



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE DEPT.

## House Fire

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department responded to the 4300 block of Rock Creek Road for reports of a house fire on Monday, May 30 at 4:16 p.m. Upon arrival, units observed a single-family home with an active fire in the basement. A second alarm was sounded bringing more than 60 firefighters to the scene. Total property loss is valued at \$85,000. There were no civilian or firefighter injuries. No one was home at the time of the fire. The house had working smoke alarms. Three adults and two juveniles have been displaced and are receiving assistance from the Red Cross. An investigation revealed the fire originated within the ceiling between the basement and first floor. The most probable cause was an electrical event involving a wiring bundle originating from the electric service panel and running to the home's kitchen.

## \$2.7 Billion For Schools

FY 2017 budget aims to raise teacher salaries, lower class sizes.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County School Board has made good on Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza's promise when she introduced a FY 2017 budget for the school system.

"The most important announcement for our students and teachers may be what the proposed budget does not do," Garza said at a press conference held Jan. 7 at West Potomac High School, "it makes no further cuts."

At the board's May 26 regular meeting, its members adopted a \$2.7 billion budget that will take effect July 1.

Highlights of the budget include a salary increase plus one percent market scale adjustment for all employees who are eligible, \$40 million to make teacher salaries in particular more competitive in the region and \$10 million aimed at lowering elementary school class sizes.

School Board Chairman Pat Hynes praised the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in a statement for engaging with their educational counterparts to overcome an early gap between the two bodies' advertised budget that eclipsed \$70 million.

"Working together, we were able to secure the funding necessary to make critical investments in teacher pay, reduce the size of some classes in our elementary schools and maintain our instructional programs and services to our students," Hynes said. "We sincerely want to thank the members of the community who rallied to call for increased support for their students, teachers, and schools."

It took the supervisors adding an extra cent to the real estate tax and directing that additional revenue to the school system to make the Fairfax County transfer to FCPS viable for Garza's goals.

"I am hopeful that this budget represents a turning point for our schools," Garza said in a statement. "This reinvestment in our community's most important asset will provide great dividends for all the citizens of Fairfax. We are already looking ahead to FY 2018 and will continue to work as partners with the Board of Supervisors to solve these vital challenges for our community."

Fairfax County's transfer to the School Operating Fund ended up being a 4.8 increase over the FY 2016 Budget. FCPS also benefited from an increase in state aid and sales tax, and \$6.7 million in reductions from the previous year because of reductions in student enrollment.

The school system received an increase from the General Assembly of \$16.8 million from the FY2017 Advertised Budget. It was also \$22.3 million more than reflected in the FY 2016 Approved Budget, according to FCPS spokesman John Torre.

The board also approved several add-on motions that carried with the FY 2017 budget. Those included Hynes calling for continued collaboration with the Board of Supervisors and focusing joint discussions on the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team.

Providence representative to the School Board Dalia Palchik's motion for the board to encourage the supervisors to move a meals tax to referendum in this fall's election was successful as well.

## Keeping Eye on Police Reforms

Beltrante fears for oversight board's future.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

The Police Practices Review Commission's recommendation to create a Citizens Police Oversight Board may be in trouble, according to Nick Beltrante, executive director of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability (CCPA).

Beltrante and his organization has pushed for its creation for the past six years. Beltrante worries that the police administration and police union have never embraced the citizens oversight board concept and may see the independent police auditor recommendation as a safer bet for their interests, and that the county doesn't need both.

The Public Safety Committee will meet on July 19, 1 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, when citizen oversight and the police auditor recommendation will be reviewed.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova formed the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission more than a year ago to study and come up with improvements in police policies and procedures. After seven months of public hearings and deliberations, the commission submitted a final report to the supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is now in the process of debating the merits of the recommenda-

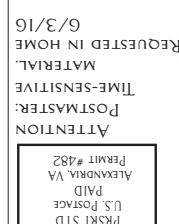
tions and, where agreement is reached, it is directing the police and county staff to implement the police reforms.

Beltrante, who was a member of the commission, is anxiously awaiting the Board of Supervisors' upcoming July 19 Public Safety Committee meeting in which the Independent Citizens Oversight Board proposal will be considered by the board for the third time.

The first time the board considered such a proposal, and rejected it, was in 1979 when the Gum Springs Civic Association urged its adoption. Beltrante's CCPA proposed its version of the citizens oversight board five years ago, and it too was rejected. For Beltrante, "It's been a frustrating experience."

Beltrante's attempt to achieve improved Fairfax County police accountability began in 2010 primarily because of a police shooting resulting in the death of David Masters, a former Green Beret soldier who served in Vietnam. His offense? Masters allegedly committed petty larceny; he took a flowering plant from a Route 1 retail store without paying for it. After a brief car chase by the police on Route 1, his refusal to stop his car eventually ended on a service road when three armed police officers surrounded his car at the corner of Fort Hunt Road and Route 1. When Masters continued not to obey police commands, it resulted in one of the officers shooting him in the back and killing him while he was sitting in

SEE BELTRANTE FEARS, PAGE 4







**Alexandria/Rosemont**

**\$2,350,000**

A Rosemont classic occupied by one family until 2015, the Wool's Family home has been transformed from top to bottom with meticulous care and attention to detail all the while preserving its early 20th century charm. Located on one of Rosemont's most prestigious streets, this spacious center hall Dutch Colonial offers 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths on four finished levels. The floor plan is flexible featuring a state of the art kitchen, lovely sunroom and au-pair suite on lower level. This is a one-of-a-kind renovation! 307walnut.mceneaney.com

**Sue & Allison Goodhart**

703.362.3221

www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



**Alexandria**

**\$1,295,000**

Great opportunity to own a 6-bedroom, 5-bath home on a popular cul-de-sac. Gracious colonial offers formal living room, dining room, sun porch, 4 wood-burning fireplaces, 2-car garage with private rear garden. Walk to MacArthur School and Bishop Ireton High School. 507 Canterbury Lane

**Noel Kaupinen**

703.200.1165

www.noelk.com



**Alexandria South**

**\$659,000**

Nestled on a large level lot, this beautifully maintained Colonial beckons from a wide, welcoming front porch. Featuring 3 bedrooms and 2.5 baths, gleaming hardwoods, fresh paint throughout, updated kitchen, and two-car detached garage. 8713 Fort Hunt Road

**Michael Mayes**

202.270.1110

www.mrmayes.com



**Villamay**

**\$945,000**

Beautifully updated 4-bedroom colonial on lovely flat lot in cul-de-sac setting. Loads of light, cherry/granite/stainless kitchen. French doors from living & dining rooms to patios, retractable awning. 3 fireplaces, refinished floors, 2-car garage, in-ground sprinkler system & whole house generator.

**Donna Cramer**

703.627.9578

www.DonnaCramer.com



**Alexandria**

**\$749,900**

Completely renovated bungalow with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. The kitchen is truly the heart of this home with a grand island, farmhouse sink and an open flow to the dining and living room. Master en-suite addition includes dual sinks and custom shower. Walk to "The Avenue." 316 E Custis Ave.

**Jen Walker**

703.675.1566

www.JenWalker.com



**Alexandria**

**\$549,500**

Charming Cape Cod in quiet community. 4 bedrooms (2 on main level), 2 baths, updated kitchen, light-filled sunroom, lower level family room & storage. Hardwood floors, wood-burning fireplace. Large fenced backyard with patio & 2 storage sheds. Driveway parking. 603 N Mansfield St.

**Lisa Groover**

703.919.4426

www.LisaGroover.com



**Hollin Hills**

**\$745,000**

Spacious 2-level Goodman contemporary set high in the hills has 4 large bedrooms, 3 full baths, renovated kitchen, soaring ceilings & sweeping views. Flexible, open living spaces include 2 living rooms with dramatic brick fireplace, family room/office/library plus a bonus room. 7421 Rebecca Drive

**Jodie Burns**

571.228.5790

www.JodieBurns.com

McEneaney Associates  
is proud to support  
SCAN and their  
4th Annual Croquet Day.

Saturday, June 4, 2016  
12:30 pm at Hensley Park, Alexandria

For more information, visit  
[www.scanva.org](http://www.scanva.org)

SCAN: Building hope for  
children & families in  
Northern Virginia.





# County Police Hold Volunteer Awards Ceremony

More than 200 volunteers give 56,912 hours; help save county \$1.4 million.

**T**he Fairfax County Police Department honored its volunteers who gave 56,912 hours of service last year at an awards ceremony on Friday, May 20 at the Fairfax County Government Center. The volunteers do everything from assisting with traffic control, to sobriety checkpoints, administrative duties, helping with photography and other crime prevention activities. In 2015, more than 200 volunteers from the Auxiliary Police Program, Volunteers in Service Program, and Chaplain Unit were assigned to every local district police station and other facilities.

They saved the county more than \$1.4 million by providing their time, insight and valuable resources to the community. In the APO Program, they gave 32,610 volunteer hours; in the VIPS Program, they gave 22,599 hours; and in the Chaplains Unit, they gave 1,703 hours. The Fairfax County Police Department recently celebrated its 75th anniversary last summer.

— STEVE HIBBARD



**Chief of Police Colonel Edwin C. Roessler, Jr. gave the opening remarks.**

## VIPS Service Hours Awards

500 Service Hours: VIPS Angela Coyle, VIPS Keith Kalinowski, VIPS Kara Reich, VIPS Juanito Roque, VIPS Philip Scianna, VIPS Laura Shugrue and VIPS Karen Sica

750 Service Hours: AS-VIPS Diana Gross, VIPS Gail Hollenbeck and AS-VIPS Kara Reich.

1,000 Service Hours: VIPS Kirk DeNee, VIPS Walter Lazear, and VIPS Deborah Neuberger.

1,500 Service Hours: VIPS Robert Bradford and VIPS Jimmy Clifton.

2,000 Service Hours: AS-VIPS Terri Baker and VIPS Philip Schroeder.

4,000 Service Hours: VIPS Mort Berger and VIPS Alton Summers.

18,000 Service Hours: VIPS Donna Spiewak.

## Points of Light Foundation

President's Council on Service and Civic Participation — Call to Service - Lifetime (4,000 Hours or More) — APOs David Carlo, Frank Detaranto, Charles Foster, Robert Moseley, James Pan and Anthony Pelegrin.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) - Mort Berger

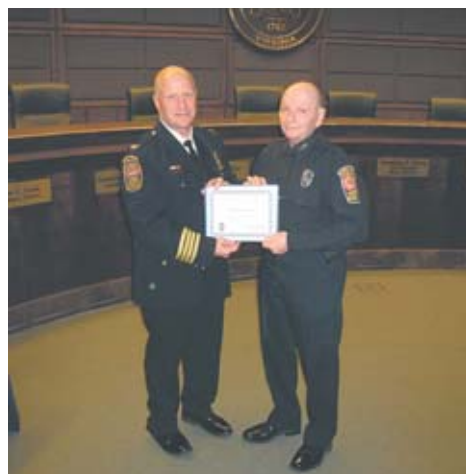
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



**Chaplain Doug Jones was honored and will be retiring after 10 years of service.**



**The APO Chaplain Service Hours Award for 2,500 service hours went to APO Richard Zhu. Other award recipients were: APO Samuel E. Lowe, III, APO Sharon Nichols, APO John (Ed) Pouncey, APO Jennifer Wheeler, and APO Gary J. Rohen.**



**The APO Chaplain Service Hours Award for 2,500 service hours went to APO Gary Rohen. Other award recipients were: APO Samuel E. Lowe, III, APO Sharon Nichols, APO John (Ed) Pouncey, APO Jennifer Wheeler, and APO Richard Zhu.**



**The Volunteers in Police Service of the Year - Animal Shelter went to AS-VIPS Karen Reich.**



**The Volunteers in Police Service of the Year - Training went to VIPS Karen Sica.**



**The APO Chaplain Service Hours Award for 1,000 service hours went to APO Nina Aldrich, APO Ruta Bailey, APO Mark Carnevale (with Fran Carnevale accepting on his behalf) and Chaplain Douglas Jones.**



**The Chaplain Team of the Year Award went to Chaplain Jeri Fields, Chaplain Father Ronald Gripshover, Chaplain Ike Hendershot, Chaplain James Hepler, Chaplain Shawn Perkins, Chaplain David Pratt, and Chaplain Cantor Michael Shochet.**



# Beltrante Fears for Oversight Board's Future

FROM PAGE 1

his car. No gun was found in his car and he did not own a gun.

In response primarily to this and other incidents, Beltrante formed CCPA which publicized citizen complaints of police misconduct, lack of transparency, and publicized numerous incidents past and present of the police shooting unarmed citizens. Still, his public relations campaign came to nothing.

Beltrante also contacted the federal FBI citing the police misconduct as a violation of civil rights statutes, and called on them to investigate the police in Fairfax County. Still, there was no response and no action.

"Then two events took place that changed everything," Beltrante said: The police shooting death of John Geer, and the intervention of Iowa's U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley in order to break up a legal logjam and pursue the shooting death case of Geer. The police officer who shot Geer was the first Fairfax County police officer in over half a century who the current Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh said committed a crime. The entry of Grassley, plus the entry into the debate of "Cop Block," the citizen advocacy group, created the conditions that caused the wheels of justice to finally respond to the Geer shooting. Shortly thereafter Bulova, with the support of the Board of Supervisors, acted to form the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Now over a year has passed since the formation of the commission and Beltrante, as member of the commission, has finally had the forum and opportunity to urge the commission to recommend that an Independent citizens police oversight board be created. His concern that the Board of Supervisors may not support the independent citizen oversight board is based on his own history dealing with the supervisors. He was almost denied a seat on the police review commission because of the effort of appointed County Executive Ed Long, who lobbied Bulova to keep Beltrante off the commission because, as he said in an email to Bulova, Beltrante would likely push for a citizens oversight board.

That email was revealed when Cop Block

filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for internal correspondence of the Board of Supervisors.

Bulova did appoint Beltrante to the commission, rejecting Long's recommendation. It turns out that Long was partly correct. Beltrante did press for a citizens oversight board. However, the rest of the subcommittee that Beltrante served also on agreed on the need for a citizens oversight board and the final report called on the Board of Supervisors to adopt it.

Today, Beltrante worries that the police union likely has not conceded the fight against forming a citizen oversight board. Furthermore, the recommendation to create an Independent Police Auditor may cause the Public Safety Committee to bend to police union lobbying and influence the board to adopt the auditor recommendation and delay the formation of an outside citizens board. The auditor position will be taken up by the board's public safety committee at the same time as the citizens oversight board recommendation on July 19. The Beltrante concern is pure conjecture; there is no evidence that there's a plan to kill the oversight board. "From my experience," he said, "the police bureaucracy and the police union worry more about a citizen oversight board looking over their shoulder than any of the other reform proposals. As a former career member of the police department in the District of Columbia I am puzzled [about] what do the Fairfax Police leadership have to worry about? I think a citizens oversight board can be a valuable tool to look after the police; especially if the concern or complaint by a citizen or group is not justified."

Those who serve with Beltrante on the CCPA admire his focus.

John Smucker, president of CCPA, said, "He is a fine person; he is totally committed to the issue of improving the Fairfax County Police. Nick always has the best interests of the citizens when he decides on a course of action."

