



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS LINDSEY/THE GAZETTE

## Colonial Fair

Hot air balloons are launched on the grounds in front of Mount Vernon during last weekend's Colonial Market and Fair. More photos, page 3.

# Goodbye Garza

## Superintendent's resignation sets School Board on recruiting path.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**F**airfax County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Karen Garza has announced her resignation, just months after the FCPS board renewed her contract through June 30, 2020.

Garza informed the board in the afternoon on Sept. 19 that it would take effect on or before Dec. 16 this year.

The first woman superintendent of FCPS said she's accepted the position of president and chief executive officer of Columbus, Ohio-based Battelle for Kids, a not-for-profit education organization.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity to have served this world class school system since June 2013," Garza said in a letter to the school system. "It has been an honor and privilege to have worked with the dedicated and professional staff who make FCPS the finest school system in the country.

"I extend to you my deepest gratitude for your tremendous support," Garza continued. "I am so proud to have been a part of this outstanding system and this great community. I wish Fairfax County Public Schools much continued success in the coming years."

**GARZA INFORMED** the full board in a closed session following their work session on Monday. Providence District representative Dalia Palchik said there was shock, gasping and crying among the members.

"We feared she would be taken away, but hoped it wouldn't be so soon," Palchik said.

From parents and teachers she's talked to and seen react on her



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON

Karen Garza

Facebook feed, Palchik summarized "people are devastated."

"This is the best time for us to have stability," she continued. "Teachers are just concerned. She's fought so much for the budget, their salaries. We want to make sure we continue on the track."

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon District representative to the School Board, said, "I am appreciative of the focus that Dr. Garza has brought to the needs of the schools in Mt. Vernon and her commitment to ensuring that FCPS attracts and retains educational leaders that inspire all of our teachers to create learning environments enabling each of our students to achieve their potential. I wish her well and am confident she will continue to inspire educational leaders in her new role at Battelle."

Kevin Hickerson is president of the Fairfax Education Association, representing teachers, custodians, bus drivers and support staff. He said of the teachers he's talked with and seen react on Facebook, reaction to her resignation has been "overwhelming positive" and

SEE GARZA'S, PAGE 10

# Board Approves Police Auditor

## Unanimous vote follows Ad Hoc Commission recommendations for more transparency and oversight of Fairfax County police.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**W**ith a unanimous vote on Tuesday, Sept. 20, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of an independent police auditor office, following recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), chairman of the board's Public Safety Committee, said the proposal for auditor was true to the essence and "basic philosophical approach" of the commission in calling for an impartial civilian who would review police investigations as they're occurring and report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

"The auditor would be involved in monitoring and making recommendations in the course of the police investigations, a lot more efficient than waiting until the end," Cook said. "Police would receive real time comment back from the auditor's office to help strengthen those investigations."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova established the 32-member commission following public outcry over the August 2013 death of John Geer, 46. Geer was unarmed and standing in the doorway of his Springfield home when he was shot and killed by FCPD officer Adam Torres. The police and county refused to release information on the case for more than a year, and then after court orders.

Torres, who was fired in July 2015 and indicted by a grand jury for murder in August 2015, was the first Fairfax County Police officer in the history of the department to be charged in such a death. Torres entered a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter, received credit for time served for his 12-month sentence and was released in June.

**THE AD HOC COMMISSION** and its five subcommittees met intensively beginning in March 2015, reporting to the Board of Supervisors in October 2015, with 142 recommendations, including the recommendations to establish the Office of Independent Auditor.

"This has not been easy, that is an understatement," Bulova said. "It's the first time we've established a position such as this."

It is the first independent, civilian oversight of the Fairfax County Police.

The scope of the independent auditor's work will include reviewing all cases in which police use of force result in serious injury or death, Cook said. The auditor would also review any citizen complaint about police use of force even if it does not involve serious injury or death.

Cook said the auditor would issue an annual report, and that the auditor would also be available to engage in policy and practice analysis regarding use of force, as suggested by the Board of Supervisors,

SEE SUPERVISORS APPROVE, PAGE 10



## Waterfront Estate on the Potomac Offered at \$6,950,000

Originally built in 1936, this stately Georgian colonial was completely renovated in 2007 to create a magnificent home with an eye to maximizing the amazing views of the river from this two-acre waterfront property on land once owned by George Washington.

Just south of the American Horticultural Society, this fabulous home offers sweeping views from the entire back of the house, from the living room, dining room, family room, master bedroom and two enclosed sun porches as well as the covered porch off the main level entertaining rooms. The kitchen is a chef's dream with all the bells and whistles, including a full size temperature controlled wine refrigerator and plenty of room to seat ten at the kitchen island.

The master suite overlooks the river and offers a gas fireplace, sun porch, sumptuous bath with spa tub and separate shower, as well as his and her walk in closets. An additional bedroom on this level offers another bath as well as a sun porch perfect for bird watching!

The third level of this house offers an entire floor designed as an office fit for a captain of industry, complete with conference area, full bath and a desk placed to afford the best views of the river imaginable!

The lower level offers a completely independent one-bedroom apartment as well as an enormous exercise or media room, laundry facilities and a sauna. The elevator will whisk you from floor to floor and there is a main level guest bedroom as well.

The three-car garage, outdoor spa, in-ground pool with pool house, storage/boating equipment shed and boat ramp complete this amazing package!

Shown by appointment.

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**Old Town Village \$679,900**

Located in the heart of Old Town, this rare 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2-level condo with over \$70K in recent kitchen & bath upgrades is beautiful! Stainless appliances, expanded quartz breakfast bar, huge balcony, hardwood floors throughout. Polished & pristine! 330 West St. #307

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Colonial-era chocolate processing is explained to visitors.



Robert Olson performs card tricks using colonial props during last weekend's Colonial Market and Fair.

# Stepping Back into a Colonial Market and Fair



Timothy Nealeigh from Ohio takes guests step by step through the process of colonial-era linen weaving.

The Boston Tea Party is explained by George Washington.

PHOTOS BY  
NICHOLAS LINDSEY  
THE GAZETTE

Signora Bella performs juggling acts on a slack line in the spirit of colonial-era circus acts.



## Forum To Chew on Meals Tax Referendum

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will sponsor a Meals Tax Forum at the auditorium of Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, on Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. The forum will feature panelists on both sides of the issue. The panel will also take written questions from the audience. Questions may also be submitted in advance by writing to [league@lwv-](mailto:league@lwv-fairfax.org)

[fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

On the ballot, Fairfax County voters will choose whether to levy a meals' tax. State law authorizes counties, cities, and towns to levy a tax on prepared food and beverages, commonly called a "meals tax," subject to certain restrictions. Most counties, including Fairfax County, may levy a meals tax only if the voters approve the tax by referendum.

If approved, the revenues generated will

be dedicated to the following purposes:

- ❖ 70 percent of the net revenues to Fairfax County Public Schools.
- ❖ 30 percent of the net revenues to county services, capital improvements and property tax relief.

A meals tax is a tax on all ready-to-eat prepared food and beverages at restaurants, as well as grocery stores, convenience stores and delicatessens. It would not apply to groceries nor to vending machines. It does,

however, include ready-to-eat foods, such as food from the deli counter or salad bar at a supermarket/grocery store.

It does include alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages served with a meal. It does apply to prepared foods served at food trucks.

For more about what's on the ballot, visit <http://www.lwv-fairfax.org/Ballot2016.html>.

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**Alexandria \$3,695,000**  
**909 Vicar Lane.** Fabulous in-town estate, light-filled and ideal for large-scale entertaining, sited on over one acre of land within the city. Quiet, private location on one of Alexandria's most sought-after streets.  
*Diann Hicks Carlson 703-628-2440*



**Old Town \$999,900**  
**221 N. Pitt St.** Fabulously updated ca. 1800 historically plaqued 3 BR, 2.5 BA w/original floors, off-street parking, an entire one-floor MBR suite w/cherry built-ins. Granite/SS/cherry wood kitchen, deep courtyard, convert outbuilding to studio/shop, 1 block to King St. Owner is licensed Realtor.  
*Karen Kearns 703-244-6101*



**Alexandria/Old Town \$929,000**  
**911 Cameron Street.** Circa 1820 historic home with expansive formal gardens! A foyer entry welcomes you to the living room with high ceilings, tall south facing windows and a wood burning fireplace flanked with built-ins. An arched doorway leads to the formal dining room that is perfect gracious entertaining. Light filled eat-in kitchen with brick floors has access to the patio and garden. Two upper level bedrooms, a family room and laundry. Unfinished lower level for storage. Spacious formal garden with paths and established gardens.  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Rosemont \$899,000**  
**203 North View Terrace.** Lovely 3 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial just a few blocks from the the King St. Metro, shops & restaurants! Built in 1920 with abundant charm and character. Nearly 2900 sq. ft. of interior space on 3 finished levels. Beautiful yard with a deck and manicured lawn with plenty of room for expansion if desired.  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**Alexandria/King's Hundred \$899,000**  
**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*



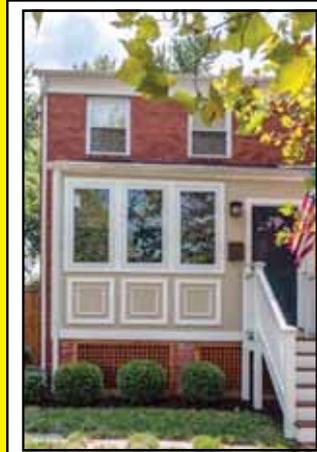
**JUST LISTED**  
**Old Town \$859,000**  
 Beautifully renovated detached historic home in the SE quadrant of town! 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2 finished levels. Plenty of natural light with windows on all sides. Living room with gas fireplace and cozy den. Open kitchen and dining room with French doors to a lovely yard with patio and garden. Blocks to shops, restaurants and the river  
*Christine Garner 703-587-4855*



**JUST LISTED**  
**Alexandria \$760,000**  
**2009 Old Stage Road.** Riverside Gardens 3-level Colonial - 5 BR, 3 1/2 BA, garage & carport.  
*Mike Downie 703-780-2727*



