

Clean-Up Honors Jeff Todd

Chamber project
dedicated to his
civic spirit.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Walking along Jeff Todd Way in the Mount Vernon area, picking up litter didn't seem like an exciting way to spend a Saturday morning, but Hannah Todd didn't seem to mind. The road was named after her father, Jeff Todd, who died a few years ago, in honor of his dedication to the Mount Vernon-Lee community.

"I wanted to make sure my dad's road is clean and everything," she said, gathering with other volunteers who were there with the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce or students earning their community service hours. Hannah got her trash bag, and safety vest, "thinking about him and

SEE LITTER CLEAN-UP, PAGE 14



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

The volunteers are ready to clean Jeff Todd Way.



In the Roy Roger's parking lot, Jay McConville briefs the volunteers.



Hannah Todd dons a reflective vest before heading out to clean up the road named after her father.

Friends and Family Reflect on Michael M. Skinner

Memorial service set for Saturday at Mount Vernon High School.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Pat Hynes remembers Michael M. Skinner as an administrator who was one of those people who "the kids all love, and sort of fear a little."

Hynes, now representing the Hunter Mill District on the Fairfax County School Board, spent her senior year at Mount Vernon High School in the late 1970s while Skinner was assistant principal.

Skinner, a Shepherdstown, W.Va. native, died Oct. 17 at the age of 91. Between 1955 and 1983, he taught history, coached basketball and was served as subschool principal, all at Mount Vernon.

"As the AP," Hynes said, "he had

to do the enforcement thing sometimes. But he was always warm and kind, he cared deeply about every kid and had such a big heart for the work. Those relationships are the key to successful schools."

Nardos King spent 20 years at Mount Vernon as a finance technician, instructional assistant,

"If a student was in need of something, Mr. Skinner would make sure that need was met."

— Nardos King, former MVHS principal

teacher, assistant principal and principal until Sept. 11, 2015.

King said Skinner was a tireless advocate for the high school in the Mount Vernon community and at the School Board. He was also a

constant supporter of the school's sports teams, she said, donating Most Valuable Player trophies for each team, every season for two decades, and establishing a golf tournament to raise money for the athletic department.

"He constantly donated things," King said. "If a student was in need of something, Mr. Skinner would make sure that need was met. People know he was at our games, but he cared about individual students, students he didn't know. All he had to do was hear their story and he found a way to help."

Skinner also attended 54 MVHS graduations, King pointed out.

Skinner's wife of 47 years Lucy Peacock Skinner described her husband as one of the most generous and caring people she's ever

known. He was never too busy to help anyone, and sometimes he even helped when you didn't ask for it.

Lucy Skinner said he was a wonderful husband, a great communicator and a friend forever, keeping in touch with those whom he cared about.

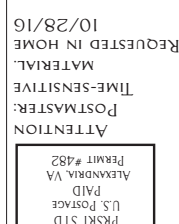
School Board representative for the Mount Vernon District Karen Corbett Sanders said in a statement that Skinner exemplified all that is good in Mount Vernon.

"As a coach and school adminis-

trator he was committed to helping each child achieve their potential," Corbett Sanders said. "He was never prouder than seeing a MVHS student excel on the field, in the classroom and in the community. I have been honored to draw on Mr. Skinner's advice and consult as a community member and on the School Board."

Skinner was also a World War II U.S. Navy veteran, serving aboard the U.S.S. Washington and manning at 16-inch gun. He graduated

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 14



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PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS LINDSEY/THE GAZETTE

Second graders at the starting line.

Rock 'n' Run

Stratford Landing Elementary School students raised funds during their annual Rock 'n' Run on Friday, Oct. 21. Students ran or walked laps for 30 minutes while listening to music from a DJ.

Organized and run by PTA and parent volunteers, the proceeds are used for technology, classroom library books, classroom needs such as rugs and easels, field trips and assemblies, teacher train-



First graders before the run.

ing and development tools, community building events like Talent Show, STEAM nights and playground equipment.



Fifth graders cheer on the second graders.



Lauren McCone's 2nd grade class after the run.

Behind the Bonds

Fairfax County seeks authorization to finance transportation and parks projects, and human services and community development facilities.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County will try to make the most of voters' time on election day Nov. 8, having them weigh in not only on the Presidential and Congressional elections, but also proposed Constitutional amendments, a referendum and bond questions.

The so-called "Meals Tax" referendum is a proposal for voters to allow the Board of Supervisors to levy up to a four percent tax on prepared foods and beverages. That would include restaurant food, as well as ready-made meals at grocery and convenience stores.

The referendum specifies 70 percent of the annual revenue generated by the meals tax, an estimated \$70 million, would be designated for Fairfax County Public Schools. The remaining 30 percent would go to a combination of county services and capital improvements.

Opponents of the meals tax have argued it's a regressive move that will unfairly eat away at the restaurant and catering industry in Fairfax County by making it more difficult for smaller businesses to survive. Also they've said there will be an unnecessary extra financial burden on low income parents to feed their families.

Supporters of the tax point to surrounding areas including Vienna and Alexandria that already have meals taxes, saying they haven't suffered the way opponents predict. At a recent joint budget meeting with the supervisors and Fairfax County School Board, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) observed that without the boost from the meals tax, the school system won't be able to raise teachers' salaries enough in the next year to make them more competitive in the market.