Annie Whitehead, secretary of CCPA, said, "Nick is very determined, and steadfast in his efforts to protect the interests of citizens. At the same time, he has a keen inter-

est in preserving the integrity of the police profession. For a man of his age to take on the large task of police reform in Fairfax County, in past years completely alone, is truly amazing. He is as tough as nails but with a heart of gold. We should all be thankful for his service to the community."

Asked his opinion about the Police Practices Review Commission's recommendations, Beltrante said, "The creation of the commission and its recommendations was a terrific thing, going beyond my group's initial recommendations. We have to thank Senator Grassley and, ultimately, the leadership of chairwoman Bulova and members of the Board of Supervisors for that. The use of force training, mental health sensitivity training, transparency, cameras in the field, and other commission recommendations are all very good and long overdue. A Citizen Oversight Board would be the crown jewel recommendation. But let's not kid ourselves, there is still more work to be done if police accountability is to be achieved. For, without a change in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act's exemption for the police, the citizens board and the public will not have access to the information they need to study and make recommendations on police incidents."

Creation of a Fairfax County citizens police oversight board would mean that Fairfax County would join more than 150 other Citizen Police Oversight Boards in the metro area and nationally.

Beltrante, who will be 89 years old in June, began in 2010 the job of pressing for something no one thought was needed. Notwithstanding his concerns he may finally realize police reforms that he began lobbying for these past years.

"My biggest disappointment is the slow progress and stonewalling on the long overdue police reforms came too late to prevent police misconduct that caused deaths and disability," Beltrante said, "Let's never forget that since 2006 at least the following unarmed citizens were shot and killed or permanently disabled by Fairfax County Police: David Masters, Dr. Salvatore Culosi, Hailu Brook, Ian Smith, Nicholas A. Kaelber, James Bryant, and John Geer, among oth-

## Who Is Nicholas Beltrante?

Nicholas Beltrante, 88, is a retired D.C. homicide detective, a resident of Mount Vernon, and founder of the Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.

**Married to:** Patricia Orann- Beltrante

**Three children:** Janice, Susan, and Michael

**Education:** Graduate of Pennsylvania Institute of Criminology; Bachelor of Laws, LaSalle University

**Awards:** Named one of the top 25 private investigators in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the National Association of Investigator Specialists

**Military Service:** WW II Navy Corpsman assigned to U.S. Marine combat units and aboard the hospital ship USS Consolation which served in the South Pacific. Beltrante was 17 at the time he dropped out of school and enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

### Career:

❖ Retired detective sergeant (homicide; robbery), D.C. Police; D.C. Police Presidential Security Detail to President Truman and President Eisenhower

❖ President, Beltrante & Associates (20 years), a private investigation company

❖ Executive Director, Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, 2010 to the present.



Beltrante

ers. Without police incident reports which continue to not be available to the public we will never know if the police actions on these men was justified."

Since 2006 as a result of alleged police misconduct approximately \$5 million in out of court settlements have been paid by the Fairfax County government to victims' families. The Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee, chaired by Supervisor John Cook, is scheduled to meet on the police reform recommendations three more times this year: July 19 at 1 p.m.; in the fall; and again in December. The meetings are held in the Government Center, Rooms 9/10, and they are open to the public.

See [www.virginiaccpa.org](http://www.virginiaccpa.org), email: [Virginiaccpa@aol.com](mailto:Virginiaccpa@aol.com).

See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/materials/fairfax-county-police-dept-final-report-june19.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/materials/fairfax-county-police-dept-final-report-june19.pdf)

— JERRYFILL@AOL.COM

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

**Fairfax County Public Schools** (FCPS) is soliciting public review and comment on instructional materials (media, print, and lesson objectives) under consideration for Family Life Education (FLE). Recommendations affect grades 9, 10, 11, and students with low incidence disabilities in grades 3-10. The comment period continues through close of business on June 24. All comments received during the comment period will be shared with School Board members prior to their vote on the

recommendations Thursday, June 30.

- ❖ Two evening opportunities for the community to review the two recommended media titles and book have been scheduled at Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, on Tuesday, June 14, and Wednesday, June 15, from 6-8 p.m. in rooms 2050 and 2051.
- ❖ FLE instructional materials may be accessed online through Friday, June 24, for public review and comment at [www.fcps.edu/is/hpe/fle.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/is/hpe/fle.shtml).
- ❖ Citizens can submit comments on the recommendations via e-mail to [FLEcomments@fcps.edu](mailto:FLEcomments@fcps.edu). The comment period continues through close of business on June 24. All comments received during the comment period will be shared with School Board members prior to their vote on the recommendations Thursday, June 30.

### WEDNESDAYSTHROUGHSEPTEMBER

**Plant Clinics.** 9 a.m.-noon at the Mount Vernon Farmers Market at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Volunteers from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will conduct plant clinics during the 2016 season to answer gardening questions, identify plants and insects, and dispense soil test kits to the general public. They encourage backyard gardeners to bring samples for diagnosis or identification. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) for more.

### FARMERS MARKET OPEN

**The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market** is open for the year at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 8 a.m.-noon every Wednesday, through Dec. 16. Local farmers and producers

will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets) for more.

### SEPT. 10-21

**2016 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.** Online registration will open July 5. Registration forms will be mailed to previous participants in late June and will be available at community and senior centers, senior residences and event venues. The registration fee of \$12, which covers multiple events, remains the same. Three events have an added fee, ten pin bowling, golf and orienteering. Deadline for registering is Aug. 27 (by mail), Sept. 3 (online). Call 703-830-5604 or email [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com) for more. To volunteer, call 703-403-5360.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**Volunteer Fairfax** makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call 703-246-3460.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 2

**Do More 24.** Online. Do More 24 is United Way of the National Capital Area's 24-hour online giving day. Visit [domore24.org](http://domore24.org) to donate to local organizations.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 4

**Whitman Annual Yard Sale.** 8-11 a.m. in the Walt Whitman Middle

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



# CRIME REPORTS

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

**ROBBERY:** 3400 block of Anker Street, May 28, 2:24 a.m. The victim was working on a vehicle and was approached by three males. They assaulted the victim, took money and property, and fled in a vehicle. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was not transported. The first suspect was described as black, approximately 27 years old, 6 feet 4 inches tall, of a larger build, black hair, and had a beard. He was wearing a black shirt and pants. The second suspect was described as black, approximately 27 years old, 6 feet 4 inches tall, of a larger build, black curly hair, and clean shaven. He was wearing a black shirt and pants. The third suspect was described as Hispanic, 27 to 30 years old, approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall, and wearing a black shirt and beige pants. The suspect vehicle was described as a black sedan.

**BURGLARY:** 2100 block of White Oaks Drive, May 29, 11:55 p.m. Resident reported that while out of town from May 23 to May 29, someone entered their home and took property.

**BURGLARY:** 8500 block of Richmond Highway, May 24. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ARREST:** 8600 block of Beekman Place, May 23, around 1:07 p.m. Police responded for a report of a man attempting to harm himself. An investigation determined the man was possibly overdosing on medication. As officers attempted to take him into custody for a mental health assessment, the man allegedly resisted and assaulted the officers. They were able to subdue him. A 52-year-old Alexandria man was charged with three counts of assault on a law enforcement officer. He was taken to the hospital to be treated for the possible overdose. The officers were treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

**ASSAULT/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY/ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER/ARREST:** 3300 block of Wessington Way, May 23, around 5:13 p.m. Police responded for a report of an assault. An investigation determined the victim, a 64-year-old woman, was outside and saw a man she did not recognize, so she asked what he was doing there and he became upset. The suspect allegedly grabbed the woman, took the cell phone she was holding, threw it then left the area. Officers were able to identify the suspect and determined he was at a nearby home. They located the suspect inside and as they investigated, the suspect became angry with them, allegedly picked up a knife and advanced on the officers, who exited the home for safety. As officers worked to contain the scene, the suspect exited the home and surrendered to police. A 49-year-old Woodbridge man was taken into custody, transported to jail and charged with assault, destruction of property and assault on a law enforcement officer. Neither the victim nor the officers required medical attention.

**ROBBERY:** 8400 block of Byers Drive, May 23, around 9 p.m. Police responded to a report of a robbery. An investigation determined a 14-year-old boy was walking outside when two men approached him. They demanded his cell phone. The victim relinquished it and the suspects fled. They were described as black, between 18 and 20 years old, about 5 feet 7 inches tall. One suspect was about 150 pounds; the other, about 130 pounds. They were wearing dark-colored clothing. The victim did not require medical attention.

**ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT/GRAND LARCENY/ARREST:** 7900 block of Richmond Highway, May 21, 1:22 p.m. Officers responded to a

report of two females concealing merchandise at a business. While the suspects were being detained, one of them assaulted an officer. A 21-year-old Maryland woman was transported to the adult detention center and charged with grand larceny and assault on law enforcement. A 19-year-old Alexandria woman was transported to the adult detention center and charged with grand larceny and possession of marijuana. The officer did not require medical attention.

**ROBBERY/ARREST:** 7300 block of Richmond Highway, May 20, 8:06 p.m. The victim was outside of a convenience store when a man approached him and

SEE CRIME, PAGE 14

## Police Apply Crisis Intervention Training

On Memorial Day, Fairfax County Police used Crisis Intervention Training techniques to try communicating with a distressed 20-year-old lifeguard at the Riverside Park Swimming Pool.

Police said officers received a call about the emotional lifeguard around 1:30 p.m. The man ignored their attempts to talk with him.

Police evacuated the pool, after

which the lifeguard jumped into the pool, swam, got out and talked loudly. He only spoke Polish, Police said.

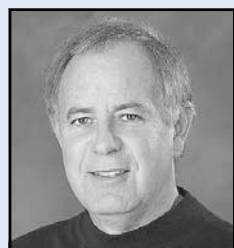
An officer who speaks Polish was called to the scene, but the lifeguard continued to refuse to communicate.

He jumped back in the pool and went down to the bottom. Another Riverside Park lifeguard and additional officers brought him back

to the surface. He was unresponsive. The emotionally distressed lifeguard regained consciousness with help from members of Fairfax County Fire & Rescue. Then he became combative, police said.

Police took the man into custody and then to Inova Fairfax Hospital. He was in a non-life-threatening condition. He was set to be evaluated there.

— TIM PETERSON



## Rex Reiley RE/MAX Allegiance

703-768-7730 • [rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com](mailto:rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com)



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$649,900**  
8425 Mount Vernon Highway  
Beautiful home w/over 4,000 sq ft & 2 level addition in lovely Riverside Estates. Great rm on main lvl w/gas fpl & wet bar. Adjacent family room w/wood-burning fpl. An office adjoins the gorgeous 20' x 32' master bedrm addition w/vaulted Douglas Fir ceiling & skylights. Library/studio on upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replaced 2011. Close to Fort Belvoir.



**Alex./Sedgewick Forest \$559,000**  
4015 Gibbs Road  
Large, lovely, updated 4 level split on a beautiful .46 acre lot - Large kitchen w/granite counters & ceramic tile floors - 3 upgraded baths - 2 fireplaces & upgraded DBL pane windows throughout - 2nd lower level offers utility rm, workshop & storage rm. Large double carport overlooks beautiful bkyd w/large shed/workshop w/electric power - 7 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N) - Great Home & Property!



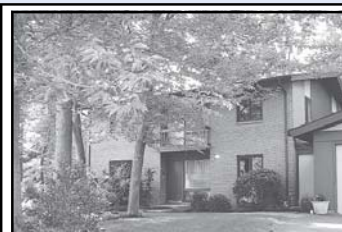
**Alex./Riverside \$544,900**  
8332 Wagon Wheel Road  
Riverside Estates' most popular Colonial Model—5 BR, 3.5 BA w/3 finished levels, 2 FPLs, 1-car garage on a lovely lot. 5 large spacious BRs, refinished hwd floors on main & upper levels plus new carpet on lower level. Freshly painted interior, new 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./Stratford Landing \$609,900**  
8720 Bluedale Street  
Tremendous value in this remodeled and meticulously maintained 5 BR, 2.5 BA Split - Upgrades include: Kitchen, Baths, DBL Pane Windows, Roof & HVAC. Freshly painted interior, beautiful hwd floors & a large deck overlooking a gorgeous, landscaped yard. - 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 10 mins to Old Town (N), along scenic G.W. Pkwy - Great Home!



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



**Alex./Wessington \$794,900**  
3008 Doeg Indian Ct.  
Spectacular, updated 5 BR, 3.5 BA contemporary with well over \$300,000 of improvements. Kitchen & baths gutted and remodeled. Replacement windows. Hardwood floors refinished. Bsmt remodeled w/3rd full bath, Huge Rec Rm w/bar and double wine cooler. Huge picture windows look out over beautiful deck & stunning landscaped yard. Community pool, tennis, walking paths & water access thru a boat launch. This is a 10!



**Alex./Sulgrave Manor \$469,000**  
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./Wellington Manor \$745,000**  
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./Hollin Hall Village \$459,900**  
7924 Jackson Road  
1,300 sq. ft. Hollin Hall rambler is an oasis for NATURE LOVERS: perennials abound in the front yard & raised garden beds in the bkyd. Beautiful upscale renovated kitchen. Newly refinished hwd floors & interior painting. 2 baths & 2 bedrooms, but 3rd bedroom could be easily configured from part of the large Family Rm addition. Walk-in closet. Newer HVAC, replacement windows, new hot water heater. Bkyd shed & Studio. WAYNEWOOD ELEMENTARY.



**Alex./Fort Hunt \$455,000**  
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.



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# High School Senior Addresses Board on LGBT Issues

**School Board conducts community review of Family Life Education curriculum recommendations.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**B**ennett Shoop remembers first being bullied in second grade. He liked to dress all in black, wear weird shirts, be alternative in his outward expression.

"At that point, it wasn't gay or queer or anything," Shoop said, "just different. I looked funny. People didn't like that."

Shoop, a senior at West Springfield High School, considers himself "gay and gender queer: not male or female." Though he was "assigned" male at birth.

Though he didn't understand the terms and their significance when he was younger, Shoop said he's always felt the way he now has words to describe.

"I always felt uncomfortable with the idea of masculinity and femininity," he said. "I didn't like that one was viewed, femininity, as a weakness, and masculinity what I was told I was supposed to feel."

Shoop is president of the Gender-Sexuality Alliance at West Springfield, where he said he has long dealt with nasty looks, verbal bullying and even other students throwing things at him. He said the experience is typical for other lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

He went to the school administration about it during his freshman year. "I didn't really see anything done about it," Shoop said. "I just decided to handle stuff on my own."

His plan to simply outlast the bullies and move on achieved some success.

"I feel like eventually, people just got tired of harassing me," Shoop said.

**THINKING BIGGER**, Shoop has decided to act as a representative for LGBT students before the Fairfax County School Board.

His second time as a citizen participant was May 26. That night, the board had updates to the Family Life Education curriculum on the agenda as new business. No action was scheduled.

