Chris Davies, supervisor of Counseling Services for Fairfax County remembers a story of someone who saw an older man drop a pick-up line on two young girls in a mall. After the man left, the person went over and told the girls what he had heard. He gave them the Just Ask website and the

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) human trafficking hotline (1-800-THE-LOST) in case they thought they might have been approached for sex trafficking.

"The community needs to know what to look for as part of the solution," Davies said. "And the community also needs to change their own biases about who we might see as a prostitute."

Beth Saunders approaches it from the business community. Saunders is president of Just Ask, a non-profit that was created specifically to work in Northern Virginia on education and prevention of teen sex trafficking. Saunders says the organization is broken up into sectors managed by volunteers and she is in charge of the business sector. "This is important because many of these kids' parents work in businesses. They can update their employees on the facts about trafficking."

Just Ask also has board members responsible for outreach to schools, churches and law enforcement. "When I was growing up the boogey man was tangible, something I could see. But now it is intangible with teenagers trusting what they share on the internet with no idea there are bad motives," Saunders said.

She emphasized, "The thing that matters for an organization like ours is hard core data like we got from Detective Woolf in law enforcement. People don't care what we think; actions have to be based on facts, statistics."

Woolf says churches also play a role in education because "it is also a morality issue and we're not educating kids on what sex is."

Deepa Patel, director of Trauma and Hope in Springfield, says sexual normalization is a huge problem: "It's OK for girls to wear skimpy outfits and they slap each other on the butt which is perfectly acceptable for them. Rappers talk about money, sex and power as the three things you need and pimps on TV are glamorized."

Michelle Knight, Social Justice and Outreach Minister for Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Arlington, says the church had a program Feb. 12 focusing on sex trafficking because churches have a responsibility. "We want to raise awareness, and it is a much bigger problem around here than most people think. I don't know if we are doing enough but we should be letting our youth know so that they can ask each other what's going on." She said that churches teach respect and dignity — that each person is special and loved by God and it gives less of a need to respond to the traffickers.

"When I was growing up the boogey man was tangible, something I could see. But now it is intangible with teenagers trusting what they share on the internet with no idea there are bad motives."

— Beth Saunders, President, Just Ask

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR CINCO DE MAYO

Free Cab Rides. Thursday, May 5, 4 p.m. through Friday, May 6, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit www.soberride.com.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Genesys Works is teaming up with Fairfax County Public Schools and the business community in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to provide opportunities for underprivileged high school students to experience meaningful year-long IT internships in businesses. Visit www.fcpsfoundation.org or www.genesysworks.org for more.

SUPPORT GROUP

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Gala, Auction & Fundraiser. 7-11 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place. Hollin Meadows Elementary School 6th Annual Neighborhood Gala, Auction and Fundraiser. Celebrate with food, friends and fundraising to help save the Hollin Meadows School STEM Lab & Outdoor Education Programs. Get information or tickets, make a donation and bid now on auction items at biddingowl.com/HMPGala.

MONDAY/MAY 2

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

Barefoot Boogie. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Barefoot Boogie is a light cardio fitness workout to music. Led by Chris Howell, this workout lets participants move at their own pace through the joy of dancing. Free, open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Essential Oils. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Essential oils have been used throughout history for their therapeutic benefits. Find out how these oils may be used topically, ingested or diffused. Free, open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 for reservations.

Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse Town Hall.

7:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. In Virginia, more people die from heroin overdoses than car crashes each year. Supervisor Pat Herrity's office is partnering with the Drug Enforcement Agency, Fairfax County Police Department, Community Service Board, Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County, Substance Abuse & Addiction Recovery Alliance, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, and Del. Tim Hugo for a town hall discussion on Heroin and Prescription Drug Abuse and updates on what is being done and what needs to be done to address this

crisis. There will be a brief discussion period at the end where the audience may ask questions. Email Erika.Dyer@FairfaxCounty.gov.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY/MAY 3 & 5

Ceramics Workshop. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Hollin Hall presents a ceramics workshop with Peggy Richard. Participants will hand build two pieces. Stamping, painting and glazing will be demonstrated. Bring 1 or 2 items such as buttons, shells or anything that would make an interesting impression in damp clay. Limit of 12 participants. Free, open to the public. Reservation

required, call 703-765-4573.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

Plant Clinic. 9 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon Farmers Market at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Volunteers from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will conduct their first plant clinic of the 2016 season at the Mt Vernon Farmers Market. Master Gardeners will answer gardening questions, identify plants and insects, and dispense soil test kits to the general public. Bring samples for diagnosis or identification. Visit fairfaxgardening.org for more.

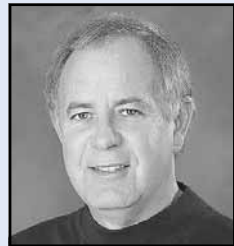
Dancing With Parkinsons

Seminar. 12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Hollin Hall presents Lucy Bowen McCauley, artistic director of Bowen-McCauley Dance, who will speak about free weekly dance classes for people with Parkinson's disease and their care-partners. Bowen-McCauley Dance has been providing these classes for free in the D.C. Metro area for the past eight years. Free, open to the public. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Business Roundtable. 8:30 a.m. at

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 20



Rex Reiley RE/MAX Allegiance

703-768-7730 • rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com



Alex./Wellington Manor \$754,900
1114 Arcturus Lane

Lovely, updated 2 level brick rambler w/4 BRs, 2.5 BAs on a large stunning lot in Wellington Manor - Waynewood Elementary - Kitchen gutted & completely redone - Baths, roof, HVAC, windows all updated as well. 4 BRs on main level - Lower level has a large family rm, half bath (which can easily be expanded to a full bath), den, & large workshop. Walk to Shopping, 3 mins to G.W. Pkwy, 8 mins to Alex., (N) 10-12 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S) - GREAT BUY!



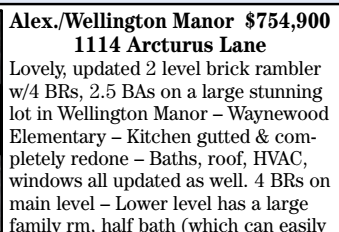
Alex./Wessynton \$679,900
3301 Wessynton Way

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.



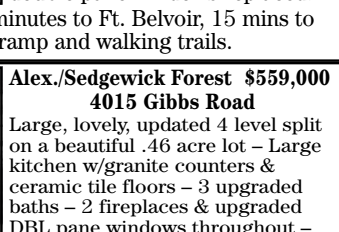
Alex./Sedgewick Forest \$559,000
4015 Gibbs Road

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./Fort Hunt \$499,000
8815 Vernon View Drive

Wonderful opportunity to own a house in sought-after Fort Hunt community, just a couple of blocks to the Potomac River and the G.W. Parkway! Good bones, lovely lot, but in need of TLC and updating. 3 BR, 2 BA, and sunroom. 3 finished levels and unfinished basement. 1-car garage. Generous .3 acre 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!



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./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./Stratford Landing \$520,000
2403 Cavendish Drive

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



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Burgundy School Celebrates 70th Anniversary on Earth Day

Sickles and Burgundy alum Krizek read proclamation.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Clumps of students, from kindergarteners to eighth-graders, gradually emerged from the woods to fill up a scenic outdoor amphitheater that serves as the Burgundy Farm Country Day School's assembly hall. They gathered on April 22 to celebrate Earth Day and the school's 70th anniversary.

The independent school that draws from Fairfax County, Alexandria, Washington, D.C. and Maryland sits surprisingly close to the Capital Beltway in Alexandria, given its secluded and bucolic scenery. Burgundy's indoor and outdoor classrooms are spread across more than 25 acres, with one of the goals giving students a more interactive education experience with nature.

Burgundy opened with 40 students, today there are around 285.

Head of School Jeff Sindler, now in his 10th year at the progressive school, reminded the student body, "We need to care of this space here, but out in the world also."

At Burgundy, the students observed an entire week of activities and lessons centered around the environment, culminating in Earth Day.

"Earth Day and Earth Week are reminders of how some of that respect can play out," Sindler said. "We're learning to be citizens at Burgundy."

Delegates Mark Sickles (D-43) and Paul Krizek (D-44) took a tour of the grounds, including new outdoor classroom and discovery playground that opened last summer, before reading a resolution from the General Assembly commending Burgundy on its 70th birthday.

Krizek himself attended Burgundy, finishing sixth grade as part of the class of 1976.

"We're so happy to have this special kind of education," Sickles said.

"This is the perfect occasion to celebrate the anniversary of this wonderful school,"



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Students gathered on April 22 at Burgundy Farm Country Day School to celebrate Earth Day and the school's 70th anniversary.

Krizek added. "This is where the environmental movement kind of started, here. You get a real education and learn about nature, how it's very important we take this planet seriously."

A group of current eighth-grade students testified to impact of their primary school

experience. "I love the community we have here, like it's a second home," said Evan Roper. Gari Puckrein agreed, "Everyone knows each other and treats each other with respect." They also value the outdoors component of the school, which includes regular visits to a 500-acre Center for Wildlife

Studies at Cooper's Cove in West Virginia.

"We're integrated with it, the indoor and outdoor, and we have that in one place," said Ahmad Dove.

Majlis Walker added, "We know a lot about trees and birds; that's just part of what we learned here."



From left, Burgundy Head of School Jeff Sindler, Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) and Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) speak to students at Burgundy Farm Country Day School on the occasion of the school's 70th birthday and Earth Day.



Burgundy students observed an entire week of activities and lessons centered around the environment, culminating in Earth Day.

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Donna Oliver of Collingswood provided much needed support by making runners laugh as they ran through her neighborhood.