The bonds, which is a way for the county to finance public facilities and infrastructure through long-term borrowing over several years, fall into three categories: transportation, parks, and human services and community development facilities.

For the first category, citizens are asked if Fairfax County may issue up to \$120 million in bonds to fund road improvements and a share of the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Capital Improvement Program.

The Metro CIP covers eight categories over six years: vehicles and vehicle parts,

rail system infrastructure rehabilitation, maintenance facilities, rail power systems and technology, track and structure, passenger facilities, maintenance equipment, and other transit-related facilities.

Fairfax County spokesperson Brian Worthy said that it isn't known until all the projects on a given list are completed whether there are remaining funds from a bond.

"By law we may only spend bond funds for the purposes stated in the ballot question — not for any other purpose," Worthy said in an email.

Worthy gave the example of the 2004 library bond, when voters approved the county to issue \$52.5 million in general obligation bonds. The money was spent to renovate the Thomas Jefferson, Richard Byrd, Dolley Madison and Martha Washington libraries, he said.

When these were all completed in 2012, there was \$9.38 million in unspent funds still available.

Worthy attributed the leftover funds to "prudent contract management and a favorable construction market resulting in lower than anticipated bid awards." They were then re-allocated to renovating the Woodrow Wilson library, per the Board of Supervisors' approval.

"In the case of Woodrow Wilson, this project was picked because it was identified as the next library

branch up for funding in our CIP," Worthy said.

\$107 million in parks bonds includes \$94.7 million for the Fairfax County Park Authority's capital needs — such as park renovations and upgrades, stewardship of cultural and natural resources, land acquisition and new park development — plus \$12.3 million in capital contribution to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority.

If the parks referendum passes, there will be funding for general park improvements at Burke Lake and Lake Accotink, system-wide renovation and renewal and replacement at the Mount Vernon RECenter.

Among numerous plans for the bond program, the county would add a new athletic field on leased property in the Mount Vernon-Lee area, develop a park in Laurel Hill Park in Lorton and add picnic shelters at the Lee District family recreation area in Alexandria.

For human services and community de-

SEE ABOUT BONDS, PAGE 22

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 2, 2016 ♦ 3

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Thrift Stores

Foundation's Long Roots

Its mission is to help needy students with learning disabilities.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

"The Gunston Hall School" foundation that donates money to financially needy students with learning disabilities, has origins going back to 1892 when it was initially founded by two Virginians, Beverly Randolph Mason and Elizabeth Nelson Mason, as the Gunston Hall School in Washington, D.C.

Beverly Mason was the great grandson of George Mason, the author of the Virginia Bill of Rights. Mason named the school after his ancestral home where he was born and spent his childhood; Gunston Hall built in 1756 continues as a historic site in Mason Neck.



John Hazard, Jr.

The Washington, D.C. Gunston Hall school operated for 50 years as an all girls boarding school until it was forced to suspend operations at the beginning of WW II. Thanks to the daughters of Beverly Mason, the charter was transferred to George Washington's historic Pohick Church where it served students from kindergarten through fifth grade. After ceasing operations there in 1966, its charter was transferred to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church to operate as a private school in Springfield. A loss of lease eventually led to the end of the school there in 1978.

Not willing to abandon the focus and its tradition of assisting needy children, the school was turned into an endowment fund in 1979 by Mr. and Mrs.



Gunston Hall School teacher and students, circa 1962 in front of Pohick Church. From left: Jackie Posner, Tom Hazard, teacher Jenny Mandrowsky, Rob Hartwell, and Alan Gaddy.

Hazard, where they continued to operate the fund until 1999. From that date to the present, it has been led by one of their sons, John Hazard, Jr. The students eligible for the Gunston Hall School typically attend private schools that educate children needing special education help to overcome their learning disabilities. One such school, that specializes in helping children who suffer from dyslexia, is the Oakwood School, located in Annandale.

SEE FOUNDATION, PAGE 6



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Alex/Hollin Hall \$619,900
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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/Wessnyton \$679,900
3301 Wessnyton Way
Beautiful Contemporary Home on one of Wessnyton's premiere wooded lots, backing to over 10 acres of pristine forest, teeming w/wildlife & spectacular views. Large kit w/breakfast area, separate dining rm, beautiful hdwd flrs. Liv & Din rms w/fireplace, wall of windows brings outdoors inside - Garage & Deck -Community boat ramp, swimming pool, & walking trails. Minutes to Old Town (N) and Ft. Belvoir (S).



RENTAL

Alex/Eastgate at Mt. Vernon \$2,550
8813 Gateshead Road
Beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA home. Large eat-in kitchen, just renovated w/new cabinets, granite, appliances. Freshly painted interior. Living room w/gorgeous views of large deck and spectacular fenced backyard. Family room w/beautiful tile.



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Alex./Mt. Vernon Grove \$3,000
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A Toast to Art

Two friends and young entrepreneurs, Rachel Bell and Camille Herrera, opened a brick and border franchise on Oct. 22 called Wine & Design, located at 1506 Belle View Blvd., Suite D, in Alexandria.