**OPEN SUNDAY 2-4 PM**  
**NEW LISTING**  
**Alexandria \$619,000**  
**400 Madison Street Condo 304.** This 2 bd., 2 ba., light filled home has all the amenities of the sought after Alexandria House. Garage parking, extra storage, 24/7 concierge, roof pool, fantastic location for this vertical village. A Must See!  
*Lib Willey 703-362-7206*



**Alexandria/Del Ray \$599,500**  
**105-A E. Raymond Ave.** Completely remodeled stunning Del Ray duplex just steps from The Avenue. Updated kitchen features SS appliances, granite counters, dining area. Beautiful hardwoods on main and upper levels. Two bedrooms, two full baths. Private fenced yard with patio and deck. Lovely finished basement with bonus utility room and walkout to yard.  
*Ann Modlin Boehm 703-868-1386*



**OPEN SUNDAY 1:30-3:30 SEPT. 25**  
**Alexandria \$375,000**  
**2218 Dearing Street.** Beautiful End unit 2 bed, 1.5 bath In Sought after Farlington Town neighborhood. Condo with LOW Fee. Master is large w/2 closets. Ceramic tile in kitchen w/ new appliances. Bay windows in living & dining room. Fenced in patio w/brick pavers. Walk to restaurants, shops, & transportation. Easy commute to DC, Pentagon, Mark Center & 395. Seller is motivated!!!  
*Chris Salvatore 757-630-6688*



**Alexandria \$307,700**  
**200 North Pickett Street, Unit #1204.** Renovated with VIEWS! LARGE 2BR/2BA-1295 sq.ft. New windows/SGD. Well run Hallmark. New kitchen-granite. New baths. HUGE rooms, walk-in closet. Full-size W/D. Large balcony-electric grills OK! Great garage+visitor parking. Pool, tennis, exercise, party room. Commuter dream-bus stop in front-easy Metro. Creek and park across street. Foxchase Shops including 24 hour Harris Teeter and new Aldi one block too! Come see or call me at 703-407-6481.  
*Barbara Rosen 703-407-6481*



**JUST LISTED**  
**Alexandria \$209,900**  
**1756 Preston Road.** Bright and airy one bedroom Monroe model in sought after Parkfairfax boasts a charming front porch, new electrical panel, gleaming parquet flooring throughout, double-paned, vinyl windows, and built-in shelving. Condo fee includes all utilities except electricity. Community features tons of amenities and at this location you are minutes from Shirlington, Old Town and major commuting routes.  
*Jennifir Birtwhistle 703-835-156*

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# Cyber School

Students learn IT and job skills, earn tech internships.

By TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

On a scorching week day in late summer, rising Fairfax County seniors Kenneth Smith, Amy Wong and Tasmia Dia were taking cumulative review tests in their summer course. This wasn't exactly summer school, though.

They were dressed in sharp business attire, and they weren't at any school. The trio were among the first batch of 44 students to go through the Genesys Works job training and internship placement program's office in Tysons Corner.

The organization partners with businesses to offer work opportunities to underprivileged students. Some of the partners include AT&T, Accenture, Ernst & Young, Kirkland & Ellis, Intelsat and Strayer Education.

"Being that it's considered one of, if not the richest, county in the entire country, people don't recognize the significant need that exists in Fairfax County," said Mahan Tavakoli, executive director for the National Capital Region of Genesys Works.

Many of these students may not have another family member who's gone to college, or haven't seen the opportunity to work in a professional environment.

For the first year's recruitment, Tavakoli said they chose from high schools with the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced meals.

"Our goal is to change that trajectory," Tavakoli said. "To show them they have the potential to advance their education."

More than 98 percent of Genesys Works student interns enroll in college after completing the program and internship. Ninety-four percent of program graduates stay in college after their freshman year and 84 percent are the first in their family to go onto college.

This year, the participating students came from Mount Vernon, West Potomac, Lee, Falls Church, South Lakes and JEB Stuart High Schools.

**THE MAIN COMPONENTS** of Genesys' program include an eight-week training period, at the conclusion of which they may be offered a one-year, part-time paid internship with a partner company, as well as college and career coaching.

For Tasmia Dia, now a senior at South Lakes High School, her parents went to college, but in their na-



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THEGAZETTE

**Genesys Works' program includes an eight-week training period, at the conclusion of which they may be offered a one-year, part-time paid internship with a partner company, as well as college and career coaching.**

tive Bangladesh.

"I look forward to getting help with essays, getting skills I can use anywhere and improving myself," she said.

The training focuses on professional skills such as public speaking, teamwork and networking, and Information Technology: computer and network troubleshooting, hardware and software upgrades, and help desk support.

"It ends up being place where organizations end up relying on the students," Tavakoli said.

Dia said she never thought businesses would hire teens and trust them to do tech work.

"It breaks the idea of what teens are," she said. "It's kind of intimidating, and takes me out of my comfort zone."

Amy Wong from Mount Vernon High School was surprised like Dia. "It shows a lot of respect," she said. "I'm glad they trust us. It's a really great experience and chance to do this."

Dia, Wong and current West Potomac High School senior Kenneth Smith all said they wanted to improve their interpersonal skills as well as develop tech field knowledge.

"I've been more shy," Wong said, "but the public speaking is making me come out of my shell."

"Working with adults, I already have experience, but this is building a foundation to go off of," said Smith. "You have to communicate

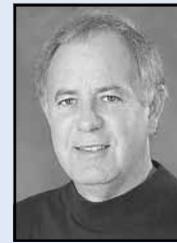
SEE EARNING TECH, PAGE 22



Mount Vernon High School senior Amy Wong.



West Potomac High School senior Kenneth Smith.



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**OPEN SUNDAY**

**Alex/Hollin Hall \$619,900**  
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Waynewood Elementary district, & short walk to Hollin Hall shopping center.



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

**Alex/Riverside Estates 639,900**  
**8522 Wagon Wheel Road**  
Absolute gorgeous 4BR, 3BA expanded & updated Split on large beautiful lot with fenced backyard. Two 16x14 ft. additions, Office off the MBR and Sun Rm off the Living rm. Updates include: roof, HWH, HVAC, baths, kit (floor, cabinets, apps & counters)-Freshly painted interior and exterior

Approximately 2900 fin sq ft plus 2 car garage. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 28 min s to Ntl Airport, 33 mins to Pentagon.



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$498,500**  
**3424 Ramsgate Terrace**  
Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA home w/garage in wonderful Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Updated - open kitchen w/granite & SS. Refinished hardwood floors. Private sauna in LL. 2 Fireplaces. HVAC 2013, Roof 2008, Windows 2010, Kitchen 2015. Large deck off of the

kitchen & stone patio. Fenced bkyd. Great location close to Fort Belvoir & GW Pkwy for scenic commuting to DC.



**Alex/Collingwood Ests. \$609,000**  
**1120 Anesbury Lane**  
Lovely, updated, 3 BR, 3 BA Rambler on a beautiful lot in Waynewood Elementary district! Upgrades include: kitchen, 3 baths, windows, painting, and brand new concrete driveway. Full basement, half finished, and room for a

4th & 5th bedroom. 8 mins to Old Town (N), and 10 mins to Fort Belvoir (S). Call Rex for more information.



**Alex/Riverside Est. \$649,900**  
**8425 Mt. Vernon Highway**  
Beautiful home w/over 4000 fin sq ft & 2 lvl addn plus 600+ sq ft bsmt in lovely Riverside Estates. Great Rm on ML w/gas FP & wet bar. Adjacent Family Rm w/wood burning FP. An office adjoins the gorgeous 20'x32' MBR addn w/vaulted Douglas Fir ceiling & skylights. Library/studio (32'x 12') on

upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replcd 2011. 1 mile to GW Pkwy. Close to Ft. Belvoir.



**RENTAL**

**Alex/Mt. Vernon Grove \$3,000**  
**4112 Scotland Road**  
Lovely 4 BR, 3 BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Bright, light-filled rooms w/beautiful hdwd floors throughout main & lower levels. Large family room w/wet bar & 4th BR & 3rd bath on lower level. In-ground sprinkler

system - 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 30 to Ntl Airport, 28 minutes to Ntl Airport. No smoking.



# Walking to End Alzheimer's Northern Virginia walk set for Sept. 25

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

## 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia

Sunday, Sept. 25  
Time: Registration at 1:30 p.m. (Program at 2:30 p.m. (Walk at 3 p.m.)  
Route Length: 1 and 2 miles  
Location: (Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., (Reston, VA 20190)  
Contact: ( Sonya Amarte, 703-766-9025 samartey@alz.org

When Paula Dierkes was growing up in Arlington, she would often hear family stories of a grandfather who sat on his front porch screaming at his neighbors and asking for his shotgun. She recalls a grandmother who shut out her family, literally, by closing doors and windows when they came to visit.

"As a child, I thought they were just grumpy, old people," said Dierkes. "But looking back, I realize that it was probably Alzheimer's."

Dierkes' mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and now lives in the memory care unit of a Fairfax nursing facility. "She is this woman I see, who looks like my mom, but it's not my mom," said Dierkes. "It's not the same woman who I would go to crafts fairs with and have coffee with. That's what's so sad about this disease."

Ilissa Belanger lost both her mother and mother-in-law to Alzheimer's. "My mother-in-law had it for 10 years before she died," said Belanger who lives in Fairfax. "Shortly after, my mother was diagnosed and suffered with it for five years. So it was back-to-back. The experience makes you realize how devastating it can be on your loved

ones."

Patty Schuebel of Great Falls says her father has been living with Alzheimer's for nearly seven years. "It's been quite eye-opening to go through this journey with him," she said. "You don't really understand how horrible this disease is until it affects you directly."

It is personal experiences like these that have led Dierkes, Schuebel, Belanger and thousands of others to join the Alzheimer's Association's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia, an event designed to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Held each year in September, World Alzheimer's Awareness Month, more than 600 communities around the country join the effort. This year, the Northern Virginia event will be held on Sept. 25 at the Reston Town Center in

Reston.

"The walk brings the community together to support each other and to raise awareness about Alzheimer's and offer support for families going through it," said Belanger.

Participants form teams to honor a loved one affected by the disease.

Schuebel is the captain of her team, "Steps for Dad." This will be Belanger's ninth year joining the event with her team, "Walkers for Miriam and Anita."

Dierkes' team is called the "Baldinelli Battlers."