Two volunteers from Alexandria, James Darling and Reginald Maye, have worked at the George Washington Parkway Classic for 16 and 11 years respectively.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/GAZETTE PACKET

GW Parkway Classic

FROM PAGE 1
dria.

And that's when the party began. The runners drank water and ate snacks handed out at the finish line. They took pictures with their teams, and listened to the live band, The Joe Chiocca Band, which did some great "rootsy rock" numbers, and were

given a free brew by the Port City Brewing Company. And they met up with other runners, comparing times and causes. One local Alexandria resident was just glad to finish: Donald Trilling, 88, who has been running the race since 1987, and who was honored with running bib number 1— didn't come in last.

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Kindergarten Circus

The performers of this year's Kindergarten Circus, at St. Aidan's Day School. The circus, which is an annual tradition, took place on April 22.



Tightrope Walker, Lilly Bourke, balanced carefully as she walked across the beam. Behind her, Charlotte Stricker waited to demonstrate her skills.



Father and son Ringmasters, Ryan Fannon, Sr. and Jr., introduced the first act to the audience.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUCCLES/THE GAZETTE



Head Clown, Sandy Boden, led the elephant, William Allen, through several tricks.



St. Aidan's Strong Men are Bailey Jones (center), Logan Solove (right), and Ryan Erickson. They amazed the audience with feats of strength.



Lion Tamer, Landon Gill, demonstrated the control he has over the fierce jungle cats in the circus.

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'Invisible Victims ... Until Now'

FROM PAGE 1

was she trafficked? "I'm here to get rid of Hollywood."

"Here is human trafficking" as Santoro flashes up a picture of Alex Campbell who owned two spas. He hired masseuses from the Ukraine, would romance them and convince them they needed to be part of the family. Then he would coerce them and punish them if they weren't loyal, force them to get tattooed. "It is modern day slavery."

Santoro asked, "Is there a difference between prostitution and sex trafficking?" Most of the audience rumblings were no. Santoro said, "Here is the difference. If you assume a person is willingly doing the action, it is not the same as being compelled and that is trafficking. Here is where it gets really serious. No one under 18 can be called a prostitute under Federal law." He says the bottom line is "human trafficking is compelling someone to work or to engage in a commercial sex act."

Santoro said Virginia used to be the last state in the county in terms of its trafficking laws. "Now you're OK," he added, "since a number of laws were recently enacted defining sex trafficking and setting penalties."

He listed some facts to demystify sex trafficking: it happens to both foreigners and U.S. citizens, it is happening everywhere, victims rarely self identify due to shame or threats or fear, movement of victims is not required. It is human exploitation and it

happens here.

Santoro showed a training video of a young girl arrested for prostitution. The arresting officer was tough and insulting, hands clenched and the prostitute didn't cooperate. An alternative scenario showed a sympathetic female officer who talked to the girl and listened, had done research on her background, and offered to help her. The officer's sensitivity got the name of the pimp.

"A simplistic portrayal," Santoro said. "Sometimes it takes weeks of working with the victim but the point is that this approach works better and officers need to be trained to understand the situation."

Another training video for the public showed a van pulling up at a rest stop with several women and one man pushed out and along the sidewalk into the restroom and spoken to harshly if they didn't move fast enough. A traveler stands outside the restroom and notices a poster about trafficking attached to the wall. His wife emerges from the women's restroom and says something "funny" was happening in there. They decide to report their suspicions of trafficking.

Santoro says his job is to spread the word as part of the DHS public awareness Blue Campaign. He stands in front of a five-foot high poster of a young man: "Can you see him. It's time to open your eyes. Victims of forced labor, domestic servitude and the sex trade have been invisible, until now." To report suspected trafficking call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE.

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OPINION

More Voters Might Not Mean Much More Voting

Governor's action brings Virginia in line with 39 other states.

Last week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) restored the voting and civil rights of more than 200,000 Virginians who were convicted of felonies, served their time and completed any supervised release, parole or probation requirements.

This moves Virginia into the mainstream; only 10 states have more restrictive policies about voting for people who have been convicted of felonies. Previously, Virginia had been one of the most restrictive states in terms of restoring voting rights. Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

While some claim partisan motivation, with most of those affected presumed to be Democrats, getting these men and women registered to vote and to the polls is unlikely to result in 100,000 new voters in November. Studies show that people who were previously convicted of felonies who are eligible to vote register and vote at lower levels than the general population, according to the New York Times [nyti.ms/26kNrS2, with a registration rate of around 30 percent and about 20 percent actually voting, although some suggest voting rates of between 10-15 percent. If, as the studies suggest, 55 percent of those would vote Democratic, then likely new Democratic voters would be around 22,000.](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

While that's a lot less than 200,000, it's also more than the margin of victory in quite a few statewide races. Consider that Attorney General Mark Herring (D) won his race by about 900 votes out of more than 2 million cast.

EDITORIAL

These new voters could have an impact on statewide races.

Districts for members of Virginia's General Assembly are so gerrymandered, it's hard to imagine that the impact of these new voters will be huge in terms of local representation.

In a Democracy, it's better when more people vote.

McAuliffe said: "If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance. We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy."

Again, this action brings Virginia into line with 39 other states, with more than 20 states having less restrictive policies. For example,

show visible cracks and potholes will easily form.

The goal here is to avoid all of this by replacing the road surface before it becomes a problem and a greater expense. Budgeting for annual pavement maintenance and resurfacing is a huge part of any local or state government. When this becomes underfunded and thus the maintenance and replacement projects fall behind, then state and local governments find their budgets underfunded and can never catch up with their road surface needs.

To keep resurfacing budgets manageable and to avoid a financial tidal wave of very poor pavements and financial problems, governments need to provide annual funding adequate to place all of their streets on a resurfacing cycle. Failure to do so will result in the need to eventually borrow or otherwise receive a large amount of funding, e.g. large tax increase, to address all of the community's poor pavements.

Additionally, there are other critical factors to consider here. Asphalt is an oil refinery by-product and therefore the cost will rise and fall with the price of oil. So, at this time, from a cost perspective it is a good time to be repaving as many roads as possible. Also, the asphalt of today can be potentially different than the asphalt installed 12-15 years ago. New asphalt has been engineered to be more durable and could potentially save us all significant amounts of money.

A well-maintained road also results in fewer damages to our personal automobiles as well as all of the other vehicles such as police, fire, rescue, and business vehicles that use those very same roads.

While Mr. Spiegel is probably right that there may be some problems with the contracting

on Feb. 9, 2016, the Maryland General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto and restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote. In Virginia, such individuals have to complete their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole before voting rights are restored.

— MARY KIMM

Send in Photos For Mother's Day

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.

process and it may not be 100 percent efficient. I still support the VDOT repaving program and the necessary expenditures to fund the program. In my opinion, this is a very effective use of my tax dollars.

J. Kevin Batchelor
Waynewood resident

A Necessary Inconvenience

To the Editor:

As another resident of Stratford Landing who is being temporarily inconvenienced by the current repaving operation, I wish to enter my approval for the operation. Because of previous operations to repair our gas lines and as the result of several repairs of leaks to water lines and gas lines there are many (many always being a debatable point) places in our neighborhood where the roads are beginning to sag and the surfaces are beginning to crumble, especially in the older sections of this development.

The section most in need of work is on Elkin Street, which is more in need of rebuilding that repaving.

If one needs to explain the dangers of over deferred maintenance, one only needs to look at what is happening to our local rapid rail system. And as one who never worked on a road crew for a summer job, I am not in a position to address the efficiency of the current operation.

John Dickert

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

Farewell To Mia

To the Editor:

This week, I want to take a step back from discussions of civic issues to remember my dog Mia who passed away on April 18,



Mia

2016. Mia graced the front page of the July 23, 2015 Pet Gazette, perhaps given that honor because she was the oldest dog whose photo was submitted.

At the time of her death, Mia, born Dec. 7, 1996 was over 19 1/3 years old. She was the oldest "customer" at Hollin Hall Animal Hospital. The accompanying photo was taken 11 days prior to Mia's passing.

President Truman famously said if you want a friend in Washington, get a dog. Truer words were never spoken. Mia was a great friend. She had five children and outlived three of them. An 11-pound red smooth miniature dachshund, the daughter of a prolific champion, Mia was a perfect example of the dachshund breed standard.

She was born the very week we moved into our home on Little Hunting Creek and knew no other home. Mia was beloved by all who knew her.

She traveled thousands of miles by boat on the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay and its many tributaries. She visited, by boat, such varied places as Baltimore Inner Harbor, St. Michaels, Annapolis Harbor, Solomons Island, Stone Harbor, New Jersey, Georgetown, Alexandria, National Harbor, Occoquan, Colonial Beach and many others. She flew with me to Florida in February.

Mia is now gone but will never be forgotten. She was the most wonderful dog I have ever known.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Morrogh Must Explain

To the Editor:

On Aug. 29, 2013, then Fairfax County police officer Adam D. Torres, without justification or provocation, shot and killed unarmed John B. Geer. When asked whether it was an accidental shooting, Torres said, "It's not accidental. I have no doubt about that at all. I don't feel sorry for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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ALEX. / "Church Square" \$ 1,198,000 OPEN SUN. 2 - 4

816 CAMERON ST Gorgeous renovated top-to-bottom 3-level townhome! Expanded gourmet kitchen has granite, SSA, wine fridge, tray ceiling. Refinished hardwood, 2 fireplaces, molding, plantation shutters. MasterBR has sitting room, walk-in closets, fab bath. Private fenced patio. 2 reserved parking.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

ALEX. / Gen. Washington Club \$ 1,299,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4

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Mary Taylor 703.785.5619 & Pat Tierney 703.850.5630
ARLINGTON / Lee Heights \$ 950,000 OPEN SUN. 1 - 3

2231 WAKEFIELD ST Charming 1920's Colonial updated for today's lifestyle! 4BR/3.5BA, gracious room sizes. New kitchen with granite and SSA. Spacious fenced-in yard with huge patio perfect for backyard entertaining and gardening. EZ to community shopping and bus stop. Yorktown School District.