For \$40 per class, participants are instructed to paint an image provided by the studio. The fee includes paint and canvas,

brush and smock, and more.

Classes are offered six days a week, Tuesday to Sunday. Bell and Herrera also coordinate team building and fundraising events. Visit www.Alexandria/wineanddesign.com for information on offerings and class schedule.

— RIKKI GEORGE



Artist and teacher Chris Youngbluth prepares for an evening class.

PHOTOS BY RIKKI GEORGE/THE GAZETTE



DeCarol Blocker sits for her caricature by Lauren Dragoo at the studio's grand opening.



The studio's walls are graced with rows of paintings.



Co-owners Rachel Bell (left) and Camille Herrera. Formerly a civil engineer, Herrera is also one of the teachers at Wine & Design.

Foundation Helps Needy Students with Learning Disabilities

FROM PAGE 5

The longtime chairman of Oakwood, Robert McIntyre, said, "The Gunston Hall School financial assistance program has been enormously helpful to our families and students for many years. The late Helen Hazard was the epitome of what the Gunston Hall School Foundation continues to be today; a caring and compassionate program dedicated to helping needy children."

In addition to John Hazard, Jr., the following present and past members of the foundation board have sustained the Gunston Hall School by contributing to the endowment and assisting in the management of the foundation: Robert Hartwell, Freeman Jelks, Charrie Moscardini, Joanne Harman, Linda Bender, Eleanor Hunt, and former board members now deceased: Steve Hartwell, Scott Crampton, and John and Helen Hazard.

Financial Assistance

Gunston Hall School Scholarship Foundation's record of financial Assistance to students:

2016: \$14,900
2015: \$18,000
2014: \$21,000
2013: \$21,000

Total contributions donated to students with financial needs and learning disabilities by the Gunston Hall School Foundation is more than \$300,000.

Criteria for Student Selection:

Demonstrated financial need
Student with learning and/or social disabilities
Potential for academic success
Students attending the following schools received financial assistance most recently:
Oakwood School, Annandale
Commonwealth Academy: Alexandria
Alexandria Country Day School: Alexandria
St Catherine's School: Richmond
Felician University: Rutherford, N.J.

Foundation's History

A brief history of the Gunston Hall School Foundation as told by John Hazard, Jr., president, Gunston Hall School, Lorton.

"For 50 years Gunston Hall School for girls in Washington, D.C., operated as one of the outstanding private schools in the metropolitan area. I have an original invitation to the 1919 commencement exercises of the school. It shows the location of the school to be initially at: 3017 "O" Street, NW, Washington, D.C., from 1893-1904; and then moved to: 1906 Florida Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. from 1905-1950s.

"With the beginning of World War II, Gunston Hall School of Washington, DC was forced to suspend operations. The four daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Mason preserved the school's charter and in 1962 presented it to a group of people in the congregation of Pohick Church, Lorton, who were interested in starting a church school. Pohick was chosen because it is the church conceived and built by George Mason and George Washington (its location is about mid-way between Gunston Hall and Mount Vernon).

"My parents were involved in the revived school from the beginning, eventually moving the school's charter from Pohick Church to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in about 1966 or so (Pohick Church congregation did not take to the school as much as had been hoped). The school remained at St. Christopher's until about 1978 when, due to its loss of lease, it closed and became a scholarship fund. ... Eventually, beginning in 1999, I took over the management of the fund from my parents. I have overseen the scholarship program for the last 17 years. ... My motivation in taking over the fund was working to continue the dedicated work of my parents; an honor that continues to occupy my and others' interest today. My mother, Helen Hazard, in particular spent approximately 30 years working as a teacher, counselor, and benefactor for the school in all its forms. I can think of few things I do outside of my family that are more important than finding time and resources to continue to assist children to succeed in education who have financial and learning-related problems."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR HALLOWEEN

Free Cab Rides. Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Oct. 30, 6 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and receive a free (up to a \$30 fare) safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit www.soberride.com.

DISPLACED ITT TECH STUDENTS

Northern Virginia Community College has been working to create a pathway for ITT Technical College students who were displaced when their college suddenly closed earlier this month. NOVA offers staggered course start dates, which may help ITT Tech students get back on track. The next eight-week session begins Oct. 19, 2016 and the spring semester begins Jan. 9, 2017. For details on where to start, ITT Tech students should visit www.nvcc.edu/itttech/ where there are links and contact information available. Just follow the steps to transfer. Once students have researched the website, they can contact the NOVA campus nearest them by calling 703-323-3000.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is seeking volunteers to participate in a

free, non-profit program, offered in conjunction with the IRS, that provides tax filing assistance to people of low- and middle-income, with special attention paid to those aged 60-plus. Training will be available in December and January to help taxpayers Feb. 1-April 18, 2017. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide.

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 or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

THROUGH NOV. 4

Food Drive. At Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway. Sheehy Auto Stores will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Harvest Food Drive to benefit Feeding America.