"We may have this disease genetically in our family," said Dierkes. "So we're fighting this together and working to get the word out and raise awareness and money."

Each walker will also join a ceremony to honor those affected by Alzheimer's disease. Known as the Promise Garden Ceremony, the experience gives walkers an opportunity to receive a promise flower and write a personal message on it. Colored flowers used for ceremony represent the diverse reasons participants join the walk.

Blue represents someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. Purple is for someone who has lost a loved one to the disease. Yellow represents someone who is currently supporting or caring for someone with Alzheimer's. Orange is for everyone who supports the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATTY SCHUEBEL

### Participants join last year's Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia.

"I would love to be able to give my kids the gift of saying 'I know an Alzheimer's survivor,' said Dierkes. "We're looking forward to that day when there is a treatment, or better yet a cure, for this wicked disease."

The 2016 Walk to End Alzheimer's in Northern Virginia is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 25. For more information visit [http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2016/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr\\_id=8887&pg=entry](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2016/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=8887&pg=entry) or contact ( Sonya Amarte, 703-766-9025 or samartey@alz.org.

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**1421B N VAN DORN STREET**  
ALEXANDRIA, VA | List Price: \$239,000



**8403 MOREY LANE**  
ALEXANDRIA, VA | List Price: \$619,000

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# OPINION

## Epidemic Is Here, Recovery Is Possible

Prescription opioid and heroin epidemic awareness week is Sept. 18-24.

BY TISHA DEEGHAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FAIRFAX/FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY SERVICES  
BOARD

**O**pioid use disorder and addiction to heroin is a disease that is devastating families across the United States, and Fairfax County is not immune. Fairfax County police report that in 2015 there were 77 heroin overdoses in the county, 12 of which were fatal. As of May 2016, Fairfax County's Emergency Medical Services was reporting an average of 10.17 patient contacts per month that were suspected overdoses of heroin or other opioids.

In recognition of Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week, and in collaboration with state and federal partners, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) joins the community in recognizing and remembering those lost due to opioid use disorder and in encouraging strength and courage for those who are seeking help.

The CSB is here to help; resources are avail-

able to treat opioid ad-  
diction, and recovery is  
possible. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/heroin-opiates/opioid-treatment-options.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/heroin-opiates/opioid-treatment-options.htm)

Many people, including drug users themselves, have mistaken beliefs about drug addiction and recovery. These ideas stem in part from notions that continued drug use is voluntary and that a person's inability to overcome addiction stems solely from character flaws or a lack of willpower.

Substance abuse treatment comes in a variety of forms. For people who seek help for opioid addiction, treatment should start with a thorough assessment of their history of opioid use, prior treatment history, if any, and existence of any co-occurring mental illness. The treatment plan would be based on this assessment and could include medication-assisted treatment along with other services designed to support their recovery, such as cognitive behavioral therapy, education about addiction, engagement of family and friends, and building a recovery-based support system.

If you or someone you love needs help to

This is a ploy to get voters to vote yes on something that they normally would not support — yet another tax hike. And it's a tax hike on items that working families like mine and many others frequently purchase —

pre-made deli items, rotisserie chickens, dinner out on the fly on the way home from practices or games — things that busy people of all socio-economic status need to keep their families happy and fed. The

Board of Supervisors is attempting to make that more expensive for everyone. Don't fall for their tricks and public relations tactics. This tax is harmful to the working families of Fairfax.

The Board of Supervisors should do what they are elected to do — balance the budget and spend our hard-earned tax dollars wisely — not just ask the taxpayers for more and more every year. Don't buy the lies; vote no on the meals tax.

Jessica Khouri  
Alexandria

## Shameful Propaganda

To the Editor:

In last week's Gazette, my letter was published in which I explained that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) had mailed to residents the previous week a brochure discussing the Meals Tax Referendum that is on the November ballot (which if approved would create a new 4 percent tax on meals prepared by food establishments). I pointed out that the brochure was a one-sided propaganda piece, only setting forth the reasons why voters

overcome drug dependence, call the CSB at 703-383-8500. CSB staff will help you find appropriate treatment and recovery resources. Anyone seeking help can also come to the Merrifield Center for a walk-in screening, with or without an appointment, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

You can help, too. Enroll in CSB's REVIVE! program, a free course that teaches non-medical personnel to administer the life-saving opioid-reversal medication naloxone. CSB staff has trained more than 640 people so far this year and classes are scheduled throughout the fall. Participants report that the training has saved lives. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/revive](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/revive)

Learn more about substance use prevention at these upcoming events, sponsored by CSB partners:

❖ Attend one of the Chris Atwood Foundation's presentations entitled "Addiction: The Taboo Subject," scheduled for Sept. 24, 9-11 a.m. and Oct. 3, 7-9 p.m. Hear personal stories of addiction and recovery and learn how to recognize and respond to substance misuse at Lord of Life Lutheran, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton, VA 20124.

❖ Parents who want to be more involved in youth substance use prevention and education can attend Fairfax County's Unified Prevention Coalition's Sept. 26 "Taste of UPC" Fall Kick-Off event. See [www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org](http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org).

should support the referendum and providing no reasons why it should be opposed. I suggested that Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, who had pledged upon his election to bring the community together, should request that the BOS direct county staff to publish a new brochure in which the pros and cons of the meals tax are fairly represented.

The BOS met on Sept. 20 and, the day prior, I forwarded my Gazette letter to each board member with the request that they vote to direct county staff to prepare and mail the revised brochure. I was informed that no such action was taken by Supervisor Storck or any other board member at the BOS meeting. So much for the notion that Supervisor Storck wishes to bring the community together. He took no action to ensure that his constituents are fully informed about the pros and cons of an important tax issue that will impact every resident if the referendum passes. This is shameful and should be remembered by voters. Like traffic lights, taxes, once enacted, never go away.

H. Jay Spiegel  
Mount Vernon

## Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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By e-mail: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Plan for Upgrading Utilities on Richmond Highway Now

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**R**ichmond Highway revitalization is a hot topic in Fairfax and Prince William counties. One of the most frequent requests we receive from constituents, after just getting Richmond Highway widened to three lanes in each direction, is to get it modernized by upgrading public transportation, businesses and utilities. Our community's and business' "Main Street" needs a modern 21st century "look" and transportation system.

The three of us support undergrounded utilities on Richmond Highway. It is also supported by the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, and has been requested by the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

While undergrounding utilities is expensive and disruptive, it significantly improves the desirability of the corridor, is crucial for changing perceptions of Richmond Highway and Mount Vernon as worn and out-of-date areas and necessary to secure private modernization development investments. It is also the standard for new or

modernizing areas in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria.

It also requires significant long-term planning. How can we get it done in Fairfax County?

## The Prince William Experience

Prince William County has undergrounded or committed to underground utilities along its entire 14-mile segment of Route 1, even though they have 40-percent of Fairfax County's population, a fraction of its residential and commercial property tax base, and a median household income that is \$3,000 per year lower.

How are they doing it? They prioritized it using a combination of local General Fund monies and regional funds — all considered local funds by the State and Federal Government. Their board was convinced that the increased property values that came from revitalization created by an improved Richmond Highway (and the commercial tax revenue increases that generates) would more than pay for the financial investment required.

## Status in Fairfax County

While the ongoing EMBARK Richmond Highway process is laying the groundwork to implement the objectives of the Route 1 Multimodal Study, there are no concrete plans for undergrounded utilities. This is something that we are working to correct.

## The Path Forward

Underground utilities are estimated to cost an extra \$60 million from Costco to Woodlawn and about \$200 million along the entire stretch of Richmond Highway in Fairfax County. How could this be funded?

First, we should use state and regional transportation project funding that would otherwise have been spent on the overhead utilities that have to be moved to fund at least a portion of the undergrounding utilities investment. Further, we need to advocate for additional local flexibility in the use of transportation project funds to increase the portion invested in undergrounding utilities.

Second, we could use economic development bonds or other types of bonding mechanisms to fund these investments with the increased tax revenues generated from enhanced property valuations. Two hundred million dollars amortized over 30 years' costs about \$15 million per year.

Third, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors could appropriate the funds as an investment in the Richmond Highway Corridor's future development, helping to further leverage private sector development dollars with the large state transportation investments.

Just as Prince William County is finding — new development could completely fund this investment from the higher commer-

cial property values and increased revenue generated, resulting in no costs to existing residential tax payers.

At Fairfax County's current property tax rate of \$1.13, an additional \$1 billion of real estate value would generate over \$11 million per year in increased tax revenue. Today, merely the commercial properties on the three miles of the highway between Kings Crossing and Costco are assessed at over \$1 billion in value — there is even more value (and far greater upside development opportunities) along the nine miles of Richmond Highway to the south. With undergrounded utilities, a bus rapid transit system and, further in the future, a two stop Metro extension, there will be more than enough commercial real estate value to generate the revenue needed to pay for these investments.

Our present-day mid-20th century highway and transit systems require public and private investments to create the revitalized 21st century "Main Street" our Richmond Highway corridor needs to become. We cannot afford not to make these investments and improvements. Now is the time to bring all these resources together for the Richmond Highway Corridor.

It is an honor to serve you. Your comments are welcomed. Please email us at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org), [paul@paulkrizek.com](mailto:paul@paulkrizek.com) or Dan Storck at [MtVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:MtVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov).

## Cybersecurity: Critical Industry

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

**T**he Internet is a tremendous catalyst for economic growth and provides for easy access to information. It is already an essential tool that we would find impossible to live without. As we become more dependent upon this interconnectivity, we are increasingly more vulnerable. Virginia's leaders on both sides of the aisle recognize the critical importance of a strong cybersecurity policy.

Our Commonwealth's continued leadership in the field of cybersecurity is an essential element of our mission to build a new Virginia economy. That is why Gov. Terry McAuliffe has made this sector a high priority, establishing a strong cybersecurity ecosystem in Virginia.

Virginia was the first state to adopt the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) cybersecurity framework and the Governor signed seven related bills into law, founded the innovative Scholarship for Service program and launched the Virginia Cyber Range, establishing a pattern of bipartisan support for these efforts and solidifying Virginia's status as a national leader in cutting-edge policy.