"Due to the outrageous trans panic epidemic, trans students are beginning to feel unsafe without specific regulations in place," Shoop said in his remarks. "I've heard many students talking aggressively about their hatred for trans students recently and I feel it's very important that we follow the federal trans guidelines in order to further solidify the protection of trans students as well as utilize the FLE curriculum to educate about transgender people to dispel all the myths spread about us."

In a statement released the same day, Fairfax County Public Schools was clear that the new business agenda item for that



**West Springfield High School senior Bennett Shoop addresses the Fairfax County School Board regarding treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students at the May 26 meeting.**



**West Springfield High School senior Bennett Shoop is president of his school's Gender-Sexuality Alliance club.**

PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF FAIRFAX COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

evening dealt with specific recommendations from the Family Life Education Curriculum Advisory Committee.

"The committee's recommended lesson objectives include instruction on pregnancy and birth; teen dating relationships, teen dating violence, human trafficking along with prevention; and sexual assault education," the statement said. "No lessons or curriculum are being proposed to incorporate any elements of the guidance recently issued by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice which states that public schools must permit transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their chosen gender identity."

The statement goes on to say FCPS legal counsel is reviewing the guidance Obama's administration delivered on May 13. The counsel is supposed to give the board an interpretation.

In the meantime, FCPS has also been waiting for a ruling from Circuit Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Court in the case of Gavin Grimm v. Gloucester County School Board.

Grimm was born female but now identifies as male and has requested to be able to use the male bathrooms at his high school.



**Traditional Values Coalition Executive Director Andrea Lafferty speaks at the May 26 Fairfax County School Board meeting.**

"It would be premature for FCPS to issue a final regulation or procedures addressing all issues pertaining to transgender and gender nonconforming students," the school system statement continued. "Once a final ruling is reached, FCPS can address these issues with the benefit of the court's guidance and interpretation."

Several additional citizen speakers supported the School Board's actions in the last year adding gender identity and sexual orientation to the non-discrimination policy, as well as updates to the FLE curriculum.

However one of the more consistent and vocal opponents to those efforts, Traditional Values Coalition Executive Director Andrea Lafferty, was critical of the FLE. She called out elements from the curriculum and questioned their appropriateness for the grade level to which they were attached.

Lafferty also voiced her disapproval at what she said was the School Board ignoring citizens as it made decisions in these matters.

"Fairfax has been arrogant and you all,



**FCPS Pride Principal and veteran teacher Robert Rigby Jr. submitted video testimony for the May 26 School Board meeting.**

including the superintendent, have refused to apologize to parents," she said. "Now you're in cahoots with the Obama administration on this crazy guidance."

David Aponte of Arlington was in the audience, though not being a Fairfax County resident, he did not speak. Aponte is chairman of Northern Virginia chapter of the non-profit advocacy group Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). The organization works with K-12 schools to advocate for policies to help protect and make schools safer for LGBT students.

He follows Fairfax as well as other schools systems in the region and is pleased with the pace and direction Fairfax County has been moving.

**AFTER THE GUIDANCE** from Obama came out, Aponte said GLSEN sent a letter to all Fairfax County principals offering help if they had any questions.

"We've been working with various teachers, leadership in Fairfax County, to make sure they're representing their LGBT students."

Without formal guidelines from the

SEE SENIOR, PAGE 14

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# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

School Parking Lot, 2500 Parkers Lane. Sellers may bring gently used items and set their own prices. All profits are the sellers' to keep. Reserve a parking space for \$15 each and tables for \$5 each. Send requests to [parentsforwhitman@gmail.com](mailto:parentsforwhitman@gmail.com) no later than June 2, 2016.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 9

**Marijuana Awareness.** 7:30-9 p.m. at South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway. Marijuana awareness movie and panel discussion. Learn about the negative effects of cannabis on youth. Free. Space limited, reserve online at [upcfilmjune9.eventbrite.com](http://upcfilmjune9.eventbrite.com).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 10

**Induction Banquet.** 6:30 p.m. in room G100 at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria. Mount Vernon High School hosts 2016 Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet with inductees Greg Harris, class of 1988; Robyn Roughton, class of 1981; Tim Sager, class of 1984; and Sammy Zepka, class of 1979. Tickets are \$25, dinner will be served. Email Coach Tony Garza at [wagarza@fcps.edu](mailto:wagarza@fcps.edu).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**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.

**Telephone Support Group.** 7-8 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "Keeping Organized as a Caregiver: What Works?" Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices).

**Alzheimer's Association support groups** provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns throughout the Alzheimer's journey. Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at [www.alz.org/nca](http://www.alz.org/nca).

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.** Love boating and have interest in giving back to the community? Learn more about the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Auxiliary is built on four cornerstones: Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations, Marine Safety, and Fellowship. The Auxiliary will begin training staff for the upcoming 2016 boating season. All ages are welcome. Email [Flotilla2508@gmail.com](mailto:Flotilla2508@gmail.com) for more.

# JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>

# HOME RENOVATION

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Saturday, June 11th, 2016- 10am-2pm

Where: Sun Design Corporate Office  
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Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited!

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**131 SOMERVELLE ST  
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**425 E NELSON AVE  
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**810 CLOVERCREST DR  
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**8206 CHOLLMAN CT  
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**8320 LILAC LN  
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**229 GUTHRIE AVE  
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**1203 N ST NW #A  
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



A joint meeting of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church and the Islamic Center of North America - Virginia heard a presentation by Corey Saylor, director of the Department to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, then held group discussions and posted proposals for further work together.

## Working Against Islamophobia

### Church and mosque partner in mission.

Nearly 100 members of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church (MVUC) and the northern Virginia chapter of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA VA) came together in friendship and cooperation to address the growing issue of Islamophobia in American society at a meeting on Saturday, May 21, at the church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria.

Over the past several months, the national political debate has given rise to proposals to bar Muslims entering the United States, to carry out active surveillance of the Muslim community, and to a general atmosphere of religious intolerance.

The event was designed to develop a clearer understanding of the current situation and for MVUC

SEE COMBATting, PAGE 16

# King's Jewelry

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## PHOTO GALLERY!

### "Me and My Dad"

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

[editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# OPINION

## Talk to Your Teens

### So much at stake as teens approach graduation, summer.

It's hard to talk to your teens and young adults about alcohol and drugs.

But consider this.

Last year, more people died in Virginia of heroin overdose than in car accidents, more than 700 in all. There have been multiple overdoses of high school students in the last few months, high school students like

**EDITORIAL** yours. At this point in the opiate epidemic, you also need to talk about heroin and pills.

On graduation day in 2007, West Potomac High School endured the unimaginable tragedy. Two young women who had graduated just hours before died in a car driven by another young woman who had alcohol in her system. The driver and another passenger, a 2005 West Potomac graduate, also died in that

crash.

More recently, in June, 2015, Alex Murk and Calvin Li, shortly after graduation from Thomas Wootton High School in Rockville, Maryland, died in a car accident after leaving a party where alcohol was served. The owner of the house where the party took place, the father of the student hosting the party, was fined for knowingly allowing underage drinking. A newly passed law in Maryland, named for Alex and Calvin, means parents who knowingly host underage drinking parties in Maryland could face the possibility of up to a year in jail if an underage drinker leaves their home and is injured or killed in a car crash. The driver recently pled guilty to two counts of vehicular manslaughter.

Summer is the most dangerous time of year for teenagers.

Many teenagers will be celebrating, or possibly self-medicating, with alcohol. Many will engage in binge drinking.

While drinking and driving, or getting into a car with a driver who has been drinking, can

kill, there are many other problems that come along with binge drinking. The question of consent and sexual activity looms. Young men and women need to hear from their parents that they are expected to respect the idea of consent, all the more so in circumstances where alcohol or drugs might be involved. The potential consequences are enormous.

Parents owe it to themselves to talk to their teens about it, even as the teen turns away, rolls eyes, and otherwise indicates he or she is ignoring everything you say, some information will go in. They do hear you. They can't hear what you don't say.

Keep talking. Tell them you love them. Tell them it's been too much work to get them to this point to risk losing them now. Tell them not to text and drive. Tell them not to drink and drive. Tell them not to get in a car with anyone driving who has been drinking or otherwise under the influence. Tell them to wear their seatbelts.

Tell them you'll come pick them up anytime that they need a safe ride home, with the only consequence that they have to talk to you about it the next day.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### COMMENTARY

## Mosquitos, Zika and a Healthy Summer

BY SENATOR TIM KAINE  
U.S. SENATOR

As warm weather returns and the last days of school draw near, I'm sure that, like me, you're looking forward to spending a lot of time outdoors this summer. As you read troubling headlines from Latin America and other parts of the world about the Zika virus, I'm also sure you are concerned about how to keep yourself and your family safe.

Let's first understand the virus and the threat it poses to Virginia. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Zika virus spreads primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes mosquito, which is one of the types of mosquito present in Virginia during the summer months. According to the CDC, Texas, Florida and Hawaii are likely to be the U.S. states with the highest risk of experiencing local transmission of Zika virus by mosquitoes, based on prior experience with similar viruses. However, additional states are assumed to be at some risk due to the presence of Aedes mosquitoes. While, as of May 11, there have been 15 cases of Zika virus among individuals traveling abroad and returning to the Commonwealth (or among family members and close contacts of such individuals), there have been no recorded cases of someone contracting the virus from a mosquito in Virginia. Furthermore, while I'm writing this, no one has been shown to have acquired the virus from a mosquito bite anywhere within the continental United States.

Most people infected with the Zika virus display no symptoms. Among those whose infections do develop into Zika virus disease, the illness is largely mild and marked by fever, rash, joint pain and/or red eyes for two to seven



**U.S. Sen.  
Tim Kaine.**

days. An infection usually does not lead to hospitalization, and death from Zika is extremely rare.

As you probably already know, though, the virus does pose significant risks to a fetus during pregnancy. The CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) have both concluded that Zika infection during pregnancy is a cause of microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects.

Because of the connection between Zika and birth defects and the rare health threats the virus can pose to infected individuals, it is important for us to prevent the spread of the disease now and minimize our own risk of infection.

On Thursday, May 19, the Senate voted to approve a bipartisan \$1.1 billion package to prevent transmission of the virus and treat infections.

I also supported a larger \$1.9 billion package that provided more resources to the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of Health and Human Services to address this crisis both at home and abroad. Combined with efforts already underway by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and many localities, this federal effort would ensure that a robust public health initiative is in place to help control this pandemic.

With public health officials at each level of government working to combat this disease, we should consider our own role in preventing infection and stopping the potential spread of the virus. VDH recommends that Virginians follow the CDC's guidance for preventing Zika.

By visiting [www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention) or [www.ZikaVA.org](http://www.ZikaVA.org), you can learn about what types of insect repellent are most effective at preventing mosquito bites and how bed nets, water treatment tabs, permethrin spray and condoms can help prevent the transmission of the disease in your home and outdoors. On [www.ZikaVA.org](http://www.ZikaVA.org), you can see the state Zika plan and other Virginia-specific information.

The CDC's site contains specific guidance for pregnant women ([www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy)), women and couples considering pregnancy ([www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/thinking-about-pregnancy](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/pregnancy/thinking-about-pregnancy)) and parents ([www.cdc.gov/zika/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/parents)).

The Aedes mosquito does not fly far from where it breeds. Therefore, it is important to prevent the population of mosquitoes from growing in and around your home. Make sure to use window and door screens; regularly clean, turn over, cover or throw out any indoor and outdoor items that hold water (e.g. tires, flower vases, toys, garbage bins); and use sprays or foggers to kill mosquitoes. For more information on where to look out for mosquitoes and what products to use in controlling them around your home, you can visit [www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home](http://www.cdc.gov/zika/prevention/controlling-mosquitoes-at-home).

It's important to reiterate that there are currently no reported cases of mosquitoes transmitting the Zika virus in Virginia or anywhere else in the continental United States. While this fact offers us some reassurance, it also provides us with a clean slate and golden opportunity to prevent or lessen the severity of a large-scale outbreak in the coming months. With proactive and responsive steps from all levels of government and due care from each of us, we can take control of this public health threat and enjoy this summer to its fullest.

### Mount Vernon Gazette

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9421 Coral Lane

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new chef's kitchen, new bathrooms, thermal windows. Accentuated by elegant trim detail & freshly stained hardwood floors. Expansive veranda overlooks private grounds & professionally landscaped grounds. In prime location, walk to Mt. Vernon Yacht Club.



3163 Woodland Lane

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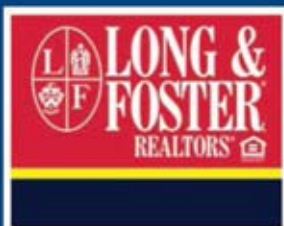
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# Seniors Unfairly Tapped for School Budget

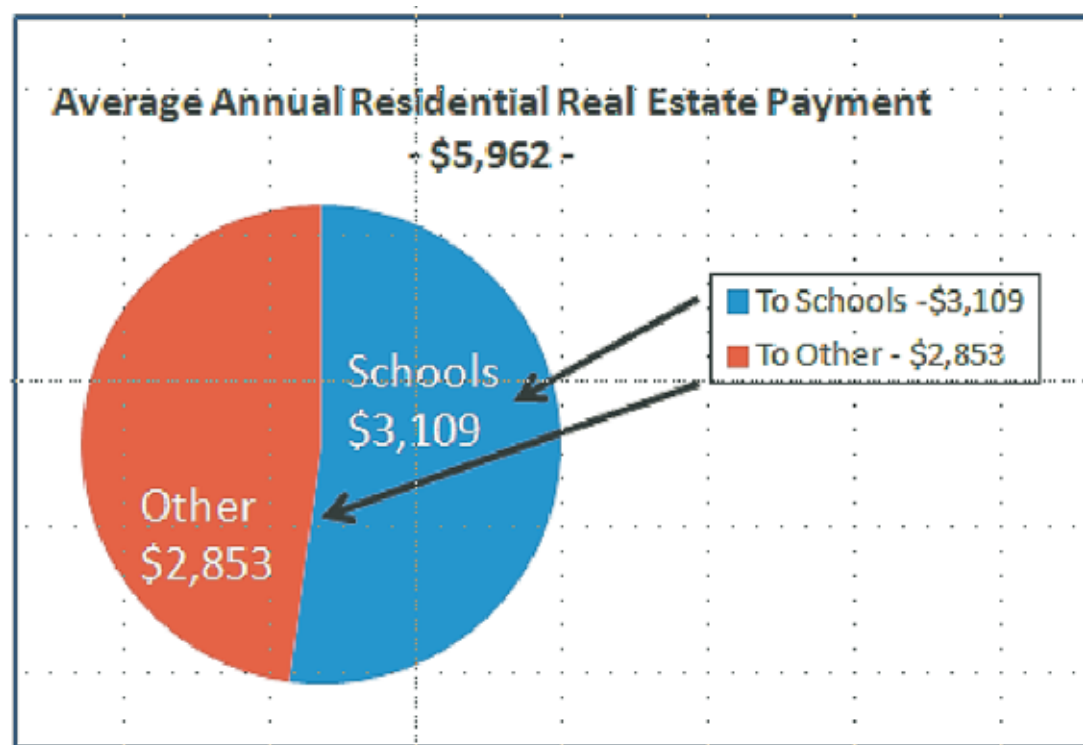
To the Editor:

The May 19-25, edition of the Connection had an opinion page article titled, "In Search of Diversified Revenue – Fairfax County residents expect to see meals tax question on November ballots." The article began by saying that local governments pay for almost all of local services, including schools, by taxing a single industry, property owners.