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Puller Institute. the second annual Puller Institute is now accepting 2017 applicants. The institute is

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

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Parcel 2: (Nguyen) 6418 Columbia Pike, Annandale; Mason District; River View Heights, Lot 20; 9,526 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0613-12-0020; Acct. #40823783

Parcel 3: (Ox Group) 9333 Lee Highway, Fairfax; Providence District; Hatmark, 17,906 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0484-01-0002; Acct. #408216571

Parcel 4: (US Bank) 6801 Custis Parkway, Falls Church; Providence District; Mason Terrace, Lot 450; 20,437 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0504-05-0450; Acct. #408230100

Parcel 5 (Improved): (Walsh) 9111 McNair Drive, Alexandria; Mt. Vernon District; Woodlawn Manor, Lot 27; Sec.1; 21,780 sq. ft.; Tax Map #1101-05-0027; Acct. #408435007



Parcel 4



Parcel 5

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OPINION

Meals Tax: Myths and Misconceptions

BY DAN STORCK
SUPERVISOR, MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AND KAREN CORBETT SANDERS
MT. VERNON DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

COMMENTARY

Myth 1:

Some have said that we do not have a revenue problem in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), we have a spending problem. That concept has been repeatedly discredited.

❖ According to the Center for Public Education, the national average for funding is 44.8 percent by the Local Government, 45.1 percent by the state and 10.1 percent by the federal government. Here in Fairfax, because of chronic underfunding by the state which funds 22.9 percent and the federal government which funds 1.6 percent, the local property owner has picked up the 75 percent shortfall.

❖ An independent analysis of the school systems operations conducted in 2013 found that FCPS was one of the most efficient school systems in the country. Over 92 percent of FCPS expenditures are school based, primarily on teacher salaries.

❖ Unfortunately because of our continued below market average teacher salaries, we continue to face a shortage of teachers. Our teachers can move to a neighboring jurisdiction and make \$10,000 to \$20,000 a year more. A recent study by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University found that every dollar spent by FCPS generates \$1.20 in economic activity in Fairfax County.

Myth 2:

A meals tax would have a negative impact on economic growth in the restaurant industry.

❖ To the contrary, a meals tax has allowed local governments in a number of local jurisdictions to keep the property taxes lower and invest in much needed infrastructure. Good examples of this are Alexandria (1.07/\$100), Arlington (.99/\$100) and Washington D.C. which has a .85 per \$100 rate.

❖ The National Restaurant Association states on its web site that the highest per capita spending in restaurants across the United States is in Washington, D.C. where the industry generates \$3.6 bn/year. Coincidentally, D.C. has the highest meals tax in the region (10%).

❖ In August, Bon Appetit named Washington, D.C. the restaurant city of the year. This

teachers — recently revealed as the primary use of the additional revenue — relatively little would be left to devote to activities that could improve local educational standards.

And we should keep in mind that teachers' salaries in Fairfax County ranked fourth out of 144 counties and cities in Virginia in 2015 — behind only Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church, all of which have higher living costs.

In Alexandria, where a meals tax has been imposed (no referendum is required in a city), the school system makes precisely the same complaints about underfunding that we hear in Fairfax County. Unsurprisingly, Alexandria's meals tax has been swallowed up within the overall city budget.

At least in Alexandria, the restaurants are well patronized by tourists, businesses and other outsiders who are prepared to pay a pre-

month, 12 D.C. restaurants earned the coveted Michelin stars in its first edition of the legendary Michelin Guides to world-class restaurants. This seems to debunk the concept that the meals tax will lead to a loss of jobs and closure of restaurants.

Myth 3:

The meals tax is not fair because it would single out a single industry when other industries are not singled out.

❖ There are multiple taxes which are applied to individual industries. For example, we have a cigarette tax (1.5 percent per cigarette) which has increased six fold since 1970, we have a tax on gasoline, vending machine products (7 percent), motor vehicle rentals (10 percent), alcohol (11.5 percent), occupancy taxes (6 percent) and even media taxes (10 percent) for films viewed on line in hotels or motels. \

Myth 4:

The tax is regressive and impacts lower income families the most.

❖ The National Restaurant Association states that although the average family spends \$1071/year, over half of all restaurants expenditures are consumed by families earning in excess of \$70,000.

Last year, the county estimated that the 4 cent increase increased property taxes an average of \$300. For Mount Vernon residents, a 4 percent tax on meals would mean additional funding and resources for our neediest schools, lower classroom sizes, quality services, safe communities, compassionate human services, increased teacher retention and top-notch schools.

Fairfax is a diverse and thriving county. The county has the 10th largest school division in the U.S. — with nearly 93 percent of students graduating on-time and revitalization efforts underway — revenues from a meals tax would allow the county Board of Supervisors to continue to invest and lead to increased business growth and jobs.

Meals Tax web page:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax

Fairfax County NewsCenter: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/meals-tax-question-approved-for-nov-8-election-ballot/>

mium for their meals. In Mount Vernon, where fast food restaurants predominate, the new burden will fall mainly on local residents.

Perhaps the worst part of the meals tax is that it is regressive — it will be paid disproportionately by lower income families. It is ironic that political leaders who proudly call themselves “progressives” rally around a tax that hits the poorest members of our community hardest, especially those working long, unsocial hours, sometimes working multiple jobs and relying on fast food for their daily sustenance.