Katie Alexander 703.579.7881

ALEXANDRIA / Overlook \$ 655,000

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Adele dePolo 703.298.5987

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Renee Reymond 703.507.5330
ALEXANDRIA / Old Town \$ 632,500

Lovely Victorian Lady! Charming clapboard townhouse in SE Quadrant close to groceries and shopping. Features 1,400 sq ft, original woodwork, open kitchen, family room fireplace, 2BR, bonus sunroom, lush private yard. Terrific price. Call for an appointment.



Tricia Wikert 571.213.0187

ALEX. / KMS Townhouses \$ 540,000 OPEN SUN. 2 - 4

1018 PELHAM ST N Beautifully updated townhome that lives like a single family. Spacious rooms, hardwoods + tile. Custom kitchen has pantry, breakfast nook, separate dining room. Largest back yard on block, fenced-in patio and access to LL. Parking included. Great location to 395, DC parks, bike paths.



Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433 or Emily Capelli 703.472.1282
ARLINGTON / Fairlington \$ 480,000 OPEN SUN 1 - 4

4109 S 36th ST 3 level all brick Clarendon townhouse has been recently updated. Updates include open kitchen with maple cabinets, granite and SSA, lovely baths and plantation shutters throughout. Large dormered attic may provide possible expansion. EZ walk to parks, bus stop and minutes to Metro.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739
ALEXANDRIA / South \$ 429,000

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Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

ALEXANDRIA / The Plaza \$ 295,000 OPEN SUN. 1 - 4

803 HOWARD ST #235 Make a move into this delightful, spacious 1,334 sq ft 2BR/2BA home. Master bedroom features a large walk-in closet, an en-suite bath. Very large living room and separate dining room. Enjoy courtyard views. Large storage unit. Full-size garage parking space. Community pool and tennis.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

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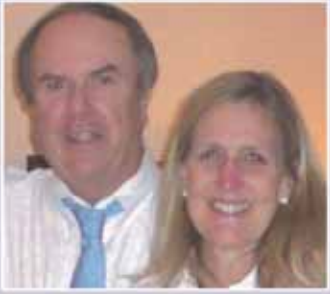
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LOCATION - can walk to GW, Metro, Kennedy Center, Georgetown, Dupont Circle, and Downtown. Beautiful studio features large windows, parquet floors, walk-in closet in heart of Foggy Bottom. Fabulous "Green" roof recently renovated. 24 hour concierge. Monthly fee includes utilities and property tax.



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\$575,000

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ENTERTAINMENT

3 Farmer's Market Finds for Spring

Alexandria boasts a plethora of market options year-round, but try not to miss ramp season.

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

The dawn of spring brings lots of vendors back to Alexandria's farmer's markets. Fresh lettuce, tomatoes, the short-but-sweet ramp season — it's always a feast for the senses this time of year. Here are three area vendors to pay particular attention to.

Bigg Riggs Farm, Old Town Farmer's Market

Visit the Old Town Farmer's Market more than once and you'll know this farm's tent by sight — and have likely received a friendly greeting by Bigg Riggs' gregarious owner Calvin Riggleman. Come springtime, Bigg Riggs' stand is overflowing, offering spring greens such as fresh lettuce and pac choy, some relics of winter like sweet potatoes, and that delicacy of early spring, ramps.

Ramps can be a bit of an acquired taste. But give them a chance to show off their onion-like, garlicky taste in anything from biscuits to omelets to salads and they'll likely win you over. With green leaves that resemble an unfurled scallion and a white base that looks like a tiny leek, these slight, slender wild onions pack a punch. And their season is short: Just several weeks in duration, their presence is the epitome of making hay while the sun shines. Give them a try before the season passes.

No. 1 Sons, Del Ray and Old Town markets

Who says farmer's market bounty needs



Ramps' availability is sparse each spring-time, but Bigg Riggs has you covered during the season.

to be freshly picked? Over the past several seasons, No. 1 Sons has solidified its status as the D.C. area's resident fermentation experts, offering pickles, kraut, kimchi, and kombucha every Saturday in Old Town and on the first and third Saturdays in Del Ray. And the lines at both locations each weekend shows that the pickle business is booming.

One of the gems of the bunch is No. 1 Sons' "Stinkin' Rye," a sauerkraut that certainly lives up to its name. Don't be put off, though; this kraut is worth its odoriferous introduction. At home on hot dogs, on sandwiches, or even by itself, the Stinkin' Rye quickly becomes the star of the show.

Bagel Uprising, Four-Mile Run Market

Visitors to the Four-Mile Run Market in Arlandria each Sunday have surely seen the line for Bagel Uprising's wares. As soon as owner Chad Breckinridge arrives each week, he's mobbed by dozens of customers waiting to get their Sunday bagel fix, and he's only too happy to oblige.

The first thing you'll notice about Breckinridge's bagels is that they stick to the pure tried-and-trues: plain, poppyseed, everything, salt, and sesame-seed. This purist mentality means you won't see such upstarts as blueberry or asiago, and that's just fine. Grab a baker's dozen of mixes and

Arrive at 10 a.m. on Sundays at the Four-Mile Run Market to enjoy some of Bagel Uprising's goods.



matches and set yourself up for the week ahead. (Hint: They freeze beautifully, though it's unlikely you'll have any left over to preserve.)

As word of Breckinridge's delicious bagels began to spread, it's only natural that opportunity would come knocking. Two weeks ago, Brabo in Old Town began featuring Bagel Uprising's bagels on its Sunday brunch menu, ensuring bagels across town each Sunday. Bagel Uprising fans aren't complaining.

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

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.

Musical: "Starlight Express."

Through May 7, 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.

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, 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.

Art Exhibit: "The Hand Speaks."

Through May 22, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center presents work of Kara Hammond and Drew Parris in an exhibit entitled: "The Hand Speaks." Recently juried into the Torpedo Factory, TAG newcomer Drew Parris is primarily self-taught in the medium of graphite drawing. His subjects, often family and friends, offer the viewer a unique emotional connection to his work. Kara Hammond will feature new ink wash drawings each a unique story unto themselves. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Mount Vernon Historic Plant Sale.

Through May 22, 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.

"Black Pearl Sings!"

Through May 29, 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 for more.

Lisa Kellner: "Always Into Now."

Through May 29, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Kellner's site-responsive Paintings in Space use the room as a canvas. She creates organic, ethereal forms from silk. Viewers experience the intimacy of being absorbed with a room-sized painting. This is the first exhibition as part of the Target Gallery's New Media Invitational and is funded, in part, by March150 participants. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Exhibit: "A Retrospective Exhibit of Florals and Still Life."

hours at Goodwin House Alexandria Art Center, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Artist Concetta C. Scott presents her work. Call 703-578-1000 for more.

Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind."

Through June 12, gallery Hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

"Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists."

Through June 16, 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.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

The von Brahler Ltd. Gallery:

"Circuitous Roots." Through June 30, gallery hours at 7931 E. Blvd. The von Brahler Ltd./Gallery, announces the Opening of an Exhibition, "Circuitous Roots: A Celebration of Art" at George Washington's River Farm on the Potomac, home of the American Horticultural Society. The exhibition will honor artists represented by VBG

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

Mount Vernon High Presents 'Starlight Express'

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. Shows are April 28-May 7, 5 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 1 p.m. Saturdays at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Tickets are \$12 plus a service fee. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org.

over three decades, as well as Liberal Studies' Artists from Georgetown University, Anna Katalina, Nan Morrison, Anne Ridder, Robert Murray and Rana Ryan. Free. Contact Robert F. Murray at 703-798-8686 or vbpromo@aol.com.

"Who The Wounded Are." Through July 11 at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. "Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital" is about people who lived and worked at this site in Alexandria and their real life stories that inspired the PBS show, "Mercy Street." Tickets are \$2-12. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

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

Spring Benefit: The Child & Family Network Center. 7-11 p.m. at 165 Waterfront St., National Harbor, Md. Based in Alexandria, The Child & Family Network Centers (CFNC) provides bilingual, high-quality, free education and intensive social services to at-risk children and families in their own neighborhoods. This event is "An Evening in Venice." Tickets are \$250. Visit www.cfnc-online.org for more.

APRIL 29-MAY 29

Exhibit: Ethiopian Crosses. Gallery hours at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. With their elaborate lattice work and geometric patterns, Ethiopian Crosses have a variety of form, and are a decorative artistic emblem. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 30

Jefferson Manor Community Yard Sale. 7-11 a.m. at 6020 Monticello

Road. More than 30 houses in the neighborhood will be participating. Maps and the communal area will be at 6020 Monticello Road. Free. Email khfloyd@gmail.com for more.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Vendors from four states sell native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

The West Potomac High School Marching Band Car Wash. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Belle View Elementary School, 6701 Fort Hunt Road. Help raise money to cover band expenses for the 2016-2017 school year. Donations accepted. Call 254-931-5249.