It's time to address a real estate tax inequity, i.e., the continued full taxation of elderly homeowners who have not had children in the school system for years and years. The average annual real estate tax per household after the recent FY 2017 rate increase is \$5,962; 52.2 percent of that (a little over \$3,100) goes to support the county school system. (See chart.)

Residential homeowners pay the full real estate tax whether or not they have children in schools. There is never any age at which a homeowner sees a dime's decrease in his or her taxes. Parents of students do not pay any "tuition."

My proposal is that elderly homeowners, starting at age 65 or maybe 70, be given a small "tax forgiveness" rebate, funded by a per-student user fee assessed at annual school registration. This would be revenue-neutral to the county. The fee would pass through the county from parents to elderly



taxpayers via a tax reduction. Here's the math for a hypothetical example for 65 year old and over taxpayers:

- ❖ The county's 2015-16 school enrollment is about 187,000 (K through 12).
- ❖ In 2015, there were about 412,000

housing units in Fairfax County (Source: "Demographic Reports 2015, County of Fairfax, Virginia"). In 2014, about 19.1 percent of housing units were occupied by persons 65 years old or older (Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community

Survey 1-Year Estimates"). So, assume that roughly 19.1 percent of those 412,000 housing units, or 78,692 units, were owned by 65-and-older persons (actual ownership data not available to author).

❖ An annual school system revenue-neutral "user fee" of \$100 per student, paid at the time of annual registration, would yield about \$18,700,000 (187,100 students x \$100).

❖ Now, spread the \$18,700,000 over about 78,692 housing units (the estimate of housing units owned by folks age 65 and over) and it would yield about \$238 per year for each of those senior households (\$18,700,000/78,692).

That is a very modest 4.0 percent annual tax "rebate" from the average 2017 tax bill

of \$5,962 per household. The seniors deserve a little break.

See what your supervisors think.

**John A. Knight**  
Springfield

## Dead Zone For Innovation

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article "Fairfax Area Becomes a 'No Drone Zone'" on Thursday Jan. 14. As a junior at West Potomac High School who participates in STEM classes as well as in radio-controlled hobbies outside of school, the recent regulations on the use of drones have been frustrating. As a result of these regulations several community events scheduled by the STEM department have had to be canceled, as well as requiring student travel for testing projects due to the 30 mile radius restrictions.

As a member of the National Association of Rocketry, and the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) I have built and flown rockets and UAS for almost 10 years. As a student enrolled in the Virginia Aerospace

Technology Scholars Program, it requires me to develop, research, and study about unmanned systems in order to prepare research and projects that respond to the program challenges for launch systems into low earth orbit, to the moon, and eventually to Mars. These research projects, in addition to my State Science Fair Awards on my unmanned recovery systems development, have been the core of my goal to eventually be an aerospace engineer.

Since the referenced article was published, the FAA, on May 4, released a memorandum addressing and updating hobby and educational use of UAS: [www.faa.gov/uas/regulations\\_policies/media/Interpretation-](http://www.faa.gov/uas/regulations_policies/media/Interpretation-Educational-Use-of-UAS.pdf)

Educational-Use-of-UAS.pdf

I believe the most important clarification was the use of UAS by students at an educational institution classifies as a "hobby or recreational" use, meaning that as long as the actions follow Section 336, the actions are lawful. This is extremely important for the STEM classes as it allows for more hassle free use of UAS in the curriculum and for research projects.

This is a good first step towards change, and I applaud the FAA understanding that the use of these new technologies are important to STEM students, and makes clear that model aircraft can be used as a

teaching tool for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), as well as aeronautics. A "No Drone Zone" can be interpreted as a dead zone for student innovation.

**Christopher Jones**

West Potomac High School, 17, Junior

## Support Meals Tax

To the Editor:

I have a family of five, and boy, do we eat! We eat at restaurants in Old Town and restaurants in Arlington. We make special trips to eat in D.C. And every time we do, we help those school districts have all the resources they need to attract the best teachers and provide services and programming all children need in order to be successful later in life.

For, you see, Alexandria, Arlington and D.C. all have a meals tax. While Fairfax

County Public Schools struggles with its budget annually and our teachers continue to go without adequate pay raises, Arlington County is paying their teachers more — and attracting some of our top talent.

Our students and our teachers deserve a school system that has a consistent and strong revenue stream that doesn't have to play chicken with the Board of Supervisors and the state every budgeting cycle. A system that can provide social services for those in need, top quality training for its staff and programming to fit every child's

needs are not luxuries, they are necessary for a growing, successful community.

Few diners, if any, refuse to eat out in districts that charge a revenue-producing meals tax and the tax is so incremental, many do not even realize they have paid a meals tax at all.

Our school system is hungry for proper, adequate funding. Let's support FCPS by supporting the meals tax.

**Sara Jefferies**  
Alexandria

## MILITARY NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos are welcome.

**Matthew J. Willis**, a 2014 graduate of West Potomac H. S., recently completed U.S. Army Basic and Advanced Infantry Training at Ft. Benning, Ga. Willis is currently assigned to 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colorado. He is the son of Gibson and Susan Willis of Mt. Vernon.

U.S. Air Force Airman **Gilang V. Purnama** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Purnama is the son of Harta and Astupi K. Purnama of Alexandria. He is a 2015 graduate of Mount Vernon High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman **Zykiah Z. Potts**

graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Potts is the daughter of Quincy Potts of Washington, D.C., and Mary Price of Fort Belvoir, Va., and granddaughter of Albert Elmore of Washington, D.C. She graduated in 2013 from Mount Vernon High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman **Sofia E. Espinoza** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Espinoza is the daughter of Ana Constanza, step-daughter of Juan Chavez-Fabela, and cousin of Evis Constanza, all of Alexandria, and sister of Ana Espinoza of Arlington. She is also the sister of Rocio Constanza. The airman graduated in 2010 from Mount Vernon High School.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class **Shawn L. Von Feldt** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Von Feldt is the son of Mi Young and Darren Von Feldt of Ashburn, Va. He is a 2015 graduate of Mount Vernon High School.



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117 E Walnut Street. Fabulous 3 BR/ 2.5 BA Rosemont Craftsman Home with an inviting front porch, just blocks from Hooff's Run Park. This renovated home w/open floor plan features hardwood floors & stylish crown molding. The amazing kitchen boast granite countertops, SS appliances & glass subway tile. Main level walks out to a spacious back deck & fenced-in backyard. Convenient tandem parking for two cars. <http://www.homesofalexandria.com>  
**Bobi Bomar 703-927-2213**



**Alexandria/ Old Town \$999,000**  
911 Cameron Street. Historic circa 1820 plaqued 2 bedroom, 2 bath semi-detached home with expansive gardens. Living room w/high ceilings, beautiful moldings and a fireplace. Formal dining room and adjacent kitchen with brick floors, and an oversized window looking out to the private garden. Upper level with 2 bedrooms and a sitting room. Prime location just 1 block off of King Street!  
**Christine Garner 703-587-4855**



**Alexandria/King's Hundred \$915,000**  
1605 Stonebridge Road. Beautiful 4 bedroom (all upper), 3.5 bath brick colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac with off-street parking. Over 4,000 sq. ft. of living space on 3 levels with many recent updates. Lovely fenced backyard with patio and mature landscaping.  
**Christine Garner 703-587-4855**

## JUST LISTED



**Alexandria \$585,000**  
8448 Porter Lane, Alex 22308. Lovely, renovated/ upgraded 4 BR, 3 full bath home in the beautiful Stratford community in scenic Mount Vernon area, just off the Mount Vernon Parkway/Potomac River.  
**Mike Downie 703-780-2727**



**Alexandria/ Land of Herbert \$585,000**  
3 Herbert St. Updated 3 lvl 3 BR 2.5 BA townhome. 1-car gar. Small enclave. Open flr pln. New hardy plank siding. LR w/3-sided gas flr. Custom built-in banquettes. Gas cooking. Silestone cntrtops. Master Ste. Luxe BA w/sep spa shwr, soaking tub, dble vanities, cherry cabinetry & granite. Hall BA w/custom shower/tub enclosure & mirror. Hdwrds, recessed lights, crown molding & more. Deck & patio. Cts to "The Avenue" & commuting routes.  
**Sandy McConville 703-402-1567**

## PRICE REDUCTION!



**Fairfax \$564,999**  
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**Alexandria \$445,000**  
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**Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010 or Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418**

## OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



**Alexandria \$435,000**  
5902 Mount Eagle Dr. #514. Enjoy the serene view of trees from your large, enclosed & private balcony! Spacious 1,525 SF, 2 bedroom w/den, 2 baths; newer kitchen, other updates. Garage & storage space convey. Resort-like gated community just 2 lights from Old Town; pet-friendly, w/ 35+ wooded acres & many amenities. Financially strong; no special assessments ever. Tour @ 5901mounteagledr514.com.  
**Cindy Baggett 703-593-1418 & Leslie Rodriguez 703-400-3010**

## OPEN SUNDAY JUNE 5 FROM 1-4 PM



**Alexandria \$405,000**  
6830 Darby Lane. Tucked away in Loisdale Estates, this three bedroom, one full, and one half-bath, all brick SFH is conveniently located to Franconia-Springfield Metro, Springfield Town Center, Ft. Belvoir and commuting routes. Spacious and open, with hardwood floors on the main level, this home has a wood-burning fireplace, screened-in porch, large lower level (with separate rear entrance), and paved driveway.  
**Susan Lynch 703-587-6391**

## COMING SOON



**Alexandria \$379,900**  
Alexandria House Condo 505. This spacious and open 1 BR, 1 BA condo showcases a just-renovated kitchen at a reduced price! All rooms are filled with an abundance of light thru the wall of windows in each room that provides access to the 46-ft. balcony for outdoor living and grilling. Garage and storage spaces convey. 24/7 concierge. 2 lights to D.C., walk to Metro.  
**Lib Willey 703-362-7206**



**Alexandria \$329,900**  
5948 Kimberly Anne Way. Views of NOTHING BUT TREES! Updated - granite, stainless, floor in kitchen. Family room with built-ins, fireplace. 2 master suites. NEW windows. Close to Metro.  
**Julie Hall 703-786-3634**

## NEW LISTING



**S. Alexandria \$249,000**  
6618 B-1 East Wakefield. Move-In Ready with fresh paint, shiny floors, built-ins & newer kitchen/bath. Porch for morning coffee. Only 4 units in this building plus laundry/storage. Comfortable living with Potomac River strolling, biking the G.W. bike path or walking to Belle View Shopping Center for shopping & dining. Community pool & tennis. Old Town Alexandria, National Airport and Huntington Metro are close by. Condo fee includes water/gas. Call for a private tour today!  
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# Human Trafficking Deemed Public Safety Priority

## County budget fills gap after Federal grant ends.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE



**Bulova**



**Herry**

The Fairfax County FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan included a provision to replace expired Federal funding with county funding for enforcement efforts related to human trafficking. County funding included \$333,509 for the continuation of a human trafficking detective and analyst who perform work for the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force.

The Board of Supervisors on April 9, 2013 had authorized the Police Department to apply for and accept \$666,667 in multi-year funding and two grant positions from the U.S. Department of Justice to support the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force. When the funding expired on Sept.

30, 2015, the Police Department maintained the program until the FY2017 budget cycle. Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) said when he got a heads up the Federal grant wasn't going to be renewed, he made the Board of Supervisors aware. He said there was enough money available that they could fund the human trafficking position for the rest of the budget year.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova says this budget provision was her initiative along with Herry and was supported by most of the board.

Herry says his interest goes back to his first year in office and a conversation with

a police officer. "I did a bunch of research. It happens in all of our neighborhoods and no one knows about it."

The problem of teen sex trafficking was first recognized in 2012 when Fairfax County Detective William Woolf, then a gang detective, discovered a 16-year-old sex trafficking victim in a gang. After subsequent investigations, sex trafficking victims were found in every high school in Fairfax County and more than 300 victims were found.

"We had previously expressed concern about the loss of the Federal grant and were pleased that County Executive Edward Long included continued funding in his Advertised FY 2017 Budget submission," Bulova said. "The loss of the Federal grant was disappointing but we didn't want to see the stability go away. We consider human trafficking one of our County's public safety priorities."

The Office of Management and Budget in an April public hearing indicated that the Police Department is currently working on revising the model for investigating human

trafficking to change the focus from the priorities of the Federal organizations to local/regional priorities. According to Herry, the mother of a trafficked victim appeared at the hearing and "gave the most impactful testimony in the three days of hearings. She was threatened at gunpoint."

The Office of Management and Budget indicated additional positions may be required. The Police Department will come back to the Board of Supervisors with an update in 6-12 months as the program structure is redefined and better data is collected.

This provision was included in the final mark up of the County budget on April 19. The budget was formally adopted on April 26.

Woolf, who was the human trafficking detective funded by the Federal grant, has been recently replaced by Detective John Spata. Spata assumed this position in early April and will be funded under the county budget.

Herry said, "I hope to see Spata stay as actively involved as Detective Woolf was in continuing to fight human trafficking."

## CRIME REPORTS

FROM PAGE 5

demanding property. The victim initially refused and the suspect assaulted him. A citizen attempted to help the victim and the suspect fled, where he was immediately located by police. The victim sustained minor injuries and was treated by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. A 22-year-old Alexandria man was transported to the adult detention center and charged with attempted robbery, larceny, assault, and obstruction of justice.

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 7700 block of Richmond Highway, May 19, 9:12 p.m. A man entered a business, displayed a knife to two employees, and demanded money. The victims complied and the suspect fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The victims did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as white, 25 to 30 years old, 5 feet 7 to 5 feet 10 inches tall with a slim build, dark brown mid-length hair with a mustached face, wearing a gray sweatshirt with a hood and dark pants. This suspect matches the description of a suspect in other similar incidents.

**ROBBERY:** 6200 block of Richmond Highway, May 19, 7:46 a.m. The victim reported that a man approached him in the bathroom of a business and began assaulting him. The suspect took cash from the victim and fled. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as black, 40 to 45 years old, approximately 6 feet tall and 220 pounds, wearing a purple shirt and jeans.

**BURGLARY WITH APPREHENSION:** 3800 block of Miramonte Place. May 18, 1:50 p.m. Officers responded to the burglary of an occupied dwelling in progress. The arrested, an 18-year-old man, was taken into custody by responding officers as he was leaving the residence and was subsequently charged with burglary.

**BURGLARY/ASSAULT:** 8200 block of Richmond Highway. May 18 at 12:53 a.m. Victim reports that three suspects forced their way into his residence and assaulted him, subsequently taking property from the victim and fleeing on foot. The suspects were described as a black male, early twenties having

Mohawk style hair, a red shirt and black pants. A black male, early to mid-twenties, average height, large build and black bandana. The third suspect was described as a black female, about 24-years-old, short stature and having a lighter complexion, dreadlock hairstyle and wearing black jacket and mask.