Clearly the tax will also have a negative impact on local restaurant, catering and hospitality businesses. Any economist will tell you that a consumption tax will reduce consump-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Meals Tax Should Be Rejected

To the Editor:

Whichever Presidential and Congressional candidates Mount Vernon voters select on Nov. 8, they should vote against the proposed Fairfax County meals tax.

The chair of Board of Supervisors has admitted that the 4 percent tax on prepared food will not solve the county's budget problem. It is doubtful that it would enhance education services either.

If the promised 70 percent of the \$99 million additional revenue is spent on the school system, it would represent only a 3 percent boost on top of the current county education budget. But after the promised pay increase to

OPINION

Focusing on Domestic Abuse

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

Since 1989, October has been designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Here in Virginia, the General Assembly passed legislation in 1986 to create an organization dedicated to reducing domestic violence across the Commonwealth called the Family And Children's Trust fund (FACT). I served for eight years as a volunteer Trustee of FACT, appointed by Governors Warner and Kaine. As October comes to a close, it is important to promote awareness of this serious issue and reflect on the impact FACT has had on the Commonwealth as well as in our own community.

FACT was created to serve as a partnership between the public and private sectors to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of a wide spectrum of family violence. Today, it is a successful charitable organization raising hundreds of thousands of dollars annually and working within local communities across the Commonwealth to create a holistic approach to deal with domestic violence.

Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of poverty for families, and 57 percent of cities list domestic violence as the top cause of homelessness. FACT provides financial assistance to support programs across the Commonwealth for the prevention, treatment, and awareness of domestic violence. Many local charities working here in the 44th district were award recipients of these grants over the past thirty years of FACT's existence.

Last year in Fairfax alone, 1,605 emergency pro-

tective orders were issued against family or household members for acts of family abuse involving violence, force or threat, and 258 children were provided with emergency shelter with their parent or guardian. Every month, in Fairfax County domestic violence hotlines receive over 240 calls with victims requesting 64 family abuse protective orders.

COMMENTARY

Many across the Commonwealth have seen the license plates featuring a child's handprint and the caption "KIDS FIRST" or the plate with a simple heart. These plates are the most successful effort to provide the necessary funds for FACT to continue to help our community based efforts. I encourage residents to support these efforts, by purchasing a "KIDS FIRST" or any Family and Children's Trust Fund specialty license plate through the DMV, or participate in the tax write-off program or send tax deductible contributions to FACT's office in Richmond. Domestic violence is typically a pattern of coercive behaviors used by an individual to gain or maintain power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate, dating, or familial relationship. Forms of domestic violence may be criminal (e.g. physical assault or stalking) or not (e.g. verbal abuse or financial control).

To report a crime, call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 or, for emergencies, please call 911. If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of domestic violence, and you want to talk about options and resources available, call the 24-hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline at 703-360-7273.



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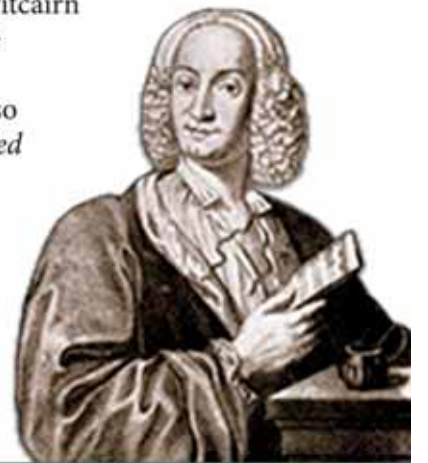
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CONNECTION FAMILIES

Teaching Charitable Giving

Experts offer suggestions for instilling these practices in children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

As the holiday season approaches, many begin to think about expressing thankfulness and giving to those who are less fortunate. Teaching gratitude and establishing a sense of charity in children also becomes a priority for many parents.

Those lessons should begin long before it's time to put the turkey in the oven or trim the tree, however. Experts say practicing gratitude and demonstrating charitable giving year-round in age-appropriate ways are keys to raising compassionate children.

In fact, regular conversations between parents and children about charitable giving and gratitude increase the chances that youngsters will be willing to give to charity, according to a recent study. Research from the Women's Philanthropy Institute at Indiana University's Lilly Family School of Philanthropy showed that children whose parents spoke to them about the importance of giving to those in need were 20 percent more likely to give than those who parents did have such conversations.

"The conversations don't need to be formal or contrived," said Marcia Rosen, a marriage and family therapist in Bethesda, Md. "They can be as simple as sharing an experience about helping a friend who might need help running an errand, so we change our plans so that we can give the gift of our time to a friend. There are plenty of examples all around us everyday."

"The ability to empathize and take another's perspective increases as a child gets older and less ego-centric," said Dr. Linda Gulyn, a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "For example, make a thank you note to grandma for the birthday gift. With little kids, there might be a posi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF INTERFAITH WORKS

Local charities such as Interfaith Works offer families a variety of opportunities for benevolence this holiday season.

tive consequence for writing a note, for example [saying] 'After you write the note, we can watch the video.' As kids get older, have them take Grandma's perspective: 'You know how it feels to be appreciated, don't you?'"