Effective cybersecurity policy requires close coordination between all levels of government and private industry. Gov. McAuliffe's initiative is a critical step toward building the environment for that cooperation, developing concrete solutions

and implementing actual policies.

This is a fantastic field for our students to study. There are more than 17,000 open cybersecurity jobs in Virginia, paying an average starting salary of \$88,000. The average certified professional salary can start at \$93,010.

Cyber attacks have been growing in frequency and sophistication, which can cause physical and economic harm to existing systems. Between January and May 2016, there were nearly 54 million attack attempts (four per second), 354 million spam messages blocked, 42,000 pieces of malware blocked and 131 attack attempts that became cybersecurity incidents.

Cybersecurity is not a temporary challenge to businesses, schools and government. Even citizens here in the 44th district are at risk in this interconnected world in which we live, work and play. The Internet allows for amazing efficiencies, especially in communications and research.

However, with this connectivity and new technology comes new vulnerabilities that target our smart phones, tablets and even car computers, listening aids and toys. We all have had to delete phishing emails that could infiltrate our computers with embedded viruses that could steal our very identities. On the macro level, our national security is at risk if we don't find ways to defend our country in cyberspace. In Virginia, cybersecurity is our priority.

I support continued investment in cybersecurity, which is critical for a safe, digital economy.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fairfax Raises \$521,509 for MDA

To the Editor:

For over 30 years, during Labor Day Weekend, the men and women of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, in conjunction with the Fairfax County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics - IAFF Local 2068 and the personnel in the Department of Public Safety Communications, have collected for the Greater Washington Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) during the Fill the Boot Campaign.

The 2016 campaign was special in a number of ways, but, most notably the amount collected. Thanks to the generosity of the citizens, visitors and employees of Fairfax County, we were able to collect an astounding \$521,509.05. One hundred percent of that money goes to the Greater Washington MDA, who uses it to fund such things as neuromuscular research at Georgetown University and National Institutes of Health, a loaner

closet of durable medical goods and the annual summer camp in southern Maryland where children affected with the 43 neuromuscular diseases that MDA serves can enjoy a week doing "normal" summer camp activities specially tailored to their particular disability and physical need — all at no cost to the families.

This year's campaign was also remarkable because, after the typical Labor Day Weekend street side campaign was complete, firefighters noted that we were only \$3,500 away from topping the Dallas, Texas Fire Department and claiming the crown for the highest raising Fill the Boot campaign in the United States and Canada for 2016. In a week-long social media campaign, members of Local 2068 not only erased that deficit, but collected an additional \$2,200 to secure Fairfax County as number one in North America.

Again, many thanks to the citizens, visitors and employees of Fairfax County.

**Master Technician Joel Kobersteen**

Fire Station 40, Fairfax Center, B-Shift



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

**Supervisor Pat Herrity (center) expressed concern that an independent auditor position would increase the police department's administrative workload. He proposed funding two additional positions in FCPD's internal affairs bureau immediately, but those positions will wait until 2018.**

**Recent data released by Chief Roessler, front row, right, shows that 40 percent of Fairfax County Police use of force incidents involved African Americans while only 8 percent of county residents are African American. John Cook (R) offered this as an example of broader policy issues that the auditor could study.**

# Supervisors Approve Independent Police Auditor

FROM PAGE 1

County Executive or Chief of Police.

For example, the auditor could study and make recommendations concerning recent data released by Chief Edwin Roessler about demographics of police use of force, Cook said. There were 539 use-of-force incidents in 2015 and data show that 40 percent of those incidents involved African Americans while only 8 percent of county residents are African American.

Cook also pointed out that, unlike an ordinance or land use case, the board may make changes to the independent auditor position in the future.

"If we pass this," he said, "It would not

be shocking at all that auditor could come back and recommend we look at a few adjustments" in the future.

Commission member and Use of Force subcommittee chair Phil Niedzielski-Eichner called the board's action "a remarkable achievement for the commission's work." He acknowledged the vision of the auditor was for a position that would be independent, but not separate, from the police work.

"This gives the public a real feeling of comfort," said Randy Sayles of Oak Hill, a member of Use of Force subcommittee, looking forward to use of force investigations with the auditor on board, "of the integrity and transparency of the process."

Commission member Adrian Steel of McLean called the unanimous vote "quite affirming." He also appreciated the auditor being able to be involved in identifying trends and reviewing policy, again getting back to the disproportionate percentage of African Americans impacted by use of force incidents.

"The whole thought was for the auditor to become involved in picking up these types of things," he said.

Reston resident John Lovaas, an alternate on the commission for Nicholas Beltrante with the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability, said he wasn't happy with the way he believed the supervisors deviated from the commission's version of

the position. "They eviscerated the independence of the independent auditor," Lovaas said, citing the auditor's dependence on cooperation from the police.

Other commission recommendations that have already been approved include the establishment of the Diversion First program providing treatment rather than jail for people in mental health crisis and more transparency in police communications.

**THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE** will discuss the creation of a Civilian Review Panel, a complementary oversight entity to the auditor as proposed by the Ad Hoc Commission, at its next meeting, scheduled for Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.

# Garza's Resignation Sets School Board on Recruiting Path

FROM PAGE 1

that she's definitely going to be missed.

"She put a lot of chips into the middle," Hickerson said, "with a lot of help from the community and organizations like ourselves we got it done. It will be really tough to replace her and her leadership."

Precious Crabtree teaches K-12 art at Deer Park Elementary School in Centreville. She's been a teacher for 21 years and with Fairfax County for 16.

"I couldn't wrap my brain around this was going to happen," she said, on hearing her phone ring with the news while she was shopping for groceries.

"I've had several superintendents in the systems that I've worked. Dr. Garza was dif-

ferent. She was an educator. You could tell from the moment you met her, she was very personable, you could tell she cared deeply. This is really a big loss for our school system." Crabtree also said she was grateful for the way Garza tackled the budget with the Board of Supervisors.

"[Former superintendent] Dr. Dale had very good intentions but never stood up for us when it came to the supervisors," she said. "I never saw him fight for us the way Dr. Garza did. That's courage."

School Board chair Sandy Evans sent out a letter in reaction praising Garza as "a transformational leader who has had a tremendous impact on our schools, families and most importantly the children of Fairfax

County." Evans highlighted Garza's "vision, candor and grace" in successfully implementing later high school start times, full-day Mondays for elementary schools and reducing elementary school class sizes during her tenure.

"A tireless advocate for teachers, she navigated one of the most challenging budget environments in recent memory, and achieved the largest investment in FCPS teacher compensation in a decade," Evans said.

"Under her leadership, FCPS has embarked on a path that will transform our schools in positive ways that benefit all children, our employees, and our community. The School Board is committed to maintain-

ing this path as we find new leadership."

**AN INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT** will be named soon by the School Board, Evans said. They'll also go over details of a search process for Garza's replacement in the next several weeks. "For a county this size, it's going to attract very strong candidates," said Hickerson. "I don't have any worries in a sense we'll find someone good, I just don't know how they'll compare to Dr. Garza." Palchik likened Garza to Mary Poppins. "She's come in and moved us in the right direction," Palchik said. "Around the table, all of us, we're just in awe of who she is, how high she's raised the bar for our system."

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# Homework Overload

Some educators say less can be more, stress balance when it comes to homework.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE



PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLIS SCHOOL

**Faculty and staff at the Bullis School have restructured the way they assign homework to foster a feeling of success, confidence and independence.**

Paula DeMarco dreads one time of day the most: weekday evenings at 5:30. It's the time she has set aside for her children begin their homework. That means no screen time, music or other distractions.

"When my son entered fifth grade last year it was like running into a brick wall," she said. "We were in shock by how much more homework he had than when he was in the lower grades. It was stressful and there were a lot of tears shed — both mine and his."

For many parents and students, homework can be anxiety inducing, especially when there's a lot of it, when it's intense, when there's pressure to succeed and when it's used as a measure of accomplishment.

In fact, a study published in the Journal of Experimental Education in 2014 found that students in high-achieving communities who spend excessive amounts of time on homework are more prone to more stress, physical health problems and a lack of balance than students who have moderate amounts of homework. Researchers found that students felt obligated to choose homework over other interests. As a result, they didn't know how to find balance in their lives.

Homework in a competitive environment that doesn't leave time for hobbies or sports can also put a strain on family relationships.

"Homework becomes stressful because parents take on the role of homework police," said Ann Dolin, president, Educational Connections Tutoring in Fairfax and Bethesda. "It's a role they never envisioned and they don't want, but before they know it, their relationships with their children become defined by academics."

Dolin points to the "Ten-Minute Homework Rule," guidelines approved by the National Education Association, which recommend 10 minutes of homework per grade level. A first grade student, for example, would have 10 minutes of homework each night, while a fourth grade student would have 40. Any more than this would be counterproductive.

"I have known first graders who've had an hour or and hour-and-a-half of homework," said Dolin. "That is unrealistic."

Locally, Margaret Andreadis, lower school principal at Bullis School in Potomac, Md., says administrators and teachers at her school have restructured the way they assign homework to focus on quality over quantity.

"We've scaled back to emphasize our purpose for homework: teaching students goal setting and time management," she said. "We're not using homework as busy work. Our philosophy has been to create a balance between academics, life at home with family and activities like sports."

Students at Bullis often have choices over their homework assignments, and their tasks are designed to foster a feeling of success, confidence and independence.

"The emphasis is on small successes. We want students to feel good about themselves," said Andreadis.

"If a parent is having to interact with their child over homework, it's not an independent assignment."

This homework structure can actually create balance in the lives of students, she said. "I think the stress comes from kids wanting to get things perfect and parents wanting their children to be successful," said Andreadis. "Kids need time that is unscheduled so that they can be creative, find new passions and be kids."

Researchers say unstructured play, reading, and other child-initiated activities have as many benefits for children as academics. "Children learn conflict management skills, develop imagination and creativity, self-regulation of time and interest, and independence," said Shannon N. Davis, associate professor of sociology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research has shown that children who are given time to play in an unstructured manner, read or otherwise determine how they spend their time are much less likely to say, 'I'm bored' when they have free time. They know how to entertain themselves rather than needing an adult to structure their time for them."