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 5600 block of Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. May 18, 3:53 a.m. Two men entered the 7-Eleven store, struck the clerk with the butt of a gun and fled with an undisclosed amount of cash. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspects were both described as black. One was described as 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 10 inches tall and 180 to 195 pounds. He was wearing dark clothing. The other suspect was described as 5 feet 8 to 5 feet 10 inches tall and 215 to 230 pounds. Both suspects were wearing masks partially covering their faces.

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:** 6500 block of Fort Hunt Road, May 15, 6:32 a.m. An employee reported that someone entered the business and took property.

MAY 27-30  
LARCENIES  
1800 block of Belle View Boulevard, wiper from vehicle  
6300 block of Columbia Pike, license plate from vehicle  
9000 block of Greylock Street, jewelry from residence  
3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, merchandise from business  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business  
6600 block of Richmond Highway, packages from residence  
7600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
7600 block of Richmond Highway, shoes from business  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, phone from residence  
8100 block of Richmond Highway, phone from business  
8700 block of Richmond Highway,

phone from business  
3500 block of Robert E. Lee, phone from residence  
3700 block of Roxbury Lane, license plate from vehicle  
MAY 27  
LARCENIES  
6500 block of Quander Road, keys from school  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
3100 block of Sherwood Hall Lane, baby items from business  
MAY 26  
LARCENIES  
2300 block of Huntington Station Court, electronic device from residence  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business  
6600 block of Richmond Highway, sunglasses from business

MAY 25  
LARCENIES  
6400 block of Cygnet Drive, package from residence  
8400 block of Fort Hunt Road, phone from school  
5900 block of Richmond Highway, watches from residence  
8600 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business  
MAY 24  
LARCENIES  
7900 block of Audubon Avenue, property from residence  
7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, liquor from business  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business  
8200 block of Russell Road, purse from vehicle

6600 block of Wakefield Drivem property from residence  
MAY 20-22  
LARCENIES  
2000 block of Elkin Street, package from residence  
2200 block of Farrington Avenue, beer from business  
8400 block of Frye Road, beer from business  
8500 block of Mount Zephyr Drive, tools from residence  
2500 block of Parkers Lane, cash from residence  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, phone from vehicle  
6600 block of Richmond Highway, laptop computer from vehicle  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

## WSHS Senior Addresses Board

FROM PAGE 6

school system, Aponte said sometimes teachers or administrators need help responding to a situation when a transgender student is targeted.

"What we've been fortunate to see is that much of the staff tends to be protecting the students," Aponte said. "They've been very helpful in these areas."

The final citizen speech was a recorded video statement from Robert Rigby Jr., a teacher at West Potomac High School and president of FCPS Pride, a certified FCPS employees group that supports lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, staff and families throughout the school system.

Rigby said he and FCPS Pride are supportive of the school system adopting regulations borne out of the Obama guidance.

He also expressed his own acceptance of transgender students as "a journey."

At first when he learned about students being accommodated to use different bathrooms, Rigby

said he wasn't sure if he liked the idea.

But after meeting with parents of transgender youth, transgender adults and going to discussion groups, "They were no longer scary," he said.

And so Rigby's encouragement for people in opposition to Obama's guidance and any action by the School Board to formally conform with it was to "go out and talk to people."

"Reach out, meet several real transgender people," he said. "If you have an open heart, you won't be afraid or angry any more."

The full text of the FCPS May 26 statement on Family Life Education update recommendations is available online at [www.fcps.edu/news/fle-comm-recs.shtml](http://www.fcps.edu/news/fle-comm-recs.shtml).

A link to the community review page for FLEAC, being conducted until June 24, is accessible through the same page.

The School Board is scheduled to take action on the FLEAC recommendations at its June 30 regular business meeting, held at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church.



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**Manors of Mount Vernon**  
8301 Marble Dale, Alexandria VA 5 br/4.5 ba, 4,000+ sq ft. Large corner lot. Front porch, large deck off kitchen and family room, slate patio. Freshly painted with new carpet. Shows beautifully! \$949,000 Karen Leonard 703-328-7041 MLS # FX9663534



**Harbor View** 10733 Greene Drive, Lorton VA  
Waterfront! Major Reno 2014, open flr pln, Yr round water views. High-end kit. and luxury baths, hwd flrs, walkout basement, 4 br, 3.5 ba. Deep water boating, Harbor View Rec Club. \$865,000 Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 MLS # FX9659579



**Braddock Heights** 1503 Ruffner Rd, Alexandria VA  
Charming Cape Cod with a Cottage feel. Secret oasis tucked into beautiful gardens yet 1 mile from two Metros. Remodeled kitchen and baths. Four bedrooms and 2 baths \$847,000 Liz Bucuvalas 703-626-8400 MLS # AX9662372



**Open House Sunday 1-4pm Memorial Heights** 2830 East Side Drive, Alexandria VA  
Newly renovated solidly built brick Rambler on large flat lot close to D.C., Fort Belvoir, Metro, Old Town Alexandria, shopping, biking and restaurants! No HOA! Hurry, will not last. \$399,000 Donnan C. Wintermute 703-628-6868 MLS # AX9645028

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**Pointe at Park Center** 3311 Wyndham Circle Unit 1192, Alexandria VA  
Gorgeous 1 br, 1 ba condo in gated community close to major commuting routes! Updated kitchen and bathroom. Custom walk-in closet. Assigned, garage parking. New HVAC in 2016. \$223,000 Tanya Blosser 703-310-8053 MLS # AX9669138



**Open House Sunday 2-4 pm Madison of McLean**  
6630 Madison Mclean Drive, Mclean VA Huge price reduction on this popular, rarely on the mkt "a" mdl end TH in much sought-after location \* a commuter's dream \* newer roof & hvac \* 2 fpl's \* sep 2-car gar \* priced to sell now! \$850,000 Ed Pagett 571-237-4753 MLS# FX9624411



**Abingdon Row** 1023 N. Royal Street #110, Alexandria VA  
1 bed+Den/2 full baths, just like a 2 bedroom, Top of the line everything, Brazilian hardwoods, granite, chef's kitchen, stainless, elevated unit with 350+ sq ft of outdoor space! \$525,000 Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562 MLS # AX8748007



**Sequoyah** 8054 Pantano Place, Alexandria VA  
Lovely 2 br/1.5 ba 2 level TH w/fireplace, deck and patio. Remodeled and Move-In Ready. Fresh paint, new windows/SG doors too! Convenient to D.C., Pentagon, Fort Belvoir, shops and dining. \$168,000 Karen Leonard 703-328-7041 MLS # FX9668623

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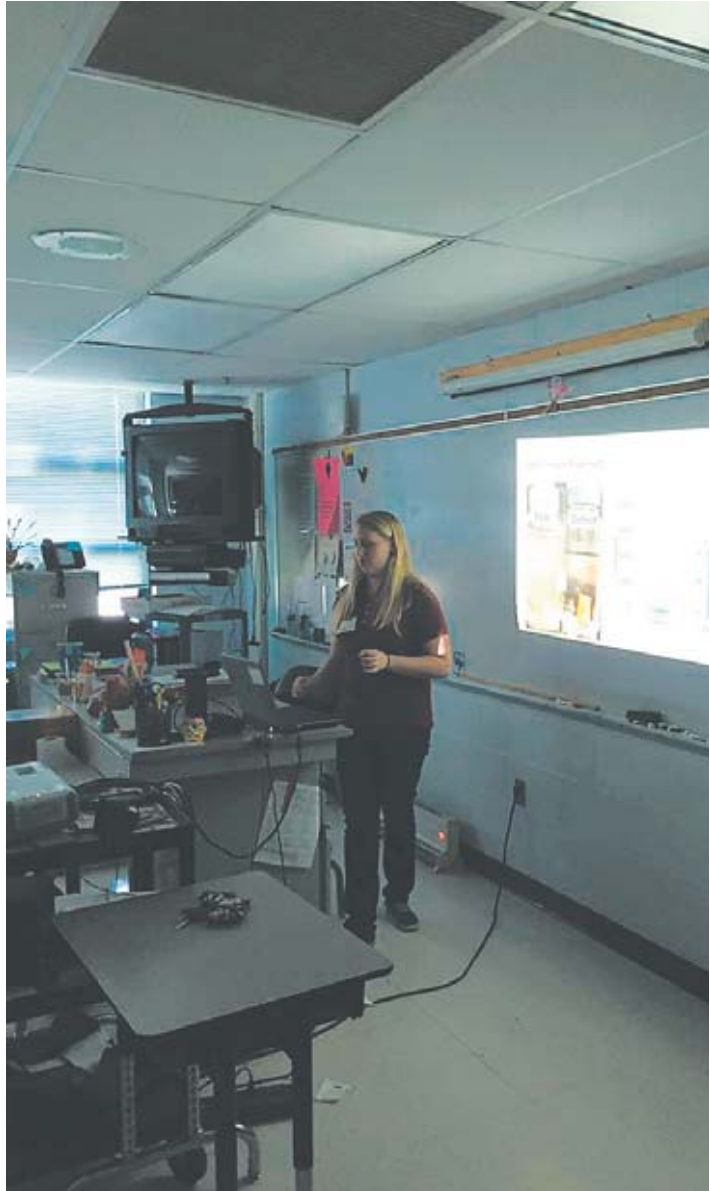


PHOTO BY GARRETT HUBBARD

### Science That Serves

**Christina Devine, West Potomac High School Class of 2010, and a graduate student member of the Virginia Tech Flint Water Study Team that uncovered lead in the tap water of Flint, Mich., residents, speaks to two WPHS science classes on May 24 about the Flint water crisis and the role science can play in helping people. Devine and the rest of Professor Marc Edwards' team were recently presented with the inaugural Virginia Tech Ut Prosim award, for fulfilling the Tech motto, which means 'That I may serve.'**

## Combating Islamophobia

FROM PAGE 9

and the ICNA VA mosque to work together to jointly develop approaches for fostering interfaith understanding and tolerance. The church and the mosque are a 10-minute drive apart in the Hollin Hills-Hybla Valley area of the Mountt Vernon District of Fairfax County.

The event was kicked off by Kate Walker, minister of MVUC, and Imam Yasir Siddig of the ICNA VA mosque. The keynote speaker was Corey Saylor, an expert on political communications, legislative advocacy, media relations and

anti-Islam prejudice in the United States. Saylor directs the Department to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

After Saylor's presentation, members of the MVUC congregation and the ICNA VA mosque developed several proposals to work together to improve interfaith cooperation and understanding in the Mount Vernon area.

For more information, contact: Kate Walker, minister, MVUC at [minister@mvuc.org](mailto:minister@mvuc.org) or Arshad Mahmood of the INCA VA at [Arshad.Mahmood@cox.net](mailto:Arshad.Mahmood@cox.net).

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Meet The Chef: Naina Mohammed

London Curry House offers regional specialties.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

**N**aina Mohammed stirs a large pot of tomatoes, purple onions, fresh ginger, garlic bits and marsala — 15 different spices: “I use everything.” Six blocks of butter float on the surface, slowly melting into the sauce that will simmer for two hours. Mohammed is making Madras chicken curry at London Curry House located at Cameron Station.

Mohammed ladles vegetable oil into a well-worn skillet and heats the oil until it crackles. He drops a handful of fennel geek into the pan and tosses in a broken dried red chili. He tosses the spices and flips the pan until the flames soar high to “smoke it” and get a better taste. In goes a ladle of diced tomatoes, again tossed to flaming. “Then I add a spoonful of fresh ginger and garlic bits. The red chili will make it a bit spicy,” he says.

He dips into a container of chicken chunks marinating in onion, garlic bits and tomato and “flavored” with turmeric, coriander and cumin. Mohammed adds the chicken to the skillet and stirs for 2-3 minutes as the sauce splatters onto the burner. Now it is time for the tomato sauce that has been partially removed from the kettle and kept on the back of six burners for easy reach. Mohammed works with two six-burner stoves and says he could use another six burners for the weekend. Every dish is made from scratch, and the manager Rabin Shrestha says, “We use different sauces for all of our dishes. In Southern India the dishes are more spicy.” He says he has seen a trend in the last five years for Americans to want to try more spices.

Mohammed has made a paste out of flaked coconut, coriander, chilies, black

pepper, cumin and water. The final step is to add a spoonful of coconut paste and then canned coconut milk for double flavor. “And just a minute, I have to get the garnish.” He dishes up the chicken, sprinkles shredded ginger and cilantro and adds a chili pepper for the grand presentation.

Shrestha says customer favorites are butter chicken goat nehari and biryani that comes in a brass bowl with your choice of meat, topped with naan and baked in the oven. Mohammed’s own favorite is chicken chhetinad, a recipe from Southwest India. He says that all of the masala for this dish are made from scratch, and it has herbs as well. “But it isn’t on the menu.” Sometimes the customers get lucky and it is added to the buffet.

Today’s buffet features ratura (a sweet corn curry with fried bread), egg fried rice, butter chicken, tandoori chicken — 10 dishes in all including the pakora (appetizers) and sweet rice pudding for dessert. A large container of rose water sits at the end of the table. Sunita Rana, a manager, says the rose water is very refreshing and soothing in the heat. The restaurant makes it with rose syrup but she remembers back home in Punjab her grandmother used to make it with crushed roses. The orange and tangerine dining area is punctuated with glass beads hanging around the windows. The bar in the next room offers a selection of beers including Taj Mahal and Kingfisher from Bangalore and a silent ball game on TV over the bar.

Mohammed has been chef at London Curry House for a year and a half. Previously he worked in another local restaurant. His training was a year in cook’s college in India followed by three years in Dubai. He said he always liked to cook like his grandfather: “My favorite dish was his semolina pudding. He made it and sold it in the town. Everybody like it.”



**Above: London Curry House Chef Naina Mohammed flames fennel geek, a dried chili and chopped tomatoes to give curry dish a smoked flavor. (Right) Mohammed adds chunks of marinated chicken flavored with turmeric, coriander and cumin and sautés for a couple of minutes. Final steps are addition of the tomato sauce and a coconut paste plus canned coconut milk for double flavor.**



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

**To finish off the dish Chef Naina Mohammed garnishes the Madras chicken curry with shredded cilantro and fresh ginger and to add a dried chili for the presentation.**

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Exhibit: “A Retrospective Exhibit of Florals and Still Life.”** Gallery hours at Goodwin House Alexandria Art Center, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Artist Concetta C. Scott presents her work. Call 703-578-1000 for more.

**Potomac Fiber Arts: “Horizons.”** Through June 12, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artists’ interpretations of separations between sky and earth, landscapes, seascapes, sunsets,

sunrises. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited and for sale. Free. Visit

[www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**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](http://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](http://www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

**Multiple Exposures Gallery: New Photography by Soomin Ham.**

Through June 19, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Photographer Soomin Ham exhibits new work. Free. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

**Multiple Exposures Gallery: New Photos by E. E. McCollum.**

Through June 19, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. McCollum’s work explores familiarity, simplicity, and the commitment to place in a series of photographs made over the course of a year at a small, suburban pond. Working in black and white, McCollum brings a sense of intimacy to a small landscape. Free. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

**Art in Progress: “Highest Honor.”**

Through June 30, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. In collaboration with military veterans from The Art League’s IMPart program, artist and League instructor Andy Yoder will construct a site-specific, suspended, 25-foot triangular banner for the Torpedo Factory Art Center’s atrium. Yoder will be working daily in studio 8 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center to create the banner through the month of June. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**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 over three decades, as well as Liberal Studies’ Artists from Georgetown University, Anna Katalkina, Nan Morrison, Anne Ridder, Robert Murray and Rana Ryan. Free. Contact Robert F. Murray at 703-798-8686 or [vbgpromo@aol.com](mailto:vbgpromo@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](http://www.carlylehouse.org) for more.