Encourage children to find their own ways to express gratitude and give charitably. "For example, when thanking their soccer coach for helping them all season, have them come up with ways to thank him, even if it's clumsy or kid-like," said Gulyn. "[Parents] often do it for them. For example, parents take up a collection of money from other parents and then they buy and present a fancy gift to the coach, and the kids are not that involved."

"Gratitude often relates to expectations and entitlements," said Amy L. Best, chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, George Mason University. "It is important that young people develop some sense of entitlement. They are entitled to dignity and have rights of care. Without a sense of entitlement, claims to care, recognition, justice and dignity are more difficult to articulate. But too much entitlement can elevate expectations to too a high a

SEE INSTILLING, PAGE 11

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CONNECTION FAMILIES

Instilling Gratitude in Children

FROM PAGE 10

level so that disappointment prevails and gratitude is difficult to muster.”

Children must learn to be in the moment to take those chances, however. “Dwelling too much in the past, through endless rumination for instance, or always looking to the future undermines our ability to just be, to soak in and soak up a moment,” said Best. “Consideration of past, present and future should be in healthy balance. Young people are often pressured to focus on the future, and some feel a sense of hopelessness toward the future. Both make it difficult to be in the moment.

“Cultivating mindfulness of self and your connection to others and the world is important,” she added. “It is important to understand the suffering of others and to feel a sense of empathy toward the

struggles of others to feel gratitude. Too much ambivalence toward others, or too focused on the self, makes it difficult to cultivate a disposition of gratitude.” Local charities offer a variety of options for families interested in giving this holiday season and throughout the year. Interfaith Works, a Montgomery County, Md. nonprofit organization with a goal of meeting the needs of the poor and homeless, holds annual drives for coat and cold-weather gear including mittens, scarves and hats. The organization is opening a new women’s homeless shelter and is in need of supplies. “We need things like sheets, blankets and pillows to make the women feel at home and welcomed when they move into their new residence,” said Charlotte Garvey of Interfaith Works “So families can shop online for the ladies.” For more information, visit www.iworksmc.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

ONGOING

The Mount Vernon Estate has released “The Winter Patriots,” a video presentation about George Washington crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776. Buy the film for \$4.99 or rent for \$2.99 at mountvernon.org/winterpatriots.

Musicians are invited to join the **Mount Vernon Community Band**. Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit

community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or www.mvbands.com.

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$90-\$110. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass.



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Litter Clean-Up Honors Community Activist

FROM PAGE 1

all the amazing stuff he's done."

The bi-annual clean-up of this stretch of road was organized by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce who "adopted this stretch of roadway," said Jay McConville, the chamber's chairman of military and community affairs. "Jeff was a key member of our chamber," he said.

The road is a connector from Telegraph Road in Lee District to Richmond Highway near the western part of the Mount Vernon Plantation property. after the 9/11 terrorist attacks the road through the woods of Fort Belvoir was closed so getting from Lee District to Mount Vernon was not a clear shot.

The Federal Highway Administration Eastern Lands Division completed the nearly three-mile stretch of road in 2014, and it was named after Jeff Todd shortly after.

In the Roy Roger's parking lot, McConville organized the group, and handed out reflective vests and bags, and some advice. "If it looks dangerous, just leave it," he said. "Get the big stuff, you will never finish if you go for every cigarette butt," he added.

A majority of the cleaning crew were high school students, mostly earning their community service hours, but not all. "I'm not just doing this for service hours, I do like helping," said Alyssa Warnock, a senior from



Hannah Todd, age 15, was happy to keep her father's spirit of community alive at the clean-up.

Hayfield Secondary School.

Ben Hinshaw, a friend of Hannah's, was there for the community hours and to help out Hannah who told him about the clean-up. He was "glad to help out, and make the community look nice," he said, but waking up early was another story. "That wasn't too fun," he said, although his mother Peggy



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Allison Priebe, a friend of the Todd family, with McClain Brooks, Hannah Todd and Ben Hinshaw.

was proud of his efforts.

As it got towards lunch time that day, the group had collected dozens of bags full of

trash. Some of the more noted items they found included a truck tire and a cracked iPad.

Remembering Skinner

FROM PAGE 1

from Shepherd University and earned a Master's degree from George Mason University.

Former School Board member from Mount Vernon and current Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) remembers, "When it came to his beloved MVHS students, staff and community, Mike was a very hard man to say 'no' to."

"His persistence was too strong and passion too deep," Storck continued in a statement. "With the tens of thousands of lives he mentored and molded and a community he changed, he will never be forgotten or replaced. Every day at the end of morning announcements, Mr. Skinner would end them by saying 'May the sun shine in the halls of MV High.' Now looking over MVHS, Mr. Skinner can indeed ensure that the sun continues to shine over MV High."

King said she had a conversation with Skinner in the last week and a half before he died. He asked how the football team was doing, how things were going at the school.

"To his dying breath," King said, "he was concerned about the school. Lucy his wife,

and Mount Vernon, those were the two things he loved."

Skinner was a member of Washington Farm United Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon Country Club, NVADACA, Phi Delta Kappa and a lifetime member of the Virginia Congress of PTAs.

A memorial for Skinner is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School in the Michael M. Skinner Field House, located at 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road in Alexandria. A reception will follow immediately at the Mount Vernon Country Club, located at 5111 Old Mill Road in Alexandria.