Navigating that course, deciding how much independence to give children when it comes to managing free time and their homework, while at the same time making sure they have the support they need to succeed can be challenging, parents and educators agree.

"I don't think these two areas are mutually exclusive. We want our kids to take ownership of their priorities, but they need some foundational knowledge in order to make these choices from an informed perspective," said Sean Aiken, head of school at BASIS Independent in McLean. "We need to empower our students to make some of these decisions early on and then allow them to experience the consequences."

Parents' roles should be setting students up for success, recommends Andreadis: "Giving them a quiet place to study, checking in with them, asking, 'What's your plan for homework tonight?' Helping the child make the decision but letting the child actually make it. Be hands off as much as possible."

Some educators acknowledge that a relaxed approach might push parents, particularly those in high-achieving communities, outside their comfort zones. "This involves some risk taking on the part of us as parents and educators, but I think the benefits are worth it," said Aiken. "We need to pair that with a lot of support and discussion about why academic achievement matters, specifically that we are learning things in order to make connections and ask questions about the world around us."

## COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule**

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

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

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

**En Español:**  
Monday, 6:30 pm;  
Thursday, 7:30 pm;  
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## SECOND WEDNESDAYS

**Art Making as Meditation.** 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent's quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Call 703-360-4220, email [info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org](mailto:info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org) or visit [www.staidans.episcopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidans.episcopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

**New Uses, Old Buildings.** 8:30-10 a.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821 Richmond Highway. Join SFDC for the latest Summit Series event, "New Uses, Old Buildings: How Professionals Re-Purpose Old Structures for Modern Uses," with Heather Arnold, Managing Director, Public Sector at Streetsense, and Matt Hopkins, the Director of Architecture at Streetsense. The process of converting old and historical buildings to for modern use is referred to in development jargon as "adaptive re-use." There are examples of it all around: From the Workhouse Arts Center and Lorton Prison to Mount Vernon Estate, and likely in the near future, the old Mount Vernon High School. Visit [www.sfdc.org/](http://www.sfdc.org/) for more.

**Business Networking.** 4-7 p.m. at Amanda Davidson Real Estate Group, 6485 Old Beulah St. Join Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce for business networking. Celebrate the grand opening of this new business in Hilltop Village Center with a ribbon cutting at 4 p.m. followed by networking reception. Call 703-360-6925 or visit [www.MtVernonLeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernonLeeChamber.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

**Accordion Orchestra Concert.** 12:30-1:30 p.m.

at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The Busso Festival Orchestra is comprised of students from the Busso Music School, located in Fairfax County. It is an accordion orchestra that adds vocals and percussion to present musical programs that excite audience members of all ages and musical tastes. The ensemble is directed by Frank Busso Jr., the director of the Busso Music School. Free. Call 703-765-4573 or visit [www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/busso-festival-orchestra/](http://www.hollinhallseniorcenter.org/busso-festival-orchestra/) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

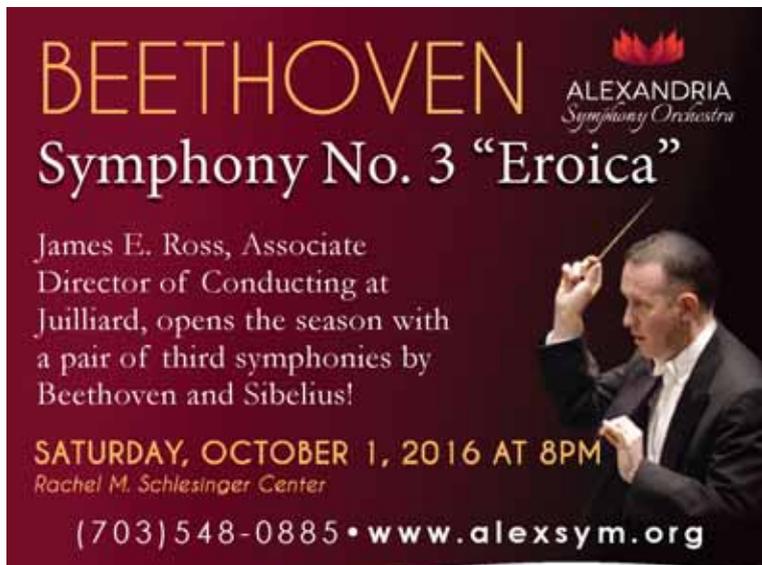
**Mature Spirituality: Engaging with the Mystery.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Dr. James Hollis, well-published author and renowned Jungian analyst, is the Executive Director of the Jung Society of Washington. His books include *Finding Meaning in the Second Half of Life: How to Finally, Really Grow Up*. Join him for a deep discussion on the development of a mature spiritual life woven out of our own experience. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidans.episcopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidans.episcopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening).

## FRIDAY/OCT. 7

**School Open House.** 9-11 a.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Childcare available. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit [www.burgundyfarm.org](http://www.burgundyfarm.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 8

**Supervisor Dan Storck** holds open office hours at the Lorton Library (9-11:30 a.m.) and at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center office (12:30-3 p.m.) on the second Saturday of each month (except August). Call 703-780-7518 for a 15-20 minute appointment, which could result in a longer subsequent meeting during the work week, if needed. He may meet with walk-ins as time permits between appointments.



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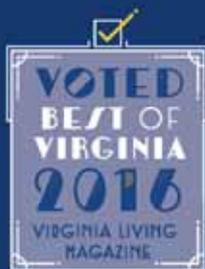
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 2 Restaurants Hidden in Plain Sight

Finding these gems requires a bit of searching, but the result is worth it.

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**ucked away amid retail shops, barbershops, and numerous other storefronts, some of the city's restaurant gems are a bit tricky to uncover. But the result is worth the search. Here are two of Alexandria's best strip-mall selections.

### May Island, 1669 N. Quaker Lane

It's easy to miss May Island, sitting adjacent as it does from a 7-11 near Fairlington. But when you've got a hankering for sushi, don't drive by without stopping to see all the restaurant has to offer.

The first surprise is the ambience. Step through the doors and you'll see that the mirrored windows out front are obscuring a wonderfully quaint sushi bar with more tables than you might expect before setting foot inside. Order a sake — May Island has plenty to choose from, from higher-end selections to the more day-to-day options — and peruse the menu, which is extensive.

By this point, the breadth and depth — and taste — of the sushi menu shouldn't be a surprise at all. Each roll is well done and each platter brings artistic flair, from the arrangement of the sushi itself to the little birds whittled out of sweet potatoes. Whether ordering a la carte — maybe an Alaska roll filled with salmon, avocado and cream cheese or a shrimp asparagus roll — or by the platter, which offers up a range of options, there's little room for error. And vegetarians won't be left out of the mix, either; the vegetable-sushi selections are copious and interesting, deviating from the standard avocado and/or cucumber roll

(though there are those too).

While sushi is certainly May Island's hook, there are other alternatives as well, ranging from teriyaki to General Tso's, from lo mein to yaki udon. A well-rounded restaurant deserving of an evening meal, indeed.

### Thai Lemongrass, 506 C&D South Van Dorn St.

Tucked away in a corner of the Van Dorn Station shopping center, Thai Lemongrass is an unassuming storefront with a kitchen that's bursting with flavor. Walk into the room and you'll inhale the aroma of deep, rich curries and Thai spices; sit down and order and you'll get a taste of some of the best Thai in town.

If you're looking for the hottest in upscale ambience, you should probably turn away from Thai Lemongrass. Its dining room may seem a bit workaday, but its food is anything but bland. Start off with the spring rolls or a bowl of Tom Kha Gai (coconut soup with chicken), and then launch straight into dinner. The panang curry is a star — whether paired with chicken, beef, seafood, or tofu, the curry is rich and creamy, spicy yet smooth, and makes the taste buds sing. Or give one of the lo mein dishes a try — the noodles and their accompanying vegetables and protein are fresh and flavorful, without a lot of the additional oil that can be so prevalent in Thai-for-American-palate cooking.

Thai Lemongrass also offers a "Lunch Box Special" on weekdays, where diners can get many of their favorite dishes for lunchtime prices — a perfect reason to sneak away from the office for a meal out.

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



Above: May Island offers an abundance of sushi selections, complete with artistic adornments to each platter.



## 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

**Face Off 2016.** Through Sept. 23, gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Face Off 2016 is a live painting demonstration and exhibition of new works by artists Cindy Procius, Mia Bergeron and Elizabeth Floyd. Free. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com) for more.

**ReelAbilities Film Festival.** Through Sept. 14, various times and places throughout Northern Virginia. The 5th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: Northern Virginia, powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia (JCCNV), is a lineup of award-winning feature and short films and a preview of guest speakers and special events. ReelAbilities is the largest film festival of its kind in the nation dedicated to showcasing films by and

about people that experience a disability. Opening and Closing Nights: advance tickets are \$18 for adults, \$15 for JCCNV members, seniors (65+), and for groups of 10 or more, \$10 students with valid student ID. All tickets are \$20 the day of the opening and closing events. Other ticket prices vary. Visit [www.northernva.reelabilities.org](http://www.northernva.reelabilities.org) for more.

**Exhibit: "A Solo in Abstract."** Through Sept. 25, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artist Donna K. McGee works in large format abstract acrylics. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Photography Showcase.** Gallery hours at Broadway Gallery Fine Art and Custom Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Photographic works by Fred Eberhart, Geoff Livingston, Hannele Lahti, Joseph Romeo, and David Sloane. Free. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net) for more.

**Deadline: Call for Artists.** Through Oct. 2. Now in its third year, the Post-Graduate Residency Studio at the Torpedo Factory Art Center is seeking applicants for the 2017

program via [torpedofactory.org/PostGradCall](http://torpedofactory.org/PostGradCall).

**Exhibit: "Impressive Expressions: Patterning in Clay."** Through Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 N. Union St. See clay art that can be touched, held and brought home as a private collection. Free. Visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org) for more.

**Exhibit: "The Art of Politics."** Through Oct. 2, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Through a street art aesthetic, artist Michael Fischerkeller offers a commentary on today's political, economic, and social issues. His stark yet elegant paintings span large canvases, the size and weight consistent with the gravity of the issues to which they speak. Using acrylic spray paint, a street artist's medium, Fischerkeller boldly and symbolically relays his message, as the "street" is most often and most deprived of social justice. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**Exhibit: "Explorations Part II."** Through Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center — Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Artists derive inspiration from contemporary explorations:

Africa, the Amazon, North and South Poles, Mount Everest, and more.