**“Violent Grace: A Retrospective.”** Through July 30, gallery hours at



# ENTERTAINMENT

Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

## Art Exhibit: "Streets Meets Glass."

Through Aug. 15, business hours at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The exhibit features the work of two Del Ray Artisans artists, Joshua Oliveira and Betsy Mead. Free. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 2

### Martha Washington's 285th

**Birthday.** 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Mount Vernon Celebrates Martha Washington's 285<sup>th</sup> birthday with a naturalization ceremony. "Martha Washington" will deliver the keynote address to the country's newest citizens. Visit with "Lady Washington" and then join a Mansion tour devoted to Martha Washington (additional fee). This behind-the-scenes tour will give visitors access to the third floor. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth, and free for children. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Paint Del Ray.** 6-9 p.m. along Mount Vernon Ave. Painting activities for all ages will be set up in front of business along Mount Vernon Avenue, from Green Street Gardens to Del Ray Artisans Gallery. Join in recycled plastic bottle art, paint an old car, take pictures in the frame shop photo booth, make a garden tile and more. Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Opening Reception: "Violent Grace."** 6-9 p.m. at Convergence,

1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Celebrate the exhibit and meet the artist. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

## "U.S. Rangers at Pointe du Hoc."

7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Attend a lecture by LTC (R) Christianson, Senior Historian to the Secretary of Defense in honor of 72nd anniversary of D-Day. Free. Visit [www.pointeduhoc.eventbrite.com](http://www.pointeduhoc.eventbrite.com) to register.

**"Lost Alexandria: Remembering the Past."** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See what places and buildings have been demolished in Alexandria over the years in this photographic tour of the City. Tickets are \$10. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic).

## JUNE 2-12

### UNITY Interactive Public Art

**Project.** At 2200 Block of Mount Vernon Ave. Nancy Belmont, creator of the Courage Wall, launches a new interactive public art project. UNITY is circular arrangement of 32 poles in a large field. Each pole is labeled with an identifier. For example, "I'm a parent," "I speak English as a Second Language," "I identify as LGBTQ." With yarn, participants tie to each pole with which they identify. A canopy of interconnectedness forms as more people participate. In the end, we see that we are all connected by something. Free. Visit [www.projectunity.net](http://www.projectunity.net) for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 3

**Family Fun Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool

games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) for more.

## Farm to Table: Reception, Tour,

**and Dinner.** 6:30-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon for a special evening of tours and dinner featuring products cultivated and produced on the estate. Tickets are \$150. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## Art Reception: "Respect: Unsung

**Heroes in Uniform."** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists express their point of view, depict something amusing, or honor a loved one. There will be a small memorial section where visitors can reflect, contemplate and remember. Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) or call 703-838-4827.

## JUNE 3-26

### Art Exhibit: "Respect: Unsung

**Heroes in Uniform."** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists express their point of view, depict something amusing, or honor a loved one. There will be a small memorial section where visitors can reflect, contemplate and remember. Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) or call 703-838-4827.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 4

**Whitman Annual Yard Sale.** 8-11 a.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School,

2500 Parkers Lane. The community is invited to participate as well. Bring gently used items and set your own price. Parking spaces may be reserved for \$15 each and tables may be rented for \$5 each. Email [parentsforwhitman@gmail.com](mailto:parentsforwhitman@gmail.com).

## Seminary Ridge Community Yard

**Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1000 St. Stephens Road. Email [mandmbower@aol.com](mailto:mandmbower@aol.com) for more.

## Learn to Row Day.

9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Dee Campbell Rowing Center, 1 Madison St. Alexandria Community Rowing and the Alexandria (T.C. Williams High School) and West Potomac Crew Boosters are hosting a National Learn to Row Day event. Participants will have the opportunity tour the boathouse, learn the basics of the rowing stroke on an indoor rowing machine, and head out on the water for a row (weather permitting). The event is free and open to anyone ages 14 to adult. Visit [www.rowalexandria.com](http://www.rowalexandria.com).

## Civil War Camp Day.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about Civil War soldier and civilian life. This annual living history event features Union and Confederate military and civilian reenactors in camp settings. The program includes infantry and artillery drills and firing demonstrations, equipment displays, and civilian impressions. Among the living history units participating are the 28<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, the 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Regular Infantry, Co. K, the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, and Thompson's Independent Battery C of the Pennsylvania Light Artillery. Free, but suggested donation is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) for more.

## SCAN's 4th Annual Croquet Day.

12-3:30 p.m. at Hensley Park, 4200 Eisenhower Ave. Croquet Day is a backyard BBQ style croquet tournament. The tournament is played on 10-12 concurrent fields. Team members, families and other spectators who are not currently playing in a match will find food and family-friendly activities, such as carnival games, face painting, live music, etc. Tickets are \$75 for a family team and \$150 for an adult team. Visit [www.scanva.org/croquet](http://www.scanva.org/croquet) for more.

## Sixth Annual D-Day

**Commemoration.** 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Join the Alexandria-Caen Sister Cities Committee for the sixth annual D-Day commemoration events. Find WWII re-enactors and memorabilia, dancing, and more. Free to attend. Visit [dday2016.eventbrite.com](http://dday2016.eventbrite.com).

**Sounds of Pohick.** 4 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Musical groups featured are the St. Francis Choir and St. Cecelia/St. Alban Choir, both for children; the Pohick Pickers, an instrumental group; the Pohick Bell Choir, who will ring handbells and handchimes; the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble, which sings 16th and 17th century anthems; and the Choir of Pohick, the nearly 40-voice adult choir. Free. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) for more.


## JUNE 4-JULY 17

### Target Gallery: "Please Touch."

Gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Sixteen national and international artists, including four people from Virginia, were juried into this group show. This all-media exhibition features 20 works with

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 22

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Majestic Reopens With New Chef, Menu

After undergoing a facelift, the Majestic has reopened with executive chef Gaby Hakman at the helm.

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

Walk past the exterior of the Majestic on King Street and at first glance, it seems nothing much has changed over the past several months. But look closer — peer inside — and a new scene emerges. It's one that executive chef and proprietor Gaby Hakman has been carefully cultivating since coming onto the scene earlier this year, and it's finally come to fruition.

"We decided to go with a completely new direction," Hakman said, from a renewed dining room to a fresh menu.

The design of the dining room is a mixture of old and new, from an original sign from 1932's Majestic that hangs inside the front window to the tin ceiling lining the sides of the room, which harks back to the original incarnation of the restaurant.

"I think there will still be a sense of familiarity to the place," Hakman said.

But what diners are really coming for is the food. And while the menu has been redesigned, like the building itself, there are still touches of the restaurant's history throughout.

"Even though the food is new, it's comfort food," Hakman said. "It's not overly pretentious, it's not overly plated; it's definitely I'd say very rustically elegant."

One of the highlights: The roast chicken, Hakman says.

"As humble as the dish is, the roast chicken is really wonderful. It's a great chicken, it's a great plate, and I don't think there's anything more comforting than a good roast chicken," she said. "I think ours is very good. I'm happy with that."

The desserts, too, take on new life while maintaining Old World charm. Hakman's team kept the Majestic coconut cake on the menu but have otherwise given the sweets list a facelift. The Nutella budino is especially noteworthy, Hakman said; layers of dark chocolate ganache and Nutella budino (a pudding-style texture) come together to make magic on the plate.

The Majestic opened up brunch service last Saturday and lunch on Tuesday, and though integrating all three services in such short time could have been a bit of a trial by fire, the openings have actually been quite smooth, Hakman said.

"I think we've accomplished the vision that I had with the food, and ... I'm proud of the whole menu," she said.

Hakman and her team are settling in nicely — and the neighbors are welcoming the newly minted Majestic back into the King Street fold.

"It's been a great experience for me to come up here and get involved with this restaurant group (Alexandria Restaurant Partners) and have this opportunity," Hakman said. "I've come to the Old Town area for 20 years ... and it feels wonderful to give something to this community."

Hope Nelson owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email: [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).



The design of the Majestic's dining room is a mixture of old and new features. "I'm proud of the whole menu," executive chef and proprietor Gaby Hakman (at left) says. Below: The Spit-Roasted Chicken, Hakman calls it "humble" and "wonderful."



PHOTOS BY JEREMY BRANDT VOREL

## If You Go

**The Majestic**  
911 King St.

Hours: Lunch, Monday-Friday 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Dinner, Sunday-Thursday 4-11 p.m.; Friday-Saturday 4 p.m.-midnight. Brunch, Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Try this:** "Our pork chop is really wonderful," executive chef Gaby Hakman says. "We brine the pork, it's a local Cheshire pork, just a really wonderful tasty dish."

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**The Collection of Anne Smith Paul**  
Alexandria Historic Preservationist  
Mrs. Paul was a published historian on Alexandria as well as a longtime leader and volunteer for the Alexandria Public Library Board, Garden Club of Virginia, Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, Stratford Hall and numerous other historic and charitable organizations.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18  
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### SUNDAY/JUNE 5

**Bagels and Bach.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music while your children learn how to appreciate it. Light brunch provided. Tickets are \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents, and free for children under five. To register online, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac) and use 455208-02 code to register.

**Taste of Del Ray.** 1-3 p.m. at Del Ray Farmer's Market lot and the adjacent United Bank parking lot, located at the intersection of Mount Vernon Avenue and Oxford Avenue. More than 15 neighborhood restaurants will participate in an outdoor competition that will name the 2016 Judge's Choice and People's Choice awards. Advance tickets are \$10 per adult and \$5 for children under 12. For complete ticket information, visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

**Alexandria Women's History Tour.** 1 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 132 N. Royal St. The walking tour will cover several sites to inform attendees of the history and achievements of women in Alexandria. Free. Email [alexandriawomen@gmail.com](mailto:alexandriawomen@gmail.com).

**UCM Early Learning Center 30th Anniversary.** 2-4 p.m. at UCM Early Learning Center, 2709 Popkins Lane. Virginia Del. Paul Krizek will be the Emcee. Several families will be inducted into the UCM Heritage Circle, honoring families who have supported our mission in significant ways for more than one generation. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$86 for families. Visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

### MONDAY/JUNE 6

**Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. This 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. Tickets are \$6 per child. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Summer Pruning of Shrubs and Perennials.** 7-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Kirsten Buhls will demonstrate summer pruning techniques in the home landscape. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

**Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A class to learn to dance or improve your dancing skills: foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, merengue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

### TUESDAY/JUNE 7

**Lecture: John P. Mullen.** 7:30 a.m. at The Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Hear the story of the large 300-year-old ship that was dug out of its watery grave at a construction site in Old Town, and find out what will happen next with the ship's remains. Tickets are \$25. Call 703-549-0111 for more.

**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](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 8

**MOMS Club Picnic.** 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort

Hunt Road. MOMS Club of Alexandria South will provide food and drinks. 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](mailto:Southalexmomms@yahoo.com) or visit [southalexandriamommsclub.webs.com](http://southalexandriamommsclub.webs.com) or [www.facebook.com/southalexandriamommsclub](http://www.facebook.com/southalexandriamommsclub).

### THURSDAY/JUNE 9

**Target Gallery: "Please Touch" Opening Reception.** 6-8 p.m. at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Sixteen national and international artists, including four people from Virginia, were juried into this group show. This all-media exhibition features 20 works with which audiences are invited to engage. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

### FRIDAY/JUNE 10

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

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 10-11

**Summer Escape at Mount Vernon.** 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. George Washington's Mount Vernon invites visitors to sip craft beer and taste local and historic culinary treats while watching the sun set at the first president's home. Bud's Collective performs. Tickets are \$22. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 11

**Old Town Arts & Crafts Festival.** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. More than 70 vendors gather to sell fine arts, crafts, food, and beer. Dogs are welcome. Free. Visit [www.volunteeralexandria.org](http://www.volunteeralexandria.org) for more.

**Canine Cruise.** 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. With four-legged friends in tow, board a Potomac Riverboat Co. cruise and tour the Alexandria Seaport on this popular 60-minute waterfront excursion. Dogs must be on 6-foot flat leash at all times. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$10 for children, free for dogs. Visit [www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com/canine-cruise.php](http://www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com/canine-cruise.php).

**Hospital Adventures of the Civil War: Hands on History Tent.** 12-3 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Children and their families are invited to explore the history that inspired PBS' "Mercy Street" through various crafts and hands-on activities. Admission is free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

**Rejuvenation in Del Ray Workshop and Garden Party.** 1-4 p.m. at Department of Community and Human Services building, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave. Learn about different architectural styles in the neighborhood and see how property owners restored the original details of their 1911 house. Enjoy a post-workshop garden party. Free. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic).

**Chefs in the Round.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School Food Lab, 8428 Fort Hunt Road. Join Chef Andrew McFadden former Executive Chef at the Department of State and Chef Paul Magnant former Guest

Chef at the White House in the CSMS Food Lab for a gourmet five-course meal. Tickets are \$50. Call 703-799-6100 for more.

**Summer Concert.** 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Howard University's DuPont Brass performs. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 12

**Magnolia Tea.** 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. This event is inspired by the real life history of the Mansion House Hotel and the PBS television series, "Mercy Street," which premiered last winter. Tickets are \$40 per person. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

**A Tribute to Phyllis Hyman.** 3 p.m. doors open, show at 4:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame is having a tribute to Phyllis Hyman show to benefit the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame project. Tickets are \$35. Call 571-217-9951 for more.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 14

**Early Music Concert.** 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Lyceum, 313 Duke St. "Concerto Degli Imperfetti" presents Italian Renaissance music from masters of the 16th Century. Voice, lute, recorder, bass viola da gamba. Free. Call 202-378-8223 for more.

**Seed Saving.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Some 10,000 years ago, seed saving facilitated humans' transition from hunter-gatherers to farmers. Only in the mid-1900s did this practice decline, with the development of the commercial seed industry. Now renewed interest in heirloom, unique and locally adapted vegetable and flower varieties is sparking a resurgence in seed saving. Free. Call 703-228-6414.

### JUNE 14-JULY 24

**Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: "Circuses."** Gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the juried show "Circuses." Artists' derive inspiration from clowns, animals, trapezes, jugglers, ringmasters, sideshows, crowds and other big house trappings. Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 18

**Lecture: "The Secret History of Juneteenth."** 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Historian C.R. Gibbs discusses the history of the celebration of the freeing of the slaves in Texas. Free. Visit [www.blackhistory.org](http://www.blackhistory.org) for more.

**Tigerlily Foundation Pajama Glam Party.** 4-8 p.m. at Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Women and girls are invited to wear (pink, purple, or red) pajamas and listen to music, visit pampering stations, and more. Also guest appearances by Asia Monet, Tati from WPGC (95.5), and Ashley Boalch Darby from Bravo's Real Housewives of Potomac. Tickets are \$25 for children, \$45 for adults.