Boundary Stone Bike Tour. 9:15 a.m. at Entrance to East Falls Church Metro Station. Bike for 35 Miles visiting boundary stones and parks. See 12 historic D.C. boundary stones in Arlington, Alexandria, and Fairfax County. Free for Center Hiking Club members, \$2 for non-members. Visit www.centerhikingclub.org for more.

Alexandria Earth Day and Arbor Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Find "Tent Talks," featuring topics such as recycling in Alexandria; choosing native plants in Alexandria; oyster restoration; and live animal exhibits, the Sixth Annual Upcycling Showcase, featuring students from Alexandria City Public Schools who will show their upcycling creations based on the theme "Choose to Reuse—Your Choices Matter," and more. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Earthday.

Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour. 12-6 p.m. at the Hollin Hills Historic District. Attend a self-guided tour of the mid-century modern neighborhood. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 starting on April 29. Visit www.hollinhills.net for more.

"Kids Helping Kids: A Little Music Goes A Long Way." 5 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. West Potomac High School sophomore and trumpet prodigy, Geoff Gallante, will headline a benefit concert. Free, but donations accepted. Visit www.aliceskids.org.

New Hope Housing: Let's Dance

Two. 6:30 p.m. at 600 Dulany St. Five dancers compete for votes and donations to New Hope Housing, which provides program to help end homelessness. Tickets are \$125. Visit letsdancetwo.splashthat.com.

Hollin Meadows Neighborhood Gala. 7-11 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place. Proceeds benefit the school's STEM Lab and outdoor education programs. Tickets are \$100. Visit biddingowl.com/HMPGala.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The ball will include live music, dance instruction and period desserts. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 1

Revolutionary War Weekend. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Step back in time and experience more than 500 Continentals, Redcoats, Hessians, cannon, and cavalry in action at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Meet hundreds of Revolutionary War military re-enactors, learn more about life in the 18th-century, discuss military techniques, and watch battle re-enactments. This family-friendly event features a youth muster on the bowling green, military medicine and artillery demos, and even greeting "Lady Washington." Tickets are \$17 for adults age 12-61, \$9 for youth age 6-11, \$16 for seniors age 62+ and free for children 5 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 1

Bagels and Bach. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music while children learn to appreciate it. Light brunch provided. Tickets are \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents, and free for children under 5. To register online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

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6TH ANNUAL
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ENTERTAINMENT

Port City Playhouse Stages 'Coming Home'

Story follows HIV-positive woman in South African village.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Athol Fugard's "Coming Home," being staged by Port City Playhouse, centers around an HIV-positive woman who returns with her son to the rural South African village where she grew up, hoping to persuade the man she left behind years before to be a father to the boy after her death. It's a bittersweet story of love and loss, grace and forgiveness.

Director Eleanore Tapscott said what she was trying to accomplish in telling this story is that hope — even the smallest, tiniest seed of hope — is possible even in the bleakest of situations. "Dreams are the undeniable hopes that make all human beings equal," she said. "Having dreams fail is a universal experience. However, when our dreams fail, it is important to be able to come home for rest, reassurance, and healing."

She said her challenges as the director was the dialect/accents. "This play's language is tricky because it is primarily in English but then some Afrikaans words are thrown into the mix," she said. "It was important to ensure there was consistency in the pronunciation of those words."

Another challenge was the long monologues spoken by some of the characters. "Not only is it important for the actor saying the monologue to act the intent and relevant emotions of the story, but the other actors on stage have to listen — not pre-

tend to be listening — but actively listen and respond (even when they have no lines)," she said.

She added: "What I found interesting is how the playwright builds on the cultural tradition of story telling — each of these monologues is the base for telling a story — and that oral tradition of telling stories so prevalent in this play's culture — is one I find being increasingly lost in current American culture."

She added that the work is not done when it comes to HIV/AIDS. According to UNAIDS, there are 36.9 million people globally living with HIV. In the metro-D.C. area, HIV rates remain high among young African-American gay men. "We, as a nation, and in our individual communities, cannot become complacent," she said. "We are all responsible and have a role to play to ensure the continuance of public health policies that provide necessary medical care and medicines — without judgment — to our most vulnerable and at-risk populations."

Producer and Port City Board member Becky Patton said she is excited to be able to showcase Fugard's talent as a playwright and his commitment to bettering the lives of South Africans. "I don't think we have a good appreciation for how devastating HIV/AIDS is in a country (or on a continent, for that matter) that still has large swaths of population that are living so far below what we consider the poverty line and the lack of available government or social services to provide any kind of safety net," she said.



Port City Playhouse is presenting "Coming Home" from April 29 to May 14.

As far as challenges, she said: "You would think casting a show with only four people would be easy — it's not. We have such a wealth of community theatre in the D.C. metropolitan area that it made choosing just four very difficult."

She added: "It was exciting to watch our designers interpret the playwright's directions on sets, costumes and lighting. The Port City Playhouse space at the Lab at Convergence really challenges designers to be creative and gives them a chance to shine."

As far as audience takeaways, she said, "While HIV/AIDS is still a devastating illness that has tremendous repercussions across entire societies, the strength and courage with which individuals deal with the hand they are dealt is inspiring. There is hope and with commitment to that hope, we can find peace."

Actor Mack Leamon plays the role of Alfred Witbooi, a simple man with a simple life. "His big dream in life is to own his very own bicycle," he said. "He possesses a child-like innocence about the big world around him."

He said the biggest challenge with the

piece was some of the language. "It is a South African play, so learning the different sounds and speech patterns was a big challenge, but also very interesting and fun," he said.

He hopes the audience will first and foremost be entertained. "I also hope that they are able to feel every emotion in the play. I want them to be a part of our little family," he said.

Actor Justice Alexander Ervin plays the role of Manneltje Jonkers, of which he said: "I like Manneltje. Sometimes he's a little hateful to Alfred, but he could think that Alfred is going to go away like his real father. He definitely loves his mom."

He said the challenge with the role was getting stopped all the time in rehearsal and trying to hold still during all his speeches.

"I think the audience should walk away believing that this show is amazing," he said.

Port City Playhouse is staging "Coming Home" April 29-May 14. The Lab Studio Theatre venue is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. See www.ourconvergence.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 17

webtrac and use 455208-02 code to register.

Celtic Spring Fling. 12-4 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Celtic music, Irish dancing, games for kids, petting zoo, crafts, maypoles, blacksmith demonstrations, food and drinks. Free. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

Wetland Awareness Day. 12-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Stroll the woodland and wetlands trails, meet a raptor up close, and enjoy interactive displays. Free. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

Metropolitan School of the Arts: "Sleeping Beauty." 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. at The George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theatre, 101 Callahan Drive. The Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) youth ballet presents "Sleeping Beauty" with two students; Seemka Ogunfeditimi, MSA 10th grader and Elpida Voryas, MSA 9th grader as leads. Tickets are \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

Reception for "Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists." 1-3 p.m. at Green

Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. The exhibition brings together some of the area's top watermedia floral and landscape painters. Free.

Visit www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Reception for Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind." 7-9 at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

MONDAY/MAY 2

Garden Sprouts: Nature

Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. This new playgroup features nature-themed activities one Monday a month. A staff member is on hand to put out nature sensory bins, direct games and activities or lead a garden walk. The theme for May's playgroup is "Butterflies and Mother's Day." Learn how butterfly babies turn into mothers. Tickets are \$6 per child. Visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 202 8702 or call 703-642-5173.

Film Screening: "Healing Voices."

7 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Screening of a new documentary, "Healing Voices" that explores real-life stories of individuals working to overcome the extreme effects of their illness and integrate their experiences into their lives in meaningful ways. Free. Call 703-324-7006.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/MAY 2-6

Visitor Appreciation Week. 11 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Free gardening and history events each day, and afterwards enjoy afternoon refreshments. On Monday, join the Master Gardeners for a roundtable conversation; take a tree walk on Tuesday and receive a free tree sapling; on Wednesday, enjoy a special tour of the historic house; visit with the gardeners at the edible garden on Thursday; and on Friday, learn about Green Spring past and present on a tour led by a Master Gardener docent. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

MAY 2-28

May Artists Showcase. Gallery hours at Broadway Gallery Fine Art & Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Find paintings of several local artists, celebrating the colors of Spring. Free. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net.

TUESDAY/MAY 3

Simpson Park Garden Stroll. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at 420 E. Monroe St. VCE Master Gardeners who maintain Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens invite Alexandria residents and others to stroll by the gardens. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 5

Winterthur and Mount Cuba. 6:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. at Green Spring

Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Travel to Wilmington, Delaware, to see woodland gardens at Mt. Cuba Center and Winterthur Gardens, both former DuPont family estates. Tickets are \$120 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 292 1901 or call 703-642-5173.

Mentor Recruitment Boat Ride.

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 0 Cameron St. The Alexandria Mentoring Partnership (AMP) is seeking community members to help make a difference in the lives of the City's youth. Help celebrate 10 years of successful mentoring in the Alexandria community, and learn more about AMP's 12 mentoring programs. Wine and hors d'oeuvres reception. Free, but donations accepted. To RSVP, contact Lily Rowny at lily.rowny@alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4455 by Saturday, April 30.

"An Extraordinary Young Man: The Early Years of George Washington." 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from George Mason University, will explore various facets of our early national history through

ENTERTAINMENT

the lens of George Washington and his childhood. While no one could have imagined the unique role that he was to play in our nation's founding, Henriques demonstrates that Washington was no ordinary young man. \$12 per person, \$10 for members of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society and Gadsby's Tavern Museum volunteers. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

Choral Evensong for Ascension

Day. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. The church's adult choir performs music by Josef Rheinberger and Ralph Vaughn Williams. Free. Call 703-549-3312 for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 6

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 for more.