Free. Visit [www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

**Art Exhibit: "Fire and Earth."**

Through Oct. 2, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Fire and Earth" exhibit celebrates these classical elements in a hybrid show combining a National ceramic cup exhibit with a regional 2-D show, exploring how fire transforms earth. The exhibit is juried by Dan Finnegan, an internationally recognized potter. Free. Visit [www.delrayartisans.org/exhibits](http://www.delrayartisans.org/exhibits).

**Blackberry Daze.** Through Oct. 9, various times at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. This is an adaptation from the novel "Blackberry Days of Summer" by Ruth P. Watson. Tickets are \$60. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) for more.

**Photo Exhibit: "Never Forget."**

Through Oct. 16, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at Multiple Exposures Gallery — Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The photographs in this exhibit follow photographer Alan Sisen's 15-year photographic journey

beginning before 9/11, and continuing today. Free. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com) for more.

**"A (Mis)Perceived Physique:**

**Bodyscapes by Three Women Artists."** Through Oct. 16, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents work by three women who use the female body to explore issues of equity, power, politics, and memory. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org) for more.

**Exhibit: "Garden Muse."** Through Oct. 23, 9-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-4:30 p.m. Sunday at Green Springs Garden — Horticultural Center, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens is featuring the award-winning photographs of Cindy Dyer, a graphic designer, photographer and USPS Stamp Artist. Free. Visit [www.gardenmuseshow.com](http://www.gardenmuseshow.com) for more.

**Exhibit: "Song of the Woods."**

Through Oct. 24, gallery hours at Green Springs Garden — Historical House, 4603 Green Spring Road.

# ENTERTAINMENT

Artist Mary Exline displays her abstract expressionist paintings. Free. Visit [www.artis.com/maryexline](http://www.artis.com/maryexline) for more.

**Exhibit: "In All Things."** Through Oct. 29, gallery hours at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Convergence Arts Initiative will feature the work of artist and educator, Glenn Howell in his latest exhibit, "In All things." The title of Howell's photography and print show reflects the diversity of his image making and his belief in the promise of redemption of all things. It is a juxtaposition of the "dystopian" elements seen in our world with a vision of Heaven as evidence of God's grace. Free. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org) for more.

**"Oh The Joy."** Through Nov. 6, Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Artists from across the region were asked to interpret the theme, "Oh! The joy!" The selected entries represent the wealth of art being created in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

**Grand Opening: Amanda Davidson Real Estate.** 4-7 p.m. at 6485 Old Beulah St. Ribbon cutting and networking in celebration of the new real estate office. Free. Visit [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org) for more.

**Native Plants 101: Why Go Native?** 7:30-9 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. This program will benefit individuals interested in the "why" of using native plants and is designed for gardeners and homeowners who are interested in using a portion of the property to support biodiversity. The

program covers the inter-dependent relationships between plants and animals that are crucial to the stabilization and success of future generations. Free. Visit [www.vnps.org/potowmack](http://www.vnps.org/potowmack) for more.

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 22-25

**Old Town Boutique District Shop & Stroll.** All day in Old Town. Browse and shop, while collecting stamps at each location to be entered in a grand prize drawing that includes \$1,000 worth of gift cards. Additionally, buy a stylish event bag for more savings and goodies. Free. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com) for more.

## THURSDAYS/SEPT. 22-OCT. 13

**Crybaby Art Studio.** 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. CryBaby Art Studio is an art class designed for parents with infants (0-1) to relax and exercise their creativity learning watercolor techniques each week with baby by their side. Registration is \$100 for four-week series / \$25 per class (art supplies included). Visit [www.metamorphosisaac.com](http://www.metamorphosisaac.com).

## SEPT. 22-DEC. 8

**Thursday Mornings with Kathryn Coneway.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. The themes in the book, "The Artist's Rule," will be a foundation to share experiences with creative practice. Each session will begin with a quiet time and exploration of materials before transitioning to a discussion of the themes and practices outlined in the



The 21st annual Art on the Avenue festival will take place Saturday, Oct. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria. The event is free and open to all. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org).

chapter. Participants should purchase a copy of "The Artist's Rule" and read the introduction and first chapter prior to the first meeting. Registration is \$50. Visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening) for more.

## SEPT. 23-NOV. 13

**John M. Adams: "Current Interrupted."** Gallery hours at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall

and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Free. Visit [www.thefullempy.com](http://www.thefullempy.com) for more.

## SEPT. 23-NOV. 14

**Matthew Grimes: "(In)Material" and "Pliant."** Gallery hours at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/](http://www.nvcc.edu/)

[schlesingercenter.com](http://schlesingercenter.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

**Mount Vernon Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, books, photographs, lighting, tools, comic books, vinyl records, novelties and more. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Free. Visit [mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com](http://mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com) for more.

**Native Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts 13 vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Free. Call 571-232-0375 or visit [www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org](http://www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org).

**St. Luke's Annual Craft Fair.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Mount Vernon. Connect with old friends and neighbors. Cold drinks and luncheon items from the St. Luke's grill will be available, along with a bake sale featuring cakes, pies, cookies and brownies. Also fresh produce from a nearby farm, entertainment provided by a guest guitarist and two local pianists. For children, there will be a moonbounce, face-painting and games. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net) or call 703-765-4342 for more.

**Historic Pohick Church Annual Country Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The purpose of the Pohick Country Fair is to extend a welcome to members of the local community and Fairfax County, inviting them to visit the historic grounds for a day of fun and relaxation. The fair includes games, booths, pony rides,

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# ENTERTAINMENT

moonbounce, barbecue, funnel cakes, homemade apple butter, historic church tours, living history reenactors, organ concerts, live music, a classic car show, a Boy Scout camping and cooking demo, a bloodmobile and more. Free. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) for more.

**75th Annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in Old Town Alexandria. For the 75th annual Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, the public may visit six historic homes and gardens in Old Town Alexandria, all within walking distance of one another. Proceeds benefit Inova Alexandria Hospital. Tickets are \$40 in advance and may be purchased online. Thereafter, tickets are \$45 and may be purchased at The Twig's Thrift Shop, 106 N Columbus St. Visit [www.thetwig.org/homes-tour](http://www.thetwig.org/homes-tour) for more.

**Garden Program: All About Figs.** 10 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Smithsonian Gardens educator Cindy Brown will share some history and fun facts about figs. Learn how to successfully grow a delicious crop of figs and get a few recipes to try at home. Admission is \$15 for county residents, \$17 for out-of-county residents. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Workshop: Autumn Seed Collecting.** 10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Join horticulturist Judy Zatsick to learn the basics of seed saving: when and how to collect seed, cleaning, drying and labelling seed, how to store your seeds and when to plant them for best results. Admission is \$18 for county residents, \$20 for out-of-county residents, plus a supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Mount Vernon Celebration! A Community Showcase.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. The 2016 Celebration will feature a church choir competition. Inova will provide health screenings and the Bloodmobile will come for a community blood drive. Free. Visit [www.celebrationmvl.org](http://www.celebrationmvl.org).

**Organ Recital.** 11:30 a.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The recital on the Noack Pipe Organ will include selections from J. S. Bach, Johann Pachelbel, Dietrich Buxtehude, and Georg Berg. Free. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) for more.

**Civil War Talk.** 12-1:30 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 S. Washington St. Washington Street UMC will host a lunch talk on the church's history as a hospital during the Civil War. The speaker will be church member Mark Tooley, who has written books and articles on the Civil War and church history. Free. Call 703-836-4324 for more.

**Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Family Fall Festival.** 12-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Find activities for kids, live music, food trucks, beer, wine, and more. Tickets are \$20 for adults, free for children 13 and under. Call 703-548-0885 or visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) for more.

**Alexandria Seaport Day.** 12-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Alexandria Seaport Day is an annual community event celebrating the mission and programs of the Alexandria Seaport Foundation and Alexandria's maritime heritage. Enjoy children's activities, a wooden boat display, nautical activities, boat rides, live music, local restaurants providing food, beer and wine, local boutiques and ASF's annual "Anything that Floats" race. Free. Visit [www.AlexandriaSeaport.org/](http://www.AlexandriaSeaport.org/)

**Events.**  
**Tea with Lady Washington.** 2-3 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Step back in time and join "Lady Washington" for a cozy fireside tea as she shares memories of her and the General's life as a young married couple, during the Revolutionary War, and at their beloved Mount Vernon. Following the program, guests are invited to a self-guided exploration of the estate and Mount Vernon's beautiful decorative arts collection. Tickets are \$35. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Lecture: "The Real Frank Stringfellow."** 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Eric Buckland, a retired Army Special Forces Lieutenant Colonel, Vice President of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, member of the Mosby Heritage Area Association, and author of five books about some of the men who rode with Mosby's Rangers, will give an account of the exploits and personality of Frank Stringfellow. Buckland's presentation will be followed by a Q & A, and he will have his books for sale and for signing. \$10 suggested donation. Call 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413.

**Reception: "Current Interrupted."** 4-6 p.m. at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center at Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Artist John M. Adams will be present to speak briefly about his work. Free. Visit [www.thefullempy.com](http://www.thefullempy.com) for more.

**The Mercy Walk.** 5:30 p.m. at 221 King St. Walk the same streets as the Green family and other favorite characters from the PBS series, "Mercy Street." Based on the new PBS series, Mercy Street, Alexandria's The Mercy Walk tour will give visitors and locals a feel for Alexandria. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$7 for children, \$12 for military/law enforcement/seniors, and \$6 for children of military/law enforcement. Visit [www.alexcolonialtours.com](http://www.alexcolonialtours.com) or call 703-519-1749.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

**Run! Geek! Run!** 8 a.m. at Potomac Yard. All proceeds from Run! Geek! Run! will go directly to support the nonprofit Capitol Post. Capitol Post offers veterans in the Washington, DC., region personalized guidance through mentoring, business counseling, and access to key resources, programs, and leaders. Their mission is to establish and cultivate the top community for veterans to start a business, grow a business or explore a new career. Registration is \$30-50. Visit [www.rungeekrun.net](http://www.rungeekrun.net) for more.