### SUNDAY/JUNE 19

**Arlandria Chirilagua Festival.** 12-7 p.m. at Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. This annual festival celebrates and highlights the Arlandria community's Latino community featuring musical entertainment, food, crafts and cultural vendors. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer).

**Father's Day Open House.** 1-4 p.m.

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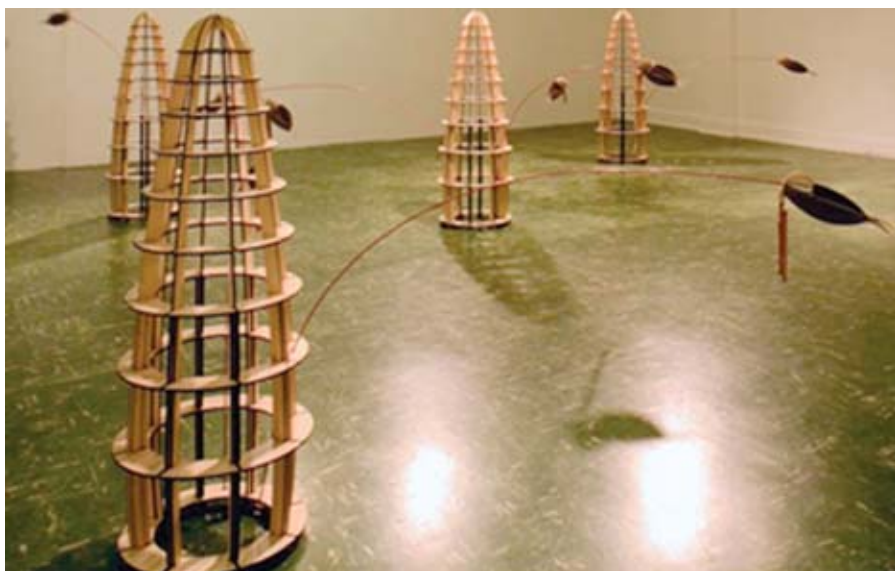
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## ENTERTAINMENT



Above: "Look at Me," Fumi Amano and "Pod Field," Colleen Ludwig

### 'Please Touch' Invites Patrons to Participate

Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, encourages people to touch, feel, dine upon, and even lick the artwork in "Please Touch." Sixteen national and international artists, including four people from Virginia, were juried into this group show. This all-media exhibition features 20 works with which audiences should engage. This exhibit will hang June 4-July 17 at 105 N. Union St. A reception will be held Thursday, June 9 6-8 p.m. with an art talk at 7 p.m. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.



at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. The Friendship Firehouse Museum is free for fathers and their families on Father's Day. The firehouse photographer will be on duty, so dads can take home a complimentary photograph. Call 703-746-4994 for more.

**Father's Day at Stabler-Leadbeater.** 1-5 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Admission is free for fathers, \$5 for all other adults and \$3 for children 5-12. Call 703-746-3852 for more.

**Father's Day at Gadsby's Tavern.** 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Get a tour by Junior Docents. Free for fathers, \$5 for all other adults and \$3 for children 5-12. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

**Alexandria's Historic Breweries Guided Tour and Tasting.** 2 p.m. at Old Town Alexandria. Join author Garrett Tour and Cat Portner on a guided walking tour around Old Town Alexandria exploring the foundations of local brewing. The tour includes highlights from the print brochure, a Portner Brewhouse beer sampling and culminates at one of Alexandria's current Hops Stops. Tickets are \$20. Visit [www.portnerbrewhouse.com](http://www.portnerbrewhouse.com).

#### MONDAY/JUNE 20

**Art of Ballroom Dance.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A class to learn to dance or improve your dancing skills: foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, merengue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. Tickets are \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

#### TUESDAY/JUNE 21

**U.S. Passenger Arrival Records, 1820s-**

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

**1930s.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist John Colletta, Ph.D., talks about arrival records and alternatives for overcoming issues like variant spellings of names, conflicting arrival dates, confusion of ship names, various ports of departure and arrival, and missing passenger manifests. Free. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

#### FRIDAY/JUNE 24

**Film Screening: "Goonies."** Movie starts at dusk, activities start at 6 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit [www.fourmilemovieseries.com](http://www.fourmilemovieseries.com).

**10,000 Maniacs.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The band celebrates the release of a live-recording album. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

#### SATURDAY/JUNE 25

**Lecture on Alexandria's 18th-Century Ship.**

10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. By examining the wood and iron fastenings from Alexandria's recently excavated ship at 220 South Union St., the speaker illustrates how deep draft cargo vessels were constructed, repaired, and beached and broken during the 18th century in the Mid-Atlantic. Emphasis is placed upon historic documents relating to Alexandria during the 18th century as well as the story the timbers tell. Jason Lunze is a Maritime Archaeologist who holds a master's degree from the University of Southern Denmark. Free, but reservations required. Call 703-746-4399 for more.

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Keith Foxx looks forward to Travis Parnell's turn to pay-it-forward.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY/THE GAZETTE



"Travis was an amazing person when I met him. In the past 9 years he has grown into an amazing man and father," says Alexis Albritton. The two plan to get married next year.

## Mentoring Guides Foster Care Alum

**"If God doesn't have a plan for you, have a plan for yourself."**

BY JOAN BRADY  
THE GAZETTE

**T**ravis Parnell and Keith Foxx don't remember exactly when they met. Parnell was around 14 and had been in foster care for six or so years. He estimates he had already lived in 10 different foster homes, several in Fairfax County. Foxx, a civil engineer from Springfield, was married with two children.

Foxx says that one of the things that set Parnell apart was that despite everything he had been through, he didn't feel sorry for himself. More than that, while Parnell acknowledged the challenges of being a foster child, he was appreciative of the benefits of being in care.

Parnell was able to stay with one foster mother for almost five years. "Miss Bertha," he says, made it possible for him to be a regular kid. That is unusual for foster kids who move often and aren't always able to participate in school and sports activities, attend slumber parties or go to the prom.

During those years with Miss Bertha, Parnell had stability and chores and she treated him like family. In fact, she still does. He is brother to her older children and uncle to the younger ones today.

"When you are in and out of foster homes, it's hard to trust," Parnell said. "Social workers and other professionals are doing a job." But when he learned that Foxx was taking time away from his wife and two young daughters to spend time with him, he knew Foxx was different.

And it wasn't just that Foxx spent time away from his family. Parnell was also wel-



Some day, when Xavier is old enough, Travis Parnell will tell him of the struggles he and Alexis Albritton had starting out. But, for today, Parnell just wants him to be a happy, well-loved four-year-old.

**Nationwide, four years after aging out of foster care, 25 percent have been homeless and more than 80 percent are unable to support themselves, according to an Association of Small Foundations/Annie E. Casey report.**

come in the Foxx home. "No one had ever brought me into their house before," he said quietly as his 4-year-old son sits contented in his lap. "I wanted Keith to know that he could trust me with his family."

Foxx's older daughters laugh as they say that when he first started coming around, they asked their parents if Parnell was their new brother. Twelve years later, that's the way they introduce him.

"I thought it was great," says Foxx's wife,

Michelle. "But it wasn't unexpected. That's who Keith is, the type of guy who will reach out to help the next person."

"There were people in my life that gave me good advice and recognized that I had potential. It was that little bit of encouragement on their part that made the difference. I was just passing that on," says Foxx.

Parnell nods, "People will say, 'I know just how you feel,'" but to Parnell, those were empty words. "Nobody knows how you re-

### How To Help

To learn about ways to make a difference in the life of a child currently living in foster care:

**Main site for foster care:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/fca.htm>

**FairfaxFamilies4Kids:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm>

**BeFriend-A-Child:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/childrenyouth/befriendachild.htm/>

**Foster Care 2 Success:** <http://www.fc2success.org/>

**Court Appointed Special Advocates/CASA:** <http://www.fairfaxcasa.org/volunteer-or-donate/becoming-a-volunteer/>

ally feel. No one can put themselves in somebody else's shoes. But, you can tell someone you feel for them and you are here to help them."

The bond between them took time to build. In those early years, they got together two or three times per month. Parnell recalls that if he was reluctant, Foxx was unimpressed. "You are coming dude," Foxx would tell him. Often, Foxx's daughters would come along, too. And when the baby arrived, she joined them as well.

Out of seven biological siblings, Parnell is the only one to have earned a high school diploma. Parnell says that he was told by social workers that he should drop out, that he wasn't going to make it. He wanted to prove them wrong and he recognized that having a diploma would expand his opportunities.

For young adults who have the continued support of parents and family, the path to independence can be daunting. For those without strong support, it can feel downright hopeless. When Parnell left foster care at 18, he was completely responsible for himself.

Those early years were very dark. Parnell worked in a series of dead-end sales jobs



# Staying Safe This Summer

## Tips and precautions for avoiding warm-weather hazards.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he start of summer means pools and backyard grilling. It also means an increased risk of accidents and injuries. Local safety officials are offering safety tips during June, which is National Safety Month.

With warm weather come health threats posed by ticks and mosquitoes. In addition to the Zika virus, which is not currently a local threat, mosquitoes can carry the West Nile Virus, while ticks can spread Lyme disease.

Recommended defenses against these pests include using insect repellent to protect against mosquito bites and eliminating potential mosquito breeding sites like pools of standing water or heavily foliated spaces such as tall grass, where bugs often hide.

"We ... have to be prepared and be ready in the event that we get local spread of [the Zika virus]," said Mary Anderson, a spokeswoman for Montgomery County. "The information on preventing bites and ridding your property of mosquitoes is good whether we have Zika or not."

Local county health departments, including Montgomery and Fairfax, have established websites with current information on the Zika virus. Anderson also recommends a Zika virus webpage, created by the Centers for Disease Control, which includes a map with updated information on areas where Zika is spreading: <http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html>

"We're taking the Zika virus seriously and preparing as though it could be a potential threat," said Kurt Larrick, spokesman for the Arlington County Department of Human Services.

In addition to insect bites, time spent outside in hot weather can lead to heat-induced illnesses like sunburns, heat rashes, heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and the elderly and very young children are at greatest risk. Health officials say that the best lines of defense include limiting sun exposure, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the period considered

the peak intensity hours. Wearing a hat and sunglasses that provide 97 -100 percent protection against both UVA and UVB rays, and applying sunscreen even on cloudy days and reapplying it every two hours or after swimming or sweating are also advised.

"You want to dress lightly and intake a lot of fluid, but avoid alcohol and sugary, sweet drinks when you're in the heat," said Captain Troy Gibbs, a spokeswoman for the Alexandria Fire Department's Community Services Unit. "Staying hydrated by drinking a lot of water is your best bet."

Health officials recommend checking on elderly neighbors who don't have air conditioning and avoiding leaving pets, small children and older adults in small, enclosed spaces like cars, where conditions can turn deadly even after a short period of time in extreme heat.

Local county facilities, including libraries and community centers, are air conditioned and open to the public. Know the warning signs that it's time to get out of the heat, says Gibbs.

"If they stop sweating, that can be a bad sign," she said. "Profuse sweating can be an indicator that the body is trying to compensate, but if a person stops

sweating totally, that is usually not a good sign." While spending time at the pool is a popular cooling method during hot weather, residents should be aware of the potential threat of recreational water illnesses (RWI). Taking a shower with soap and checking the diapers of small children frequently can help keep germs that lead to RWI out of pool water. Health officials say that chlorinated water doesn't kill all germs, diapers sometimes leak and both adults

and children should stay out of the public pool when they are sick. Other preventative measures include frequent hand washing, discouraging children from drinking water that is used for swimming and giving young children bathroom breaks at least every 60 minutes.

"We take safety seriously all the way across the board from pools to barbecuing to riding bikes and even walking," said Larrick.

In addition to RWI, other water-related dangers spike during the summer. Ensuring that children know how to swim, watching young children very carefully when they are near water, swimming with a partner and wearing a life vest when boating are important safety precautions.

## Summer Safety Tips

From the Centers for Disease Control

### Water Safety

- ❖ Learn how to prevent recreational water illnesses (RWI)
- ❖ Always supervise children when in or around water.
- ❖ Teach kids to swim.
- ❖ Learn CPR

### Boating Safety

- ❖ Install a four-sided fence around home pools.

### Heat Safety

- ❖ Never leave infants, children, or pets in a parked car, even if the windows are cracked open.
- ❖ Dress in loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.

ored clothing.

- ❖ Schedule outdoor activities carefully, for morning and evening hours.
- ❖ Stay cool with cool showers or baths.
- ❖ Seek medical care immediate if you or your child has symptoms of heat-related illnesses

### Sun Safety

- ❖ Cover up. Clothing that covers your and your child's skin helps protect against UV rays.
- ❖ Use sunscreen with at least SPF (sun protection factor) 15 and UVA (ultraviolet A) and UVB (ultraviolet B) protection every time you and your child go outside.

### Protection from Mosquitoes and Ticks

- ❖ Use an effective insect repellent when

spending time outdoors.

- ❖ Make your backyard a tick-safe zone.
- ❖ Check yourself and your children for ticks.

### Prevent Injuries

- ❖ Check to make sure that the surfaces under playground equipment are safe, soft, and well-maintained.
- ❖ Supervise young children at all times around fall hazards, such as stairs and playground equipment.
- ❖ Use stair gates, which can help keep a busy, active child from taking a dangerous tumble.
- ❖ Learn concussion signs and symptoms and what to do if a concussion occurs.
- ❖ Make sure kids and teens wear the right protective equipment for their sport or recreation activity.

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### JULY

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- Vienna/Oakton Connection



# West Potomac's Sara Stellar in Final High School Performance

## Wolverines lose pitcher's duel to Chantilly's DiCesare.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

Chantilly pitcher Jared DiCesare might have saved the Chargers' season with two fingers and a thumb. With the bases loaded and two outs in the sixth inning of a tied game, West Potomac first baseman Matt Gill hit a DiCesare offering back up the middle. DiCesare, a senior right-hander, reached out and snagged the line drive with his bare hand, catching it with his thumb, pointer finger and middle finger for the third out of the inning.

"That play, it's just something you dream about," said DiCesare, the 6A North region Player of the Year. "You dream about those types of plays you see in [Major League Baseball]. It was something I didn't even believe myself. I kind of like looked at it, I was like, 'Wow, I can't believe I caught that.'"

DiCesare's highlight-reel catch was symbolic of his performance as a whole: a tremendous effort with a touch of good fortune.

DiCesare, a George Mason signee, tossed a complete game, left fielder Garrett Snedeker drove in the winning run with a single and the Chantilly baseball team defeated West Potomac 2-1 in nine innings in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on May 25 at Chantilly High School. Two days later, the Chargers beat McLean 6-0 in the region quarterfinals.

Chantilly faced Patriot in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. DiCesare tossed a complete game against West Potomac, throwing 133 pitches in nine innings — the maximum number of innings the VHSL allows a pitcher to throw in one day. DiCesare said it was his highest pitch count in one outing at any level.