Reception "Surrealism: A Photography Exhibition." 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Union 206 Studio present a surrealist photographic exhibition pushing the conventions of reality. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 6-8

Mother's Day at Roy Rogers. 7 a.m.-10 p.m. at 8860 Richmond Highway. With the purchase of a kids' meal, moms get a special Roy's shopping bag (while supplies last) and a combo meal of their choice - free of charge. Free. Call 703-799-1070 for more.

MAY 6-29

"Surrealism: A Photography Exhibition." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Union 206 Studio present a surrealist photographic exhibition pushing the conventions of reality. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 7

Stabler-Leadbeater Museum Volunteer Tour Guide Training. 9-10:30 a.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Ideal volunteers should enjoy meeting and talking with people of all ages, love American history, and want to learn more and share this knowledge with others. Experience speaking/giving presentations a plus, but not required. The training process is simple and designed to be flexible to fit the volunteer's schedule. Free. To apply to become a docent, complete an application online through www.apothecarymuseum.org or email michele.longo@alexandriava.gov.

Chintz Room at Mount Vernon Reopens. 9 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. The Chintz Room, formerly known as the Nelly Custis Bedchamber - a space that more than one-million visitors experience every year during their visit to George Washington's Mount Vernon - will re-open to the public after being closed for almost two years. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth ages 6-11, free for children 0-5. Members of the military and their dependents are eligible for a \$3 discount off adult

general admission tickets. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Great Plants for Wildlife Gardens.

10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Attract beneficial insects, birds, and other wildlife to a garden with native and eco-friendly plants. Horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol reveals choice annuals and perennials and gives design tips for planting so a garden looks great into fall. Tickets are \$15 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 284 5701 or call 703-642-5173.

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Spring Art Market showcases original artwork from local artists in a wide range of mediums. Rain or shine. Admission is free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket.

Del Ray House & Garden Tour. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout the Del Ray neighborhood. A biennial project of the Del Ray Citizens Association, the tour serves as a fundraiser for neighborhood projects and the Alexandria Scholarship Fund. The 11 homes on this year's tour range from a house featured on the cover of "Country Living" magazine to one with a modern addition and a rooftop garden. Tickets are \$20 each until May 1, then \$25. Visit www.delraycitizens.org or the Del Ray Farmers Market for tickets.

Mother's Afternoon Tea. 1-4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 332 N. Alfred St. An afternoon tea service, games and live music. \$20 suggested donation. Call 703-549-1334 for more.

Fungi in our Forest. 1:30-4:30 p.m. at Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. Biologist Amy Milo will give a short introduction of the basics of fungi types and their life cycles before taking to the woods to find and identify spring fungi. Free. Call 703-746-5525 for more, use code Activity #66980.

Monopainting Family Art Workshop. 2-3:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Create a work of art using one color and its different shades. In the workshop you and your child will learn a simple art technique called monopainting. Workshop fee is \$30 parent/child (all art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisae.com/mama/classes.

Secretive Salamanders. 4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Participants will be guided on a 1.5-mile walk through salamander habitat to try to spot salamanders and learn about the role they play in promoting healthy forests. This event is designed for those 7 and older, and children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is \$6. Participants should remove all dirt and mud from their shoes before arriving to help prevent the spread of pathogens. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/.

Bowties & Belles. 4:30-8 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Junior Friends of The Campagna Center present an annual fundraiser featuring food, mint juleps, wagering, silent auctions, hat and bowtie contest, and more. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/bowties-belles-for.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-7:30 p.m. lesson, 7:30-10 p.m. dancing at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members

\$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

"The Transformative." 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Listen to Gershwin, Zimmer, and more. Tickets are \$20-80, \$10 for students, \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 8

Mother's Day Tea. 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Relax in the Magnolia Terrace and attend educational program "First Lady Firsts." Find personalized tableside service and food catered by Calling Card Events. The event costs \$40 for adults; \$20 for children ages 5-17; free for children 4 and younger. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlylerentals@nvrpa.org.

Mother's Day Tea. 1:30-3 p.m. and 4:50-5:30 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find a Mother's Day-themed tea menu. Take the Mother's Day quiz to learn all about this traditional rite of spring and earn the opportunity to take home a door prize. Tickets are \$47. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987.

TUESDAY/MAY 10

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.

Excellence in Aging Awards. 5:30 p.m. at Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall, 301 King St. Five awardees will receive awards in four categories. Free. Call 703-746-5694.

All About Composting. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Learn how to turn yard and garden clippings and kitchen waste into "black gold" that will enrich the soil in your garden. Free. Register at mgv.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 11

Parent Child Art Class. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Metamorphosis will present a free parent child art class at the MOMS Club of Alexandria South monthly meeting. Children of all ages are welcome at the meeting. MOMS Club of Alexandria South serves at-home parents as well as parents who work part-time or have home-based businesses and who reside in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307. Free. Email southalexmomms@yahoo.com or visit southalexandriamomsclub.webs.com or www.facebook.com/southalexandriamomsclub.

The Wonders of Wildflowers. 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. A presentation on Virginia's native wildflowers by Laura Beaty and Alan Ford of the Virginia Native Plant Society. Virginia's native plant communities are the foundation for complex relationships between plants and animals (insects, spiders, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals), evolving into amazing partnerships. The speakers will highlight many native plants. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call 703-768-2525.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Attend a DJ swing dance featuring the great recorded music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s, and even some contemporary songs. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.



5th Annual Michael M. Skinner Mount Vernon Community Day Golf Tournament

May 9, 2016

For information contact:
Michael Gailliot 571-485-0070

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Thank you to all of our supporters and sponsors who participated in this year's Transforming Lives Gala. With your support, we raised over \$250,000 to help provide over 1,000 working-class families with a fresh start toward stable housing.



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Approved Budget Supports Schools, Communities

BY DAN STORCK
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (D-MT. VERNON)

On Tuesday, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors formally adopted the Fiscal Year 2017 county budget.

Through a series of public hearings, a Mount Vernon District Town Hall, and hundreds of emails, phone calls, and in-person conversations, I heard overwhelming support for the proposed budget from constituents. The budget enables Fairfax County to continue vital programs and services, and it provides much-needed additional funding in the critical areas of education, human services, and public safety. It is a valuable investment in the future of Fairfax County, and especially the Mount Vernon District.

❖ Under the proposed budget, funding



for Fairfax County Public Schools will increase more than 5 percent over the FY 2016 budget. These funds will enable the county to fill teacher vacancies and pay Fairfax County educators a competitive

rate. It also supports much-needed capital improvements to county schools.

❖ The budget includes funds to support additional Police Patrol Officers, many of whom will serve Mount Vernon residents, especially when we open the new Lorton Police Station in 2021.

❖ The budget supports local flood control projects, and it funds initiatives to mitigate the impacts to local streams and the Chesapeake Bay resulting from urban stormwater runoff.

❖ The budget makes the first of several investments to redevelop the original Mount Vernon High School into a place of higher learning, recreation, and services for Mount Vernon District residents.

The four-cent real estate tax increase proposed in this budget, while necessary to ensure continued delivery of key services, is not an easy pill to swallow. It places a burden on homeowners, particularly those living within a fixed income like seniors and the disabled. I encourage those residents to explore tax relief programs offered to qualified individuals by the county. My office can help point you in the right direction if you don't know where to start. The Board of Supervisors will engage in a dialogue to expand our tax relief program. This is something I strongly support.

Increasing property taxes is not a sustainable source of revenue generation over the

long term, and the county must find ways to diversify its income. One of the ideas proposed is a Meals Tax, which would levy an up-to-4 percent tax on restaurant and prepared meals. I support putting a Meals Tax for referendum this November during the Presidential election, when voter turnout is traditionally highest. This will ensure the vote reflects the values of our community.

The budget process was an arduous one. I heard from a large number of residents with diverse — and sometimes competing — needs. I believe the proposed budget was the most effective way to ensure the Mount Vernon District continues to thrive, and that is why I support it.

Dan Storck represents the Mount Vernon District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He welcomes input from constituents and can be reached at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

shooting that guy at all." Yet he plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter for fatally shooting the unarmed man.

According to Black's Law Dictionary, involuntary manslaughter "is a homicide in which there is no intention to kill or do grievous bodily harm."

It appears Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond R. Morrogh was in error in charging Torres with involuntary manslaughter as the of-

ficer emphatically stated "it was not accidental."

I have no doubt about that at all." Morrogh must be called upon to explain this obvious error on his part. The citizens of Fairfax County deserve an explanation from Morrogh.

Nicholas R. Beltrante
Executive Director
Citizens Coalition for
Police Accountability, Inc.

Del. Paul Krizek on the picket line with striking Verizon workers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Supporting Verizon Strikers

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

Sunday, May 1 is May Day, where we recognize the accomplishments of organized labor. On this day the precursor to the AFL-CIO proclaimed, "Eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labor from and after May 1, 1886."

While an eight-hour workday is typical for many people today, before the 1880s, it was common to work 10 to 16 hours a day in unsafe conditions. In retaliation, the Pinkerton Agency and business owners erupted in violent protest, slaughtering many workers in Chicago in what we know as the Haymarket Affair.

Our celebration of May Day is particularly timely, since as of this writing, nearly 40,000 members of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) union are on strike, protesting Verizon's failure to offer a fair contract to the workers who lay land lines and fiber optic cable.

When the unions announced the strike, I was proud to join the workers marching in the picket line and wholeheartedly support their efforts.