**Family Fun: Fall Flower Tea Party.** 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a small bouquet to take home and sample different flower teas. Admission is \$15 for county residents, \$17 for out-of-county residents. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Simpson Gardens Open House.** 1-3 p.m. at 426 E. Monroe Ave. Visitors are invited to drop by and tour the demonstration gardens, which include a Waterwise Garden, a Flagstone Garden, a Tufa Garden, a Scented Garden and a Butterfly Garden. Native plants will be featured, including host plants for butterflies and their larvae. Light snacks and drinks will be served. Free. Visit [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu).

**John Flynn and Josh White Jr.** 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Josh

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 28



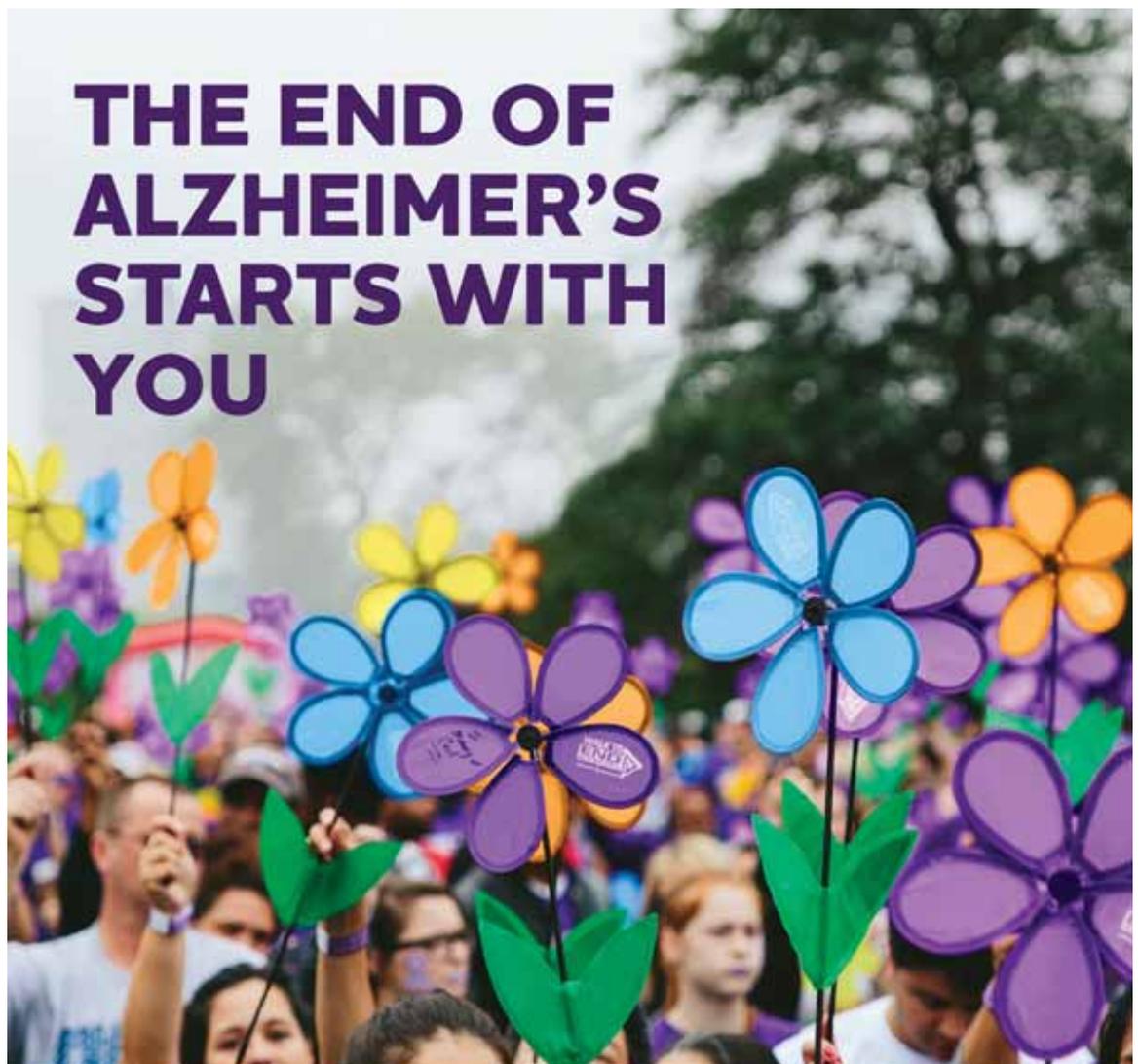
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# New Musical Enhances Historical Mystery

MetroStage stages "Blackberry Daze."

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**M**etroStage in Alexandria is staging the world premiere musical of "Blackberry Daze" now through Oct. 9.

"We are so pleased to be able to bring the popular novel by Ruth P. Watson, Blackberry Days of Summer, to our stage," said Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin. She said MetroStage regulars Thomas W. Jones II and William Knowles have written the book, lyrics and music with Watson, a Lynchburg native, that tells her compelling story with opportunities for actors to bring gospel, blues and jazz to the story and the stage.

The musical features an all-black cast of many artists who are already known to MetroStage. Set in 1919, it follows spirited characters living in rural Virginia with occasional forays into Washington, D.C., and the heart of the blues scene in Shaw where the Howard Theatre thrives today.

In this historical romantic mystery, a black

womanizer is murdered for raping his stepdaughter, and even though suspects abound, no one is trying too hard to find his killer. The characters all have compelling stories to tell, interrelated lives, and face challenges that remain current today, said Griffin.

"To bring this terrific story to the stage is a gift to the readers of Watson's series and will introduce others to her popular novels," said Griffin. "On our stage, music and choreography add another dimension to the storytelling that so many follow in Watson's novels."

With much of the drama set to music, some of the songs include "Save the Sinner," "Take Me Glory," "Layin' It Down," and "Rhythm of the Blues," to name a few.

Appearing in the show is Roz White as Mae Lou, celebrating her 11th season at MetroStage; TC Carson as Herman Camm ("Bessie's Blues" and TV's "Living Single" with Queen Latifah), Ayana Reed as Carrie, and Duyen Washington as Ginny/Annie



The ensemble performs in "Blackberry Daze" at MetroStage in Alexandria.

May. It also stars Nia Harris as Hester, Duane Richards II as Simon/Willie, and Yvette Spears as Pearl (who portrayed Sarah Vaughan in "Ladies Swing the Blues.") On piano is William Knowles and on guitar is David Cole.

Griffin said that buses carrying people from Atlanta, Lynchburg, Philadelphia and Baltimore have already come to the show.

MetroStage in Alexandria, a venue with 130 seats, is staging the world premiere musical of "Blackberry Daze" now through Oct. 9. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; matinees on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m.; and Sunday at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 and \$60. The theater is located at 1201 N Royal St., Alexandria. For tickets, call 703-548-9044

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 27

White Jr. is a vocalist, guitarist, songwriter, actor, adult and children's concert performer and recording artist, teacher and social activist. John Flynn's songs call us together as they speak for the wounded, the weary, and the afflicted; for the prisoner, the soldier, and all the forgotten ones who walk unseen in our midst. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 27

**Fall Robust Walkathon.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Ben Brenman Drive. Guest instructors, including the originator of Robust Walking, Dr. Dan Kulund, will lead groups through stations showing participants how to use simple exercises while walking that will help increase strength, agility, flexibility

and help to maintain balance. There will be a "Cool Down Social" after the walk with music by Janna Audey. Participants are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the park. There is a \$10 registration fee. Register online at [seniorservicesalex.org](http://seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

**Civil War Walking Tour.** 1-2:30 p.m. at Begins at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. See first hand how the Civil War changed Alexandria. For those who have heard of the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," this is a family-friendly introduction to the occupied city. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) to register.

### SEPT. 27-OCT. 23

**Exhibit: "The Fanciful in Daily Life."** Gallery hours at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo

Factory, 105 N. Union St. "Upside Down: Inside Out: The Fanciful in Daily Life" features three-dimensional work by Erika Cleveland. This imaginative fiber artist explores the fanciful in daily life with her needle-felted dolls, from life-sized to small, flying from a trapeze to hanging from a vine. Free. Call 703-524-5723 or email [assoc.gallery@gmail.com](mailto:assoc.gallery@gmail.com) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28

**Community Supported Art Pick-Up Party.** 7 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Interested consumers/collectors can purchase a "share" consisting of six pieces of locally produced artwork (one from each artist). Shares will include photography, glass, pastels, watercolors and ceramics. Only 50 shares will be available. Shares cost \$250 each and will be distributed at the Pick-Up Party. Visit

[www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more. **"Making Arlandria Home."** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Prince St. Alexandria began as a tiny port town on a wide spot in the Potomac River, founded by a small group of local farmers, Scottish tobacco buyers, and their African slaves. Two and a half centuries later, it's a city of more than 148,000 people, with nearly 30 percent of those people born outside of the United States, and more than 100 native languages spoken among its' school children. Much of this change occurred in the 20th century, and Professor Krystyn Moon has studied its impact in the Arlandria neighborhood of Alexandria. An associate professor of history and director of American Studies at Mary Washington University, Moon presents "Making Arlandria Home: The Changing Face(s) of an Alexandria Neighborhood, 1960's-1980's." Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Visit

[alexandriahistoricalsociety.wildapricot.org](http://alexandriahistoricalsociety.wildapricot.org). **Mature Spirituality: Engaging with the Mystery.** 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Dr. James Hollis, well-published author and renowned Jungian analyst, is the Executive Director of the Jung Society of Washington. Join him for a discussion on the development of a mature spiritual life woven out of our own experience. Free. Visit [www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening](http://www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening).

### WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/SEPT. 28-29

**Yoga and Music with Wah!** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ease Yoga and Cafe, 3051 Mount Vernon Ave. Wah! teaches yoga and plays live music at the end of class. Registration is \$40 per session. Visit [www.easeyogacafe.com](http://www.easeyogacafe.com) for more.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 29

**New Neighbors Oktoberfest.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. The 2016 school year marks the 15th anniversary of The Campagna Center's New Neighbors program and the many contributions it makes to adult refugees and immigrants in Alexandria who strive to improve their English skills. Celebrate with a night of beer, brats and more. Tickets are \$60. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) for more.