DiCesare allowed one earned run and six

hits while walking two (one intentionally) and striking out 12. He threw 96 of 133 pitches for strikes and hurled a first-pitch strike to 26 of the 33 batters he faced.

Even when he ran into trouble, DiCesare was able to make a memorable play to get himself out of a jam.

"[West Potomac] did a good job early of putting the ball in play," Chantilly head coach Kevin Ford said. "But, Jared, that's who he is. He toughens up when we need it. He makes incredible plays — catching the ball with his bare hand. É I don't think anything he really does shocks me. He's that kind of guy. That's two runs. They had É bases loaded and that's probably the ball game right there because that's a base hit."

While DiCesare earned the win with a stellar performance, he was fortunate in that his counterpart on the mound, arguably, was even better.

West Potomac senior Jamie Sara, who will play for William & Mary, finished his high school career with a memorable effort. On the mound, the 6-foot-4 right-hander received a no decision after allowing two hits — one of the infield variety — and one unearned run in 7 1/3 innings. He walked two, struck out 10 and threw 106 pitches, including 71 strikes. He threw a first-pitch strike to 15 of 26 batters.

"[DiCesare is] a great competitor," Sara said. "I had a ton of fun pitching tonight. It's going to be [one of] my best memories from high school baseball."

In the batter's box, Sara, a first-team all-region selection as an outfielder, went 2-for-3 with a walk and a pair of doubles. He led off the top of the fourth inning with a double and, three batters later, designated hitter Daniel Jimenez gave West Potomac a 1-0 lead with a two-out RBI single.

In the bottom of the fourth, Chantilly countered by plating an unearned run — the only run the Chargers would score against Sara. Chantilly right fielder Jared Enders led off the frame with an infield popup that a West Potomac player dropped for an error. After a flyout, a groundout and an infield single, Enders scored on a wild pitch.

Sara then struck out eight of the next 11 batters he faced and the game went to extra innings tied at 1.

"He's really big and he throws hard," Ford said about Sara. "Tonight, he located."

West Potomac head coach Jim Sullivan took Sara out after seven innings and 102 pitches. However, a mistake would lead to one more opportunity on the mound for No. 22.

Chantilly loaded the bases with two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning against West Potomac reliever Gus Leyden when the Wolverine coaching staff made its second mound visit of the inning. By rule, in extra innings, if a coach makes multiple mound visits in the same frame, the pitcher must



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

**West Potomac senior Jamie Sara allowed one unearned run and two hits in 7 1/3 innings against Chantilly on May 25 in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament.**

come out of the game. Sullivan said he made a mistake and was forced to go with the team's only other pitcher who was warm at the time — Sara.

Despite entering a two-out, bases-loaded pressure cooker of a situation, Sara needed just four pitches to strike out Chantilly clean-up hitter Matt Padeway and keep the Wolverines' season alive.

**"[Jamie Sara's] been pitching great. I wish we could go another game with him. I'd loved to have gotten through this one — we would have had to win [in the quarterfinals] — but then we could have used him again next week. He's pitching lights out right now. He's pitching great."**

**— West Potomac baseball coach Jim Sullivan**

"First thing I asked coach, I said, 'Is this allowed?'" Sara said. "I knew I struck out the kid a couple times before and I'm going after him — my best against his best. É I knew before I was going in, all right, I'm going to strike this guy out. Bases loaded, bottom of the eighth, biggest game of my high school career, he's getting my best."

Padeway would be the last batter Sara would face. Senior right-hander Brandon Floyd, West Potomac's No. 2 starter, pitched the bottom of the ninth. With two on and

two out, Chantilly left fielder Snedeker delivered a walk-off RBI single.

After the game, Sara said his arm felt "fine" and he "could go out there and toss another 30" pitches. Sullivan, however, said he didn't want to jeopardize Sara's career by having him continue to pitch.

"He's been pitching great," Sullivan said. "I wish we could go another game with him."

I'd loved to have gotten through this one — we would have had to win [in the quarterfinals] — but then we could have used him again next week. He's pitching lights out right now. He's pitching great."

How did Sullivan feel about the Wolverines battling against a team that reached the state championship game each of the last two years?

"We should have [beaten] them," he said. "We gave them one unearned run; otherwise we would have [beaten] them 1-0."

West Potomac finished the season with an 11-12 record. The Wolverines were competitive most nights, but finished 0-8 in one-run games. "First thing that I thought was, 'How in the hell do you lose eight one-run ball games?'" Sullivan said.

While the loss was disappointing, Sara did what he could to keep West Potomac's season alive.

"I'm feeling pretty great," Sara said. "Good way to go out, but we should have [come] out with that win."

## West Potomac To Host Summer Basketball Camp

West Potomac boys' basketball coach David Houston III will host his 11<sup>th</sup> annual summer camp with three sessions in July at West Potomac High School.

The co-ed skills camp for grades K-10 will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 6-8. The full-day boys' camp will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., July 11-15. The skills camp for grades 6-10 will be held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., July 25-29.

Registration is online only at [www.turfwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html](http://www.turfwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html).



# PEOPLE

## Moving Forward

FROM PAGE 22

that did not afford him a reliable income. Things got worse he says, when, "I made a mistake and my driver's license was suspended. That limited my job opportunities even further." It seemed hopeless when he found a job that was good money, but required a license.

That was when Foxx stepped up, "It was a blessing," says Parnell, "I didn't have anybody else who would do that for me. No one who would say, here are the stipulations. I will help you if you do this." Parnell is proud to say that with his reinstated license, he got that job. And five years later, he is working at a national company in Lorton, a senior technician in HVAC/air duct cleaning.

The hours are long and the job pays on commission, but Parnell says if you have patience, customer service and sales skills, it's a good job. And he enjoys educating people on what they can do to improve their air quality, especially for families who have children. It makes him smile to know that when he leaves a job, people will breath better.

Parnell and his girlfriend, Alexis Albritton, have been together since they were 17. Albritton had imagined a future with the two of them and a house full of dogs. But

**"Not everyone has the tools to make it in this world. The only thing you can do is put the past behind you and take the initiative to keep moving forward."**

— Travis Parnell

today, you would never know that children weren't always part of her plan, as she fusses over young Xavier.

Albritton works as a veterinary assistant and receptionist at Crosspointe Animal Hospital in Fairfax Station. She too has goals for her future. Her sights are set on becoming a certified veterinary tech.

Parnell and Albritton said their biggest challenge is their budget; making sure that more money is coming in than needs to go out. They live frugally, rarely eating out or buying clothes; they cut their own hair and are happy for the generous donations to the Salvation Army that allow them to dress Xavier at prices they can afford.

The couple appreciates having Albritton's parents and Foxx to offer guidance. Now 26, Parnell says there isn't anything he wouldn't share with Foxx. They check in with each other regularly, "We are both men with our own families. If he has an issue, he'll call and say what do you think I should do? We talk through it. Then I tell him, 'time to be a grown man' and that gives him the confidence to handle the situation," said Foxx.

"Not everyone has the tools to make it in this world," says Parnell, "The only thing you can do is put the past behind you and take the initiative to keep moving forward."

**Kayla Lyn Shoemaker, William Mason Siegmund, Monica Isabel Thompson, Claire Tucker Tinsley, George Walter Wieler, and Laura Katharine Wood.**

The following Alexandria residents made the president's list at James Madison University (Harrisonburg, Va.) for the spring 2016 semester: **Mackenzie Cate**, majoring in health sciences; **Troy Clark**, majoring in accounting; **Ailen Garcia Santillan**, majoring in biotechnology; **Pamela Molnar**, majoring in communication sciences and disorders; **Orion Taylor**, majoring in marketing; and **Amanda Trenchard**, majoring in health sciences.

**Jasmine J. Picini**, of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication studies from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences at Alfred University in New York.

**Diego E. Rodriguez**, of Alexandria, earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

**Sarah Sapirstein**, of Alexandria, was named to the University of Vermont dean's list for the spring 2016 semester. Sapirstein is a political science major in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Alexandria resident **Nicholas Campbell** was named to the spring 2016 dean's list at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.). Campbell is majoring in civil engineering.

**Stuart Cerutti**, of Alexandria, was named to dean's list at York College (York, Pa.) for the spring 2016 semester. Cerutti is a criminal justice major.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Mallory Marie Gerndt**, of Alexandria, was named to the Newberry College's dean's list for the 2016 spring semester.

The following Alexandria residents were named to the dean's list at the College of William & Mary for the spring 2016 semester: **Nour Hilmi Aburish, Edith Amponsah, Olivia Shields Dabre Bambara, Valerie Bambha, Anna Agata Blaszkiewicz, Meredith Shirley Caine, Madeline G Christy, Keiko Sonya Davenport, Hannah Louise Dempsey, Aida-Stephanie Sourou Dohou, Peter Samuel Eckel, Megan Elizabeth Embrey, Aidan Patrick Fielding, Lydia Jane Francis, Emily Ann Gardner, Colleen Marie Grady, James Santos Harkless, Daniel James Herrera, Christopher Alan Hrdy, Ji Cheol Jeon, Thomas Matthew Kester, Emilyann Katharine Key, Isabella Anna Kron, James Ross Burnett Kunder, Robert Anthony LaRose, Heather Thompson Lawrence, Cathryn Ryan Liebeck, Tindell Allen Lockett, Kyle Fogal McKernan, Michael Steven Mejia, Elizabeth Mekonnen, Shana Ilise Spector Merker, Maxine Morgan, Eleanor Claire Morrison, Eileen Suzuko Nakahata, Akbar Raza Naqvi, May X Nelson, Francesca Orfila, Rachel Comfort Orleans-Pobee, Lorraine Coyne Pettit, Meredith Joyce Randle, Natalie Rose Revers, Vanessa Patricia Rivera, Emma Leah Alexandra Russell, Faven Ghebrehewet Russom, Julia Claire Seeley-Hall, Jessica Seidenberg,**

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**21 Announcements**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-04-05**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking Bids for Matthew Maury Elementary Schoolyard Reinvigoration Project.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference/site visit will be conducted on June 7, 2016 at 11:00 AM, beginning in the Facilities Conference Room 610-2, 1340 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314. It is strongly recommended that all bidders attend this conference.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 16-05-04 "Maury Schoolyard" will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, March 16, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8043, or by downloading the Bid from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>.

All questions must be submitted before 4:30 p.m. June 1, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

No Bids may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of the bids except as may be set forth in the ITB.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all Bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPM, CPPB, VCO  
Director of Procurement & General Services

**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
Bakers Bread LLC trading as Junction Bakery & Bistro, 1508 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria, VA 22301. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises & Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Noe Landini, Managing Director  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200

**21 Announcements**

**ABC LICENSE**  
PTO Seafood, LLC trading as Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.  
The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Anderson, Managing Partner  
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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

**21 Announcements**

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

**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

Title: Request for Qualifications Number 0000609, Construction Manager at Risk for Fire Station 203

Closing Date and Time: June 28, 2016, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

For general inquiries contact Michael F. Hauer, CPPO, CPPB, Deputy Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4295.

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

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

ITB NO. 0000603 - New Freedom Grant Pedestrian Improvements Project

ITB Opening Date and Time: June 30, 2016, 3:00 p.m., prevailing local time

Non-mandatory Pre-Bid Conference: June 7, 2016, 2 p.m., prevailing local time at 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Alexandria, VA. 22314.

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

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

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**OBITUARY**



**Margaret Ann Jones (Ann), 95**

Departed peacefully at home in Alexandria, Virginia on Sunday, May 22nd. Born to William and Annie Jones of Louisa County, Virginia. She was predeceased by her parents and her beloved sisters Virginia and Julia.

Ann was a lifelong resident of Alexandria and an avid reader of history, current events and politics. She enjoyed travel and spending time with her many friends and neighbors.

Ann's ability to make friends with almost everyone she met and maintain life long friendships were some of her many enviable traits. She will be sorely missed by all who were lucky enough to call her their friend.

A memorial service was held on Friday, May 27th at Every Wheatley Funeral Home at 11:00am Private interment to follow at a future date.

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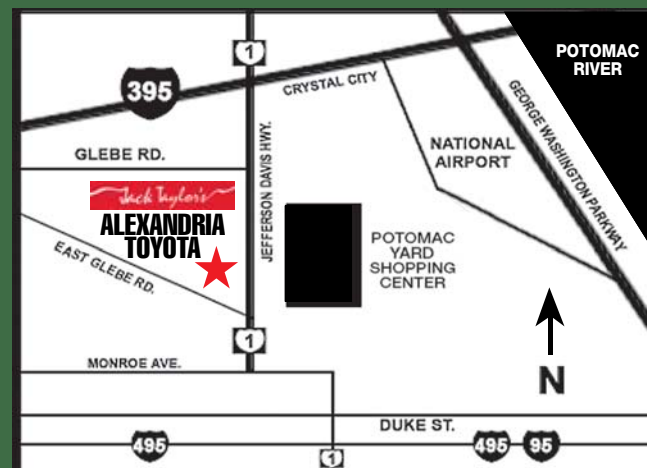


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**SUMMER  
MAINTENANCE  
SPECIAL  
\$59<sup>95</sup>**

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

SYNTHETIC OIL \$10 MORE. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**SUNDAY ONLY SPECIALS**  
**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**LUBE, OIL & FILTER SERVICE**  
**\$29<sup>95</sup> \$49<sup>95</sup>**  
NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC  
**PLUS FREE TIRE ROTATION**

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**\$20 OFF  
ANY FACTORY  
RECOMMENDED SERVICE**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**SPRING  
SAVINGS**

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**DETAIL SPECIALS**  
**STANDARD HAND-WASH  
& VACUUM**  
Recommended Monthly  
**\$39<sup>95</sup>**

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

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**QUALITY HAND-WASH  
VACUUM & WAX**  
Recommended Every 6 Months  
**\$139<sup>95</sup>**

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

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**PREMIUM FULL DETAIL**  
Recommended Every 12 Months  
**\$295<sup>95</sup>**

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

All details by appointment only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**LUBE, OIL & FILTER  
SERVICE SPECIAL**  
**\$29<sup>95</sup> \$49<sup>95</sup>**  
NON-SYNTHETIC SYNTHETIC

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**VARIABLE DISCOUNT**  
**\$5.00 OFF** with purchase of \$35.00 - \$49.99  
**\$10.00 OFF** with purchase of \$50.00 - \$99.99  
**\$15.00 OFF** with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99  
**\$20.00 OFF** with purchase of \$200.00 - \$499.99  
**\$50.00 OFF** with purchase of \$500.00 Or more

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**VENTILATION SERVICE**  
**\$49<sup>95</sup>**

INCLUDES: Clean condenser fins, check A/C performance, inspect drive belts for tension/wear and replace cabin air filter.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**COMPLIMENTARY  
MULTI-POINT  
INSPECTION**

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

Plus Take **15% OFF** your bill if you choose to perform the repair with us.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT**  
**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

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

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

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

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**15% OFF  
ANY ACCESSORIES**  
• Apparel • Window visors  
• iPad adaptors • All weather floor mats  
• Toyota bedliners

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE**  
**30000 MILES FACTORY  
RECOMMENDED  
SERVICE**  
**\$159<sup>95</sup>**

Synthetic \$10 More  
INCLUDES: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/16.

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