Skinner is survived wife of 47 years Lucy Peacock Skinner and three children: Michelle Skinner, Annapolis, Md.; Michael W. Skinner, Clearwater, FL; Beverly Hughes, Shepherdstown, W. Va.; and four grandchildren: Margaret Taylor, Melissa Mitchell, Michael C. Skinner and Kara Hughes.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA, 22309; Shepherd University; or the Mt. Vernon High School Athletics Department.

BULLETIN BOARD

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "Keeping Organized as a

Caregiver: What Works?" Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Alzheimer's Association support groups provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends to share information, caregiving tips and concerns. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at www.alz.org/nca.



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Daniel Thompson, MD & Daniel Weingold, MD
Tuesday, November 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Hilton Springfield

"ConforMIS Customized Knee Replacement"
Mark Hartley, MD
Wednesday, November 9, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Reston Hospital Center, Classroom C, West Wing

"The Latest Advancements in Total Shoulder Replacement"
Christopher Annunziata, MD & David Novak, MD
Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
OrthoVirginia Tysons Office

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ENTERTAINMENT

‘A Party to Murder’ LTA presents fast-paced, who-done-it farce in the mold of Agatha Christie.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging the farce, “A Party to Murder” now through Nov. 12. The drama is about six people who have come to play a murder-mystery game hosted by writer Charles Prince at a rustic island cottage in Michigan during Halloween. As the characters embark on a weekend of fun, ghosts from the past begin to haunt the proceedings, and it becomes clear that they are both playing for laughs and their lives. Audiences are treated to rising tensions, secret passageways, incriminating letters, unexpected corpses, and a 25-year-old unsolved mystery.

“This play pays homage to a icon of the who-done-its — Agatha Christie. It is an excellent script full of comedy and mystery,” said Director Jim Howard. “The challenge was to build a set that depicted an eerie place and that has been done with panache.”

He said he’s acted, produced, and directed many shows over the last 40 years, but this was his first who-done-it. He was supposed to co-direct this production with his friend of 25 years, Roland Gomez, but he died two weeks before auditions. His first task was to work with the team they put together to work on this show. As it turned out, he said it has been a pleasure to work as the director with these many talented designers and stage crew.

James McDaniel plays the role of Elwood, a warm-hearted, fun-loving, unmarried older man with a dark secret. “On the outside, he appears to look for the fun in all situations and is a terrible teaser. Although his girlfriend rebuffs him, he tries to be jovial and sociable. On the inside, however, he seeks justice, not revenge, for being deeply hurt,” he said.

He said some of the challenges in the play were “finding opposites in the scenes — like



CONTRIBUTED BY DOUG OLAMSTER/THE GAZETTE

From right: Danielle Comer (Evelyn/McKenzie), John Henderson (Konrad/Charles), Eva Seville Coll (O’Karma/Henri), and Damian John Legacy (Ernie/Willy) star in LTA’s production of “A Party to Murder.”

expressing affection and anger at the same time,” he said.

He hopes audiences take away love and empathy for his character, Elwood; “and an appreciation for the soundtrack of the television series, ‘Poirot.’”

Danielle Comer plays the role of McKenzie, a lively, and passionate young model who loves fashion, extravagance, and booze. “She is often the butt of many a joke or off-handed insult, but she never let’s it get to her and continues to speak her mind boldly and decisively in every situation. She is also a fan of using sarcasm and wit to lighten up any potentially tense situation, like say, a murder?” she said.

Her biggest challenge was definitely the script, she said. “There are many twists,

turns, and surprises and finding the right energy and dramatic build up for each, while also making sure each was different and unique to the story, was definitely a challenge,” she said.

Eva Coll plays the role of Henri, a really fun character for her to play, she said. “What I like most about her is that she is not at all how people perceive her to be. Although she is shy and constantly aims to please those around her, she does have an inner strength and lets this show at certain times throughout the show,” she said.

She added that there were so many layers to the characters in this show. “It has been a real challenge trying to touch on and capture all of them throughout the performance,” she said.

To Go

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is staging “A Party to Murder” now through Nov. 12. Show times are Wednesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

In the end, she hopes the audiences are entertained and that the actors continue to keep them on their toes. “There are sure to be a few surprises coming their way and I hope to leave them with some conflicted feelings about the story, perhaps reevaluating and looking at the story through each character’s perspective,” she said.

Damian J. Legacy plays the role of Willy, a boisterous former football player whose life changed after a car accident left him wheelchair-bound. “Despite his hot temper flaring up every now and then, he is mostly concerned with telling off-color jokes and using situational humor to make sure the others do not take themselves, nor their situation so gravely,” he said.

He said the challenge was getting accustomed to the wheelchair. “Additionally, following the many twists and turns presented by the playwright also created the challenge of representing Willy’s authentic motivations and emotions as he instigates and responds to various situations that arise,” he said.

Laura Peterson plays the role of Valerie Addison. “She and her sister, Henri, have come to the island for a weekend murder mystery game hosted by one of their favorite authors, Charles Prince,” she said. “She’s someone who’s used to being in control of things around her. But this weekend away quickly unravels beyond her control ... with some surprising results,” she said.