According to the CWA, Verizon made \$39 billion in profit over the last three years, but the company wants to gut job security

protections, contract out more work, and freeze their pensions at 30 years of service — essentially, a unilateral attempt to renegotiate a 2014 labor agreement.

If the communication workers don't accept all of those changes, Verizon will require technicians to work away from home for up to two months at a time anywhere in the Verizon footprint, splitting up workers' families.

The company has also refused to negotiate any improvements in wages, benefits or working conditions for its Wireless retail workers who formed a union in 2014.

Verizon's top five executives made \$233 million over the last five years and last year, the company paid out \$13.5 billion in dividends and stock buybacks to shareholders. Certainly, Verizon should be able to find the money to pay for a fair contract with its own workers.

I am a member of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and operate a small business myself, so I understand how important it is to have a quality workforce. There are many fantastic employees at Verizon, and I am confident it understands working families also have a right to do well in America. In the spirit of May Day, I hope they will negotiate a contract that is fair to Verizon's labor force and the customers it serves, of which I am one.

Woman Charged with Murder

Fairfax County Police have charged Jessica R. Deneal-Whalen, 27, of Alexandria with second-degree murder of 51-year-old Raymond A. White, of no fixed address.

Deneal-Whalen entered the South County Government Center mid-afternoon on April 25 and reported there was a dead man in her apartment on the 5300 block of Bedford Terrace.

Officers responded to the Government Center and then went to the apartment, where they found White with apparent upper body trauma. The Chief Medical Examiner's Office is still determining the official cause and manner of death, but police said White's injuries appeared to

be from strangulation.

Deneal-Whalen was initially held for questioning because police believed she had a relationship with White. After an investigation that lasted all night, police said they determined the two were at the apartment together when Deneal-Whalen assaulted White after becoming upset.



Jessica R. Deneal-Whalen.

— TIM PETERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

the Holiday Inn Express, 6055 Richmond Highway. Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation to host "Cybersecurity for Small Businesses" Business Roundtable session. Program, networking, and a light breakfast. Free. Register at www.sfdc.org/cyber-security-for-small-businesses-may-5th/.

Ancient Art of Movement. 12:45 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Hollin Hall presents The Ancient Art of Movement with Carmen Shippy. Learn movements and techniques drawn from belly dance and modern dance to strengthen your core and increase flexibility. There will be a

demonstration followed by audience participation. Free, open to the public. Reservation required, call 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/MAY 6

Fridays at the Seminary. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at 3737 Seminary Road. Virginia Theological Seminary's Lifetime Theological Education office invites the community to "Caring for Creation: Loving God and Neighbor" with former (Episcopal) Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori. \$40. Register at <https://give.vts.edu/caring-for-creation-fridays-may2016> by Monday, May 2.

21 Announcements

ABC NOTICE
Tabitha Monet, Inc trading as Monet Gogh Sip, 1101 Queen St, Alexandria, VA 22314. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for an Art Studio license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Tabitha Monet, owner
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

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

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NUMBER 16-04-03**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking applications from qualified applicants for the provision of Administered Commonwealth of Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs (VPI).

Initial responses with the notation RFQ# 16-04-03 Administered Commonwealth of Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs (VPI) must be sealed and received on or before 3:00 p.m. on May 12, 2016 in the ACPS Procurement Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia. Responses received after 3:00 p.m. will not be considered in the initial review or award. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. This RFQ will remain open until August 19, 2016, and applicants may submit applications in response to this RFQ during that entire period. RFQ documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFQ from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFQ and/or reject any or all applications and to waive any informalities in any application.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
ALEXANDRIA TRANSIT COMPANY**

The Board of Directors of the Alexandria Transit Company will hold a public hearing in Room 2410, Council Workroom, Alexandria City Hall, at 5:30 p.m., May 11, 2016, on the ATC 2017 Transit Development Program and proposed route and service changes.

1. No increase in the DASH base fare; the price of the monthly DASH Pass will remain at \$40.00.
2. Proposed changes under consideration to take effect July 2016 are:

- AT1 – Improved peak period service frequency to every 15 minutes from every 30 minutes
- AT2, AT4, AT5, and AT8 – North Old Town service realignments
- AT7 - Southwest Quadrant improved accessibility
- AT9 Saturday route extension to Mark Center

For more information on the proposed service changes visit www.dashbus.com. Comments or questions can be emailed to dashbus@alexandriava.gov or dashbus@alexandriava.gov?subject=Proposed%20Service%20Changes or call Daryl Johnson at 703.746.5638.

Paul Abramson, Chairman

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-04-06**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Counseling, Education and Professional Development Services for adolescent Immigrant Students their Families and Teachers at ACPS Schools.

Emailed Proposals with the subject line notation RFP# 16-04-06 Counseling, Education and Professional Development Services for adolescent Immigrant Students their Families and their Teachers will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 26, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the email time stamp. 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 RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP.

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

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-04-06**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Counseling, Education and Professional Development Services for adolescent Immigrant Students their Families and Teachers at ACPS Schools.

Emailed Proposals with the subject line notation RFP# 16-04-06 Counseling, Education and Professional Development Services for adolescent Immigrant Students their Families and their Teachers will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 26, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the email time stamp. 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/>

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Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

21 Announcements

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NEWS



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY AND ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

A 41-acre campus at Fort Belvoir is planned for the National Museum of the U.S. Army

Projects Reshaping the Area

FROM PAGE 3

family units. Access will be from Metro View Parkway.

7 Accotink Village

Richmond Highway between Fairfax County Parkway and Fort Belvoir's Tulley Gate

Construction is underway on a mixed-use development sitting on 6.6 acres of historic Accotink Village by the Bainbridge Companies and Eastwood Properties. The project includes 283 units of 1 and 2-bedroom apartments, as well as 24,000 square-feet of retail space. Building is anticipated to be completed by late 2016.

8 National Museum of the U.S. Army

Fort Belvoir

The Army Historical Foundation is continuing to raise money for construction of a brand-new National Museum of the U.S. Army to be located on a 41-acre campus at Fort Belvoir. The 185,000-square-foot main building will showcase 15,000 works from the Army Art Collection as well as 30,000 rare and never-before-seen artifacts, document and images from the service branch's 200-year history. A memorial garden, amphitheater and parade ground are planned for the exterior grounds.

9 New Inova Emergency Department to open November 2016

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane, Alexandria 22306

An all-new 21,000-square-foot Emergency Department, scheduled to open the week of Nov. 14, 2016, 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.

The new department is being funded largely by Jeffrey Veatch, an entrepreneur from the Mount Vernon area, who's committed a \$2 million lead matching gift toward the new construction.

10 Huntington Club condos

2601 Indian Drive, Alexandria, VA 22303

The Huntington Club Condominium Association is reviewing developer bids for a new mixed-use project that would include 1,200 to 1,800 housing units, 600,000 to 1 million square-feet of office space and 127,000 square-feet of retail space.

Sources: District Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) and land use aide, District Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and land use aide, Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, the Army Historical Foundation and Lee Barton, Senior Project Manager for Design and Construction with the Inova Facilities Management Department.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY AND ARMY HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

On March 1, 2016, crews started the initial phase of "site preparation" for the National Museum of the U.S. Army by bringing down several massive Red Oak trees. Additional, more extensive land-clearing for the museum is expected to get underway during summer 2016.

IMAGE COURTESY OF INOVA MOUNT VERNON HOSPITAL

A new Emergency Department at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital will add around 19,000 square feet of treatment space and 15 additional treatment rooms beyond the current facilities at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.





West Potomac left fielder Patrick Aitken had three doubles against Woodson on Tuesday.



West Potomac center fielder Jamie Sara went 2-for-3 with two doubles and two RBIs against Woodson on Tuesday.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

West Potomac Bats Come Alive in Win Over Woodson

Wolverines pound nine extra-base hits against Cavaliers.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

The West Potomac baseball team was off to a 2-4 start in March when head coach Jim Sullivan expressed the frustration of a team struggling to score runs.

The Wolverines were held to four or fewer runs in four of their first six games, had been shut out twice and came out on the wrong end of two one-run contests.

“So far, it’s a very depressing season because I expect a lot more out of this team,” Sullivan said in the March 31 edition of The Gazette, following a 5-4 loss to Washington-Lee. “We’ve got to hit. If we can’t hit, I don’t care how good our pitching is because

our defense isn’t perfect.”

One month later, the West Potomac bats have come alive and Sullivan is in a good mood. Facing Woodson with sole possession of fourth place in Conference 7 up for grabs, the Wolverines pounded nine extra-base hits during a 7-2 victory at West Potomac High School.

The Wolverines improved to 9-7 overall and 6-4 in the conference. Annandale, West Springfield and Lake Braddock are tied atop the standings at 8-2.

The Wolverines took control with four runs in the bottom of the third inning. Luke Belanger, Patrick Aitken and Jamie Sara produced back-to-back-to-back doubles to start the frame. Two batters later, Daniel Jimenez hit a solo home run, giving West Potomac a 5-1 advantage.

The Wolverines finished with seven doubles, two home runs and 14 total hits.

“Lately, they’ve been coming around,” Sullivan said. “We’ve been working on them and working on them and working on them

and they’re listening. They’re cutting down on their home run swings and they’re actually hitting some home runs by cutting down. It takes a while to get them to believe that: hit it hard, don’t try to swing for a home run. ... We’re getting contributions from everybody and it’s really fun. This has been a lot of fun.”

Aitken went 3-for-3 with a trio of doubles and made a fantastic diving catch in left field to end the top of the third inning.

“We were just letting it rip,” Aitken said.