**Soil Evaluation and Composting.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The program will cover the basics of evaluating soil and how to turn yard clippings, kitchen waste and fall leaves into compost, a natural and environmentally friendly soil amendment that will nourish landscape plants. No more need for bagging leaves. Free. Visit [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 30-OCT. 1

**Virginia Genealogical Society Conference.** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday at Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center (RELIC) at Bull Run Regional Library, 8051 Ashton Ave., Manassas; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 2500 Neabco Common Place, Woodbridge. Virginia Genealogical Society and the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society are giving a conference. On Saturday two tracks of lectures will be conducted. Donald L. Wilson, MLS, Virginia Librarian of the Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History at Bull Run Regional Library in Manassas, Va., will speak on researching at RELIC. Charles S. "Chuck" Mason, Jr., C.G. will speak on genealogy basics and records of the Works Projects Administration. Sharon B. Hodges will speak on various topics. Free on Friday, \$44-\$55 on Saturday. Visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

## SEPT. 30-OCT. 8

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alexandria Live Music Week.** Various times at various locations throughout Alexandria. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Alexandria Live

Music Week, presented by Alexandria Live and On Tap Magazine, is a citywide music event featuring Alexandria's diverse music scene and musicians, as well the clubs, bars, restaurants, shops and venues that feature and promote live music in Alexandria. This year there will be over 50 participating venues and over 300 performances, including a full schedule of music during Del Ray's Art on the Avenue. Admission varies by venue. Visit [www.livemusicweek.com](http://www.livemusicweek.com).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 1

**Wounded Warrior Caregiver 5K.** 9 a.m. at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit organization that helps the families of servicemembers, veterans and wounded warriors by offering emergency and other financial assistance, caregiver support initiatives, back-to-school supplies, and programs that provide short-term transitional housing and mortgage-free homes. The registration fee is \$30 through Sept. 25 and \$35 from Sept. 26 through Sept. 30. Visit [www.Caregivers5KAlexandria.com](http://www.Caregivers5KAlexandria.com) or e-mail [Sponsorship@Caregivers5KAlexandria.com](mailto:Sponsorship@Caregivers5KAlexandria.com).

**Civil War Soldiers Fighting in Style.** 10 a.m. at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 431 W. Braddock Road. Civil War interpreters wearing several types of uniforms will conduct the program, discussing the evolution, symbolism and style of military clothing and accessories of the period. Presenters will address questions such as: Why was wool a preferred material for uniforms? How was color used to designate branches of the service? How did foreign military styles influence American Civil War uniforms? Free. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Art on the Avenue.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue. Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival celebrating the community's diversity through the arts. The event takes place along Mount Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray neighborhood of Alexandria, and features over 350 artists, live music, free children's crafts and entertainment, artist demonstrations, a pie-baking contest, and more. Free. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org) for more.



Photo: Willy Hoffman

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# SPORTS



PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

Senior QB Mark Ellis has two long strikes to lead the home team to a 3-0 start.

## West Potomac Takes Down Falcons

In front of a full house on Friday night, Sept. 16, the host Wolverines jumped out to a quick 14-0 lead over the visiting Briar Woods Falcons. What looked to be another easy victory was far from that as the visiting team clawed its way back into a 14-14 tie.

After trading scores for the rest of the game, West Potomac went in front with a field goal with 44 seconds to play. After the kick off the Falcons drove down the field and with 10 seconds to play completed a pass.

With time running out, the home team started to celebrate only to have to regroup as the Wolverines were called for a roughing the passer penalty. With the ball placed on the 5 yard line the Falcons had one last chance for victory. The Wolverine defense proved to be up to the task as the pass fell harmlessly to the ground and the home team celebrated the 38-35 home win to go to 3-0 on the season.

The Wolverines travel to Burke this Friday night for a game against powerhouse Lake Braddock.



Senior wide receiver Brandan Lisenby hauls in a 57-yard touchdown pass in the 3rd quarter to go along with an earlier 66-yard touchdown catch.

Senior running back Justin Annan rushed for 2 touchdowns and gained 112 yards.



PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS LINDSEY/THE GAZETTE

## Field Hockey Victory for MVHS

Tayla Johnson, MVHS junior, during Mount Vernon's field hockey game against West Potomac on Tuesday, Sept. 20. MVHS won 2-0.



Kelly Ventura-Blanco, MVHS junior



Kali Kishter, MVHS senior, runs off the field with her team after their victory.



Hannelore Tahmassebi, MVHS senior

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# Giles Overlook Developing 75 percent of land to remain open space.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE GAZETTE

Lorton area. The western property line is along Giles Run.

Lorton Valley III calls its development Giles Overlook: 52 single family detached dwellings on 38.37 acres on Sanger Street in Mount Vernon.

“The site benefits from its proximity to Inova Lorton Healthplex,” according to agent David R. Gill, of McGuire Woods. “The Healthplex, along with the continued maturation of the Lorton area, will derive demand for additional high-quality residential opportunities such as this proposed community.”

Fairfax County Planning Commission voted Wednesday, Sept. 14, to recommend approval of plans that will permit development less than 200 feet from the required distance between residential buildings and I-95 and to allow for increased height of a noise barrier to be located 15 feet from I-95 right-of-way.

Lots will range in size from 5,000 to 8,049 square feet, according to Planning Commission documents, and will typically include 20-foot front yards, 8-foot side yards, and 25-foot backyards.

Although the property will be rezoned from R-1 (one dwelling unit per acre) to R-5, which permits five dwelling units per acre, Lorton Valley’s proposed density will be 1.36 dwelling units per acre, according to Planning Commission documents. The developer will dedicate 20 acres along Giles Run to the county and 75 percent of the land will remain open space.

Plans call for planting of evergreen and deciduous trees in front of the sound wall, which will range in height from six to 32 feet.

“Due to the long, narrow configuration of the developable portion of the property, the proposed layout is limited to a single street with dwellings on both sides,” according to planning documents.

A tot lot is proposed on Sanger Street.

“The property contains wetlands, floodplains, resource protection area and even environmental quality corridor areas association with Giles Run, and the applicant has proposed to dedicate most of this area to the county,” according to planning staff.

“The applicant has committed to preparing an additional noise study prior to subdivision plan approval and that the sound wall will be designed to reduce noise exposure for the yards of the lots and the tot lot to 65 decibels or less.

Access will be from an extension of Sanger Street that will be realigned and extended southward to terminate in a cul-de-sac near a county pump station.

This may require a higher noise wall in this location,” according to planning staff analysis.

Giles Overlook, currently vacant and wooded except for a county-operated pump station, is located west of I-95, north of a landfill, at the end of Sanger Street in the

Proffers specify the front facades of the dwellings will consist of 50 percent stone or brick and raised panel shutters.

The application was initially accepted in December 2011 with a proposal for 40 dwelling units.

The proposed application “has been through many iterations since 2011,” said Mount Vernon District Commissioner Earl Flanagan, “but David Gill, the agent, kept doggedly improving it until I am pleased to report that the South County Federation and its land use committee unanimously recommended adoption.”

## Earning Tech Internships

FROM PAGE 5

well with others, plan ahead and separate tasks equally.”

“Our mission at Fairfax County Public Schools is to help equip students with the necessary skills for success in our rapidly changing and interconnected world,” Garza said in a statement.

Smith said the field itself was relatively new to him when he started with Genesys Works, but is now considering working in IT.

“Genesys Works shares this mission and our work together will grow and increase our impact,” Garza continued. “I look forward to hearing the stories of our students who participate in these workplace internships and who go on to achieve their dreams.” Genesys has four other locations around the country, including Chicago, the Twin Cities in Minnesota and California’s Bay area. Tavakoli said this summer in Tysons Corner marked the largest starting group for any of the sites.

“The Genesys Works highly trained interns provide tremendous value to their employers,” George Newstrom, vice president and general manager for Dell Services Federal Government, said in a statement.

Tavakoli said by the second week of September, all but a handful of the program graduates from this summer had earned internships.

Newstrom is also a Genesys founding board chair: “Our business economy is based on highly skilled, professional employees and Genesys Works is a partner that ensures a win-win for the students and the employers.”

Those remaining were just waiting to confirm assignments. For more information, visit [www.genesysworks.org](http://www.genesysworks.org).

Fairfax County Public Schools superintendent Dr. Karen Garza became an advocate for bringing Genesys Works to northern Virginia after seeing its success in Houston, where the organization first began operating.

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<b>21 Announcements</b> <b>Norfolk Probate and Family Court</b> Docket No. N015D0963DR 35 Shawmut Road Canton, Ma 02021 (781)830-1200	<b>21 Announcements</b>
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To the Defendant Joseph E. Morris.  
The Plaintiff, Elizabeth Morris has filed a complaint for Divorce requesting that the court grant a divorce for irretrievable breakdown. You are hereby summoned and required to respond your answer, if any at or before 11/10/16. You are also required to file a copy of your answer in the office of the Register of this Court.  
Register of Probate  
Patrick W. McDermott

<b>21 Announcements</b> <b>LEGAL NOTICE</b> 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:  RFP No. 00000615: Design Services for the Renovation of Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library  Non-mandatory Site Visit and Pre-proposal Conference: Tuesday, October 4, 2016, 10:00 a.m., prevailing local time at 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304.  RFP Closing Date and Time: October 25, 2016, 4 p.m., prevailing local time.  For general inquiries contact Darryl K. Jackson, CPPB, 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.  Randy Burns, Purchasing Agent	<b>21 Announcements</b>
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Gordon Parks, Back To Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: United, St. Louis, Missouri, 1950. Gordon Parks (American, 1912–2006). gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

<b>21 Announcements</b>	<b>21 Announcements</b>	<b>21 Announcements</b>	<b>21 Announcements</b>
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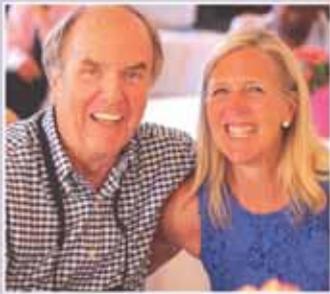
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**One of the area's most distinctive properties!**

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