Center fielder Sara was 2-for-3 at the plate with a pair of doubles and two RBIs.

“It’s a great feeling,” Sara said. “I think we’re finally coming together as a team, offensively. We’ve struggled ... but I think we’ve got a solid lineup and we’re really going to compete in the second half of the [conference schedule].”

Senior pitcher Brandon Floyd earned the win on the mound, allowing two runs on four hits in seven innings. At the plate, he went 1-for-3 with a solo home run.

“When you have [an opposing] pitcher throwing just fastballs and we start hitting them, everyone just gets that energy that they can hit it, too,” Floyd said. “They just go up there and want to be a part of that team of just getting on [base] and that’s how it works. It’s confidence.”

Belanger went 2-for-4 with a double.

Last season, West Potomac won its first six conference games and was 7-1 after beating West Springfield. The Wolverines finished 8-4, however, and lost to South County in the opening round of the conference tournament. This year, West Potomac has won seven of its last 10 games, including four of its last six conference contests.

“Last year, I think we peaked too early and then went in the tank,” Sullivan said. “This year, I’m hopeful that it’s the other way around.”

The Wolverines will travel to face Lake Braddock at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29 and will host Mount Vernon at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.



Opening Day Ceremonies

On April 16, the Alexandria Potomac Little League held its Opening Day Ceremony. Coaches, players, and family members lined the baseball field at Bucknell Elementary School.



Family Tradition: Dad and League Board Member Barry Becton has been coaching for the league since 2004, when his eldest son began to play. His younger sons, Lee and Brooks are continuing the tradition.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUCCLES/THE GAZETTE

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Special thanks to
Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette



Summer Camps
Education & Activities

Preparing for Sleep Away Summer Camp

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

A child's first residential summer camp experience can be fraught with emotions that run the gamut from excitement to terror. While glee at the thought of a summer filled with sports, swimming, crafts and new-found friendships can be the dominant feeling, the thought of an extended period of time away from home can cause sadness and anxiety for both parents and their children.

An American Camp Association study showed that 96 percent of children who attend sleep away camps experience homesickness at some point during their stay. While these emotions are normal, parents can help children tame the pre-camp jitters. The life-long lessons gained from such camps make it worth the effort. "Becoming comfortable with your child being away at summer camp, perhaps the first extended separation you have had, is a matter of trust," said David Kaplan, Ph.D. of the American Counseling Association in Alexandria, Va.

"Trusting your child that they can handle themselves without your supervision. Trusting that they can handle relationships with other children. Trusting that they can get up in the morning, take a shower, wash their clothes, and change their sheets without your prodding."

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HOMESICKNESS is normal and many campers experience it, can help children accept and cope with their emotions.

"Expecting to miss home and feel somewhat anxious helps children feel less surprised and overwhelmed when it occurs," said Barbara Meehan, Ph.D. executive director, Counseling and Psychological Services, George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

A child's apprehension can be eased when parents share their own camp experiences, particularly positive memories.

"Don't let your child get caught up in your own anxiety about leaving for camp," said Linda McKenna Gulyon, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Kids sometimes worry about the parents they left behind. Be positive, but not sad that your child is leaving."

Meehan says that developing a few self-soothing activities like playing outdoors or reading is one strategy for helping children deal with feelings of missing home. Identifying people with whom young campers can share their emotions is another means for dealing with homesickness.

"Talking to a camp counselor and even peers can help ease the difficult feelings and often they will learn they are not alone," said Meehan.

Encouraging a child to make friends and become involved in camp activities will put the focus on the positive aspects of camp. Packing letters and stamped envelopes and developing a plan for letter exchange can help a child feel connected to their families.

"Isolating and avoiding what feels hard can often worsen anxiety and homesickness," said Meehan. "Remind your child they are stronger than they feel in the moment and that engaging in camp activities can be helpful."

There are times however when a child might not be ready for residential camps. The American Camp Association reports that while most cases of homesickness subside, there are cases — if a child is not eating or sleeping, for example — when it could be time to seek help. "Consult with camp professionals about resources if your child's anxiety worsens or persists," said Meehan.

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From Colonial History to Future Entrepreneurs

Campers can explore diverse interests in specialty summer camps.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

This summer dozens of elementary school-aged children will travel back in time to the Colonial Era where, among other things, they'll learn to spin cotton into cloth for garments.

Learning how to run a lemonade stand like a Fortune 500 company and use the profits to invest in the stock market will be on the agenda for other local children. Both activities are offered by local specialty camps aimed at giving children opportunities to explore their interests in a way that they cannot during the school year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT FAIRFAX

Camp Washington at Mount Vernon gives campers a glimpse of early American life.



“During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost.”

— Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D.

“I think summer camps are a great way to promote thriving if it is done right,” said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and a camp consultant. “During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost. A great camp can create space for our children to flourish.”

SPECIALTY CAMPS offer young campers a chance to focus on a specific area of interest such as cooking, financial literacy and even gaming.

For example, Spark Business Academy, a Northern Virginia based organization that teaches financial literacy to young students, is offering its Future Millionaires Camp in Arlington. Students learn about money concepts that range from setting up a lemonade stand that makes a profit to understanding the stock market.

“The name is definitely tongue in cheek,” said Chuchi Arevalo, the organization’s founder. “We teach personal finance, leadership and innova-

tion. We give them life skills that they aren’t learning in school and promote financial literacy that is fun even for students in first and second grade.”

RISING FIFTH- and sixth-grade students will get a chance to take a trip back in time this summer at Mount Vernon’s Camp Washington. During each of the three one-week sessions, campers explore the history of George Washington’s estate and learn about his legacy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASON GAME & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

Students in the Mason Game & Technology Academy Summer Camp will be offered classes in Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

From farming and spinning fibers into cloth to making ice cream and meeting the estate’s heritage breed animals, hands-on activities will give campers a glimpse of many aspects of early American life at Mount Vernon.

“The summer camp is designed to help engage students while having fun,” said Melissa Wood, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon. “[It] gives kids the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience history in their own backyard.”

For More Information

Game and Technology Summer Camps

potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/summer/

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Camp Washington and more at Mount Vernon

www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/camp-washington-summer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/

YOUNG GAME DESIGN aficionados can spend the summer with Mason Game & Technology Academy’s (MGTA) camps. Students take classes such as Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.

“We run our classes at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William,” said Vera Lichtenberg, Director of the Mason Game & Technology Academy at George Mason University.

“We also do a great deal of community outreach to train teachers, engage underserved students, and generally, help students realize that Game Design is a STEM field that not only engages those who love technology, but also those on the artistic side: writers, music composers [and] designers.Ó

MGTA is part of the Mason Computer Game Design Program and the Community Outreach Youth Program for the Virginia Serious Game Institute.

Academic Camps Combine Education and Fun

Local camps help students maintain school skills in a relaxed environment.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

One summer Ana Lado created a summer camp activity for students at her neighborhood pool. The Marymount professor set up a picnic area, and included activities and books. Her plan was to engage the students and give them the opportunity to read and build reading skills while still enjoying fun activities traditionally associated with summer.

"I got six kids who were older to read to six kindergartners. I chose kids who had potential, but who were at risk," said Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington. "Reading with a kindergartner or first grader for 15 minutes got the students reading and built their confidence."

This summer Lado and her colleagues at Marymount are offering "3E: Explore, Enrich, Enjoy," one of several area camps with an academic component. Their goal is to enable students to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment.

Marymount's 3E camp enables campers to choose what they focus on at camp. In addition to traditional camp activities, the camp will include academic projects like exploring science through nature and electronic gadgets, studying math by making boats, language arts by writing their own stories and fine arts by creating plays and cartoons.

For those who want an in-depth review of a school subject and the chance to participate in hands-on summer camp activities, academic camps fill both needs.

"[Academic camps] supplement what students are getting during the school year and allow them to experience subjects and topics that they're not getting in public school," said Dan Stalcup, Associate Director for Fairfax Collegiate, a Herndon-based organization that offers summer programs for students entering third through ninth grade.

Programs at Fairfax Collegiate run the gamut from filmmaking and robotics to engineering and classic children's literature. For example, third and fourth grade students can learn to craft their own short stories during a Story Writing course in Alexandria, Chantilly and Ashburn.

Campers who enjoy reading and want to delve into award-winning novels by authors such as Madeleine L'Engle or Rebecca Stead can take "Reading Newbury Winners" with sessions in Chantilly, Ashburn, Fairfax, McLean and Reston. Students can spend two weeks reading books that have been



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Kara Dedon, a Marymount University graduate student, will be the director of the school's camp.

awarded the Newbery Medal for excellence in literature for children.

Fifth and sixth graders who love math and want to hone their analytical and logical thinking skills can spend their time engaging in chess, Stratego and

other mind-bending activities in the "Brain Games" camp, which will be offered in Chantilly, Reston, Herndon, McLean, Alexandria and Oakton.

Future detectives might enjoy taking a forensic science class in Alexandria, Chantilly, Herndon, Ashburn, Falls Church and McLean. "Students learn about the science in criminal justice, like blood-typing and fingerprinting by actually doing the experiments and seeing them in action," said Stalcup.

"Students get a lot of personal attention because the classes are small, and the instructors either have or are pursuing a degree in the topic they're teaching," said Stalcup. "They're all very passionate about the subject they're teaching."

Academic camps might be a good fit for students who are curious about a particular area of study. "Many parents want something that is both fun and educational, meaning it will help their child keep [busy] and develop skills needed during the school year," said Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University. "I think both parents and



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COLLEGIATE

A fifth grade student learns about the structure of the human heart during a Human Biology and Anatomy at Fairfax Collegiate.

educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning."

The decision to send a child to a camp that focuses on reading, science, math or another school subject instead of a purely recreational camp is a personal one, says Lado. "There are some kids who can visit their grandparents in Maine all summer and they come back to school in the fall and pick up where they left off," she said. "Then there are other kids who can't pick up easily. Those are the kids who would benefit from an academic program."

Students appreciate the ability to focus on one subject in a relaxed atmosphere in an academic camp. "If kids are taking a subject at a fast-clip pace, but they don't do well, they miss key skills. The next year they

"I think both parents and educators realize that summer vacation does not have to be a break from learning."

— Tina M. Morris, Child Development Programs Consultant at George Mason University.

move to a higher level class, but the same problem still exists," said Lado. "When they take a week or two during the summer and immerse themselves in a subject, they go stronger into the next school year. In camp, it's the only thing they're doing academically and they can concentrate on it."

For example, The Madeira School in McLean is offering summer programs in Trigonometry and Geometry. "These courses are intended for advancement into higher level math classes, and based on our classes taught during the academic year," said Ashley Smith, Associate Director of Communications

at Madeira. "A student who is interested in math and wishes to advance to higher levels will benefit, as well as students who need a refresher or a better understanding before moving ahead."

When choosing an academic camp, parents should look for camps that are not all work and no play. "I want to make sure it has a healthy balance of recreational and educational enrichment activities," said Morris. "If the campers are enjoying the activities and the counselors are skilled, the program should, as a natural effect, promote the building of positive relationships with their peers and their counselors."

SCHOOL NOTES

Sophia R. Labas and **Joshua Smith-Sreen** were named to the dean's list at Boston University (Boston, Mass.) for the fall 2015 semester.

Seventy-seven middle school students from Fairfax County Public Schools have been named to the 2016 All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir. Sandburg Middle School students named to the honor choir include **Madison Maddox**, **Sereena Denham**, **Emma Brown**, and **Trevor Hilko** (alternate). The group will perform on Saturday, April 30, at the Sandler Center for the Performing Arts in Virginia Beach.

Quintin Frerichs and **Reese Frerichs** were named to the dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Washington University in St. Louis.

Ben Frerichs is a member of the Carleton College baseball team for the 2016 season. Carleton is a member of the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (MIAC) and NCAA Division III. Frerichs, of Alexandria, attended St. Stephens and St. Agnes School.

Brad Gregory Davis graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology (Rolla, Mo.) in December 2015. Davis earned a Master of Science in engineering management.

Ashley Deck, **Margaret Heltzel**, **Andrew Hohman**, and **Cameron Pattisall** qualified for the fall semester 2015 dean's list at Ohio University's Athens campus.

Lindsay Sopko, of Alexandria, was named to the fall 2015 honors list at Mary Baldwin College.

Students named to fall 2015 dean's list at Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.) include **Shantelle Jennings** and **Phoenix Wilson**, both of Alexandria.

Andrew Hepburn Webb, class of 2017, has been named to the dean's list at Christchurch School for the first marking period of the school year. Webb, son of Ann and William Webb of Alexandria, has also been part of the JV Boys Soccer team.

Nicholas Orlin Ambrose, Christchurch School class of 2016, was a member of the 2015 Crew Team in the fall season. He is the son of Debra Rog and John Ambrose of Alexandria.

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Sail Away the Summer

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Amy Zang says this year all of the Flying Scots were painted in the fall and are looking beautiful. “We’re now doing the bottom paint and then will check all of the boats to be sure they are ready to sail.” Zang is the Director and Owner of the Youth Sailing Day Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina. This year sailing camp begins May 31, the Tuesday after Memorial Day and ends the week of August 15-19th. “There won’t be many kids the first week because some schools are still in session, but we’ll have it anyway.” The classes run from 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and are open to rising third graders through 15 years of age.

Zang says the Sunfish is for beginners and the Flying Scot for intermediates. “But we’re going to continue the Skippers Club this year for those kids who have received their Sunfish license and are ready for a less structured class. It’s more like a club, more get out and play games and have fun on the boat.” She says this really started by accident two years ago and became so popular that they have added another class this year. It is a small class of nine kids who have mastered sailing with instructors hopping on and off.

Sailing campers can move to the intermediate stage with a skipper or crew li-



Sailors rig the Sunfish in preparation for beginning the day’s lesson at Youth Sailing Camp at the Washington Sailing Marina.

cense. The Flying Scot is a 17-foot boat with five campers plus an instructor. It is a bigger boat than the Sunfish with two sails and heads out to the river. “Some kids learn better with the constant reinforcement of an instructor or they like the immediate feedback.”

“The advanced class sails a Hobie Cat that is harder to sail or some students choose racing 420’s.” Four weeks out of the summer, Adventures on a Big Boat is offered on Catalina 25. “The bigger the boat, it reacts differently.”

Classes are already more than 50 percent full for the summer. “Last year we had the best summer ever in my 24 years here or even the 56 years the camp has been in operation.” She continues, “we had just over 1,200 kids. Fantastic. It was due to my staff. If the kids are having fun, they want to sign up for more weeks.” Zang es-

timates that more than 50 percent of the camp attendees come back, often bringing a friend.

Looking back over the years Zang says she makes constant adjustments. One of these is to have enough instructors to keep up with populations such as learning disabled. Zang is a special education teacher during the school year.

“A number of instructors return every year so we can fine tune their training which makes new instructors this year. “Although Zang has 65 staff on the rolls, on any one day she is juggling 40 sailing counselors, 70 boats and 130 campers in sailing classes. “I tell my instructors everything has to be in its place to make the camp run smoothly.” Zang says, “I feel blessed and lucky. We are like a family.”

Zang says she is going to four weddings this year of previous counselors—in Argentina, Richmond, Alexandria and British Columbia.

Camp begins at 9:30 am with a half hour discussion on safety procedures and a look ahead at the plan for the day. Morning sailing is from 10-noon with an hour break for lunch, “and if it’s really hot, I turn on the sprinkler.” After a 15 minute recap of the morning lessons learned, they sail again from 1:30-3:40 pm. “The kids do it all. They put the boats together and take them apart.” Zang says on the days they can’t go out because it is too too windy they have come up with ways to occupy 130 kids on land by setting up stations where kids rotate from boat building, to flag making, to other things related to sailing. Zang adds there were only two of those non-sailing days last summer.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Beginning Sunfish classes sail from the dock on a summer morning to practice the day’s maneuvers.



Summer counselors at National Marina Youth Sailing Day Camp give the sailors a safety lesson each day before heading for the Potomac.



The Little Theatre of Alexandria offers the largest variety of summer drama camps in the area for preschool to 8th grade level children. Classes run June 6- to Sept. 2.

Arts to Banish Boredom

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Albert Einstein did it. So did Mark Zuckerberg, Denzel Washington, Lady Gaga and Sandra Day O’Conner. What do they have in common with millions of other children across the nation?

They all attended summer camp. “In our summer camps we try to create a safe environment for kids to express their creativity,” said Michael Page, the summer camps coordinator for The Little Theatre of Alexandria. “Most classes focus on performance while others work on storytelling through play. But they all help kids grow in self-confidence while having fun.”

According to the American Camp Association, research shows that camp experiences often increase a child’s confidence, self-esteem, social skills, independence, leadership qualities, adventurousness and connection

to nature.

First Lady Michelle Obama served as a summer camp counselor, an important role as children learn new skills and develop interpersonal relationships.

“We also have a new Counselor in Training camp for high schoolers,” Page said. “This class is for students who are interested in furthering their education and getting a chance to work in a leadership role in a theatrical setting. We also try to find a nice balance for all of our campers – those who have been coming for many years and those who are just starting in theatre. It’s a great experience for everyone involved.”

A large variety of summer camp classes are available at LTA for preschool through 8 the Counselor in Training class open to 9 through Sept. 2. For more information or to register, contact Michael Page at mbpage1990@gmail.com or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

Extended child care is also avail-

able from 8 to 9 a.m. and from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at a cost of \$10 per hour. Child care registration is done by phone after camp registration is completed. Call 703--683--5778, extension 2.


For budding Picassos, the Del Ray Artisans invites campers ages 8 to 14 to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction.

All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be a one-day-only gallery show held July 23 and July 30 to show off the students’ work from their week of camp. The first camp session will be held July 18-22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily followed by a second camp July 25 – 29.

For more information, contact the Art Camp Administrator/Youth Programs Director at Youth@DelRayArtisans.org.

“A camp experience is one of tremendous growth for any child,” Page said.

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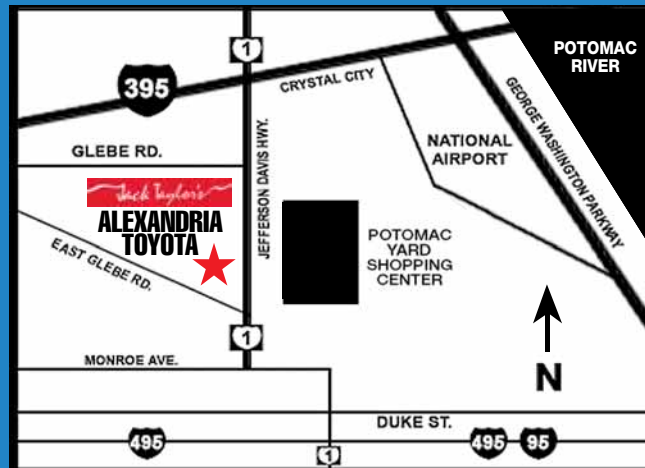
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