She added: “This is a show with a number of surprising plot twists, which made it a bit more challenging to learn in the first place. But hopefully the audience will appreciate some unexpected turns as the story unfolds.”

CALENDAR

ONGOING

“Co-Creating the Cosmos.” Thursdays, through Oct. 27, 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Frank Frost is an award-winning documentary film producer. His current work – The Teilhard de Chardin Project – is a television biography in production for public television on the life and thought of the revolutionary Teilhard de Chardin: Jesuit priest, paleontologist, visionary. Registration is \$25. Visit www.stadainsepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

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 for more.

“The Greatest Show of Earth: Clay Circus.”

Through Oct. 30, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center’s Scope Gallery, 105 N. Union St. In conjunction with the Torpedo Factory Art Center’s annual hands-on children’s art event, Art Safari, sculptural and functional clay art goes wild with all manner of animals making an appearance. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Local Flavor.” Through Oct. 30, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Local Flavor” art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans showcases member artwork that highlight the things they adore, crave, and experience in their beloved neck of the woods—and celebrate the special touches found in community. Free. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org.

Poe Immersive Theater: “A Dream Within a Dream.” Through Oct. 31, 8 p.m. or 10 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. This show is a surreal interpretation of the life, works, and mad genius of Edgar Allan Poe, as seen through the lens of the characters in his works and the people in his life. Tickets are \$5-

40. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/Poe for more.

“Transformations: Tapestries in Glass.”

Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Anita Bucsay Damron’s vibrant mosaics draw from many sources, both traditional and contemporary. Inspired by tapestries from Rajasthan and Gujarat, India, her pieces incorporate crystal from Austria and the Czech Republic, specialty glass from Murano, Italy, and found objects such as beads, brooches, and cameos. Damron notes that “new applications of mosaic art encourage recycling and reuse,” and her creative reuse of materials is what gives this ancient art form its exciting new sparkle. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: “Salute to Secondary Colors.” Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at 105 N. Union St. The secondary colors orange, green, and purple are the theme for this show. Artists were challenged to use these hues individually, paired, or in a triadic color scheme. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

“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 for more.

Little Theatre of Alexandria: “A Party to Murder.” Through Nov. 12, various times at 600 Wolfe St. It’s Halloween and six people have come to play a murder-mystery game hosted by writer Charles Prince at a rustic island cottage in Michigan. This play is a fast-paced farce, so what could go wrong? As the characters embark on a weekend of fun, ghosts from the past begin to haunt the proceedings, and it becomes clear that they are both playing for laughs and their lives. The Little Theatre of Alexandria audiences are treated to rising tensions, secret passageways, incriminating letters, unexpected corpses, and a 25-year-old unsolved mystery that will propel the audience to...well, we don’t want to give away the unexpected and terrifying conclusion. Tickets are \$19-22. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

John M. Adams: “Current Interrupted.” SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

Through Nov. 13, 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 for more.

Matthew Grimes: “(In)Material” and “Pliant.” Through Nov. 14, 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/schlesingercenter for more.

Young at Art Exhibition. Through Nov. 17, gallery hours at Durant arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Calling all senior artists. This annual event is cosponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and Goodwin House Foundation. The Call for Art is Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. \$20 fee to submit up to three works of art. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org or call Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, ext. 111 or Jeanne Jacobs at 703-824-1345.

Art Exhibit: “Serenity in Chaos.” Through Nov. 20, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of this show reflects the artist’s unique view of the photographic medium. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Post-Graduate Residency

Program. Through Nov. 27, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Post-Graduate Master’s of Fine Arts Residency is a competitive program, housed in Studio 12, where four emerging artists create and sell work, interact with the public, and network with other working artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Thursday Mornings with Kathryn

Conewey. Dec. 8, 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 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.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening for more.

Art Making as Meditation with

Kathryn Conewey. Second Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. 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. Email info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking

Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local

History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum’s Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

“Ancient Art of Movement.”

1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

Flamenco Show.

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night.

Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

Halloween Happenings

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Ghosts of Alexandria Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. This ghostly experience explores Alexandria’s most haunted locations on and off the beaten path. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, active duty military and veterans, \$5 children, free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

Ghosts and Grief Tour. 7-8:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco Street. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern day funeral practices. Tickets are available in advance for \$7 through the museum’s online store, or for \$10 at the door. LFH Members are admitted free. Tours are at 7, 7:30, 8 and 8:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

SUNDAY/OCT. 30

A Spooktacular Preschool Halloween Extravaganza. 3-5 p.m. at Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane “Trick-or-Treat” inside Fort Hunt Preschool’s Carriage House, “spooky” story in the garden, festive games, and create fun Halloween crafts. Tickets are \$10 per family (two parents and two children) and \$5 per additional child. For more information, contact Neil Smith, fhp.publicity@gmail.com, 703-780-0680.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 30-31

Poe in Alexandria. 8-10 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum’s lecture hall to re-create Poe’s visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before his death. Individual works performed each year vary, but the program always includes a chilling story or two such as “The Black Cat,” “The Cask of Amontillado,” or “The Tell-Tale Heart,” along with well-known poems “The Raven” and “El Dorado.” Tickets are \$15. Visit shop.alexandria.gov/events for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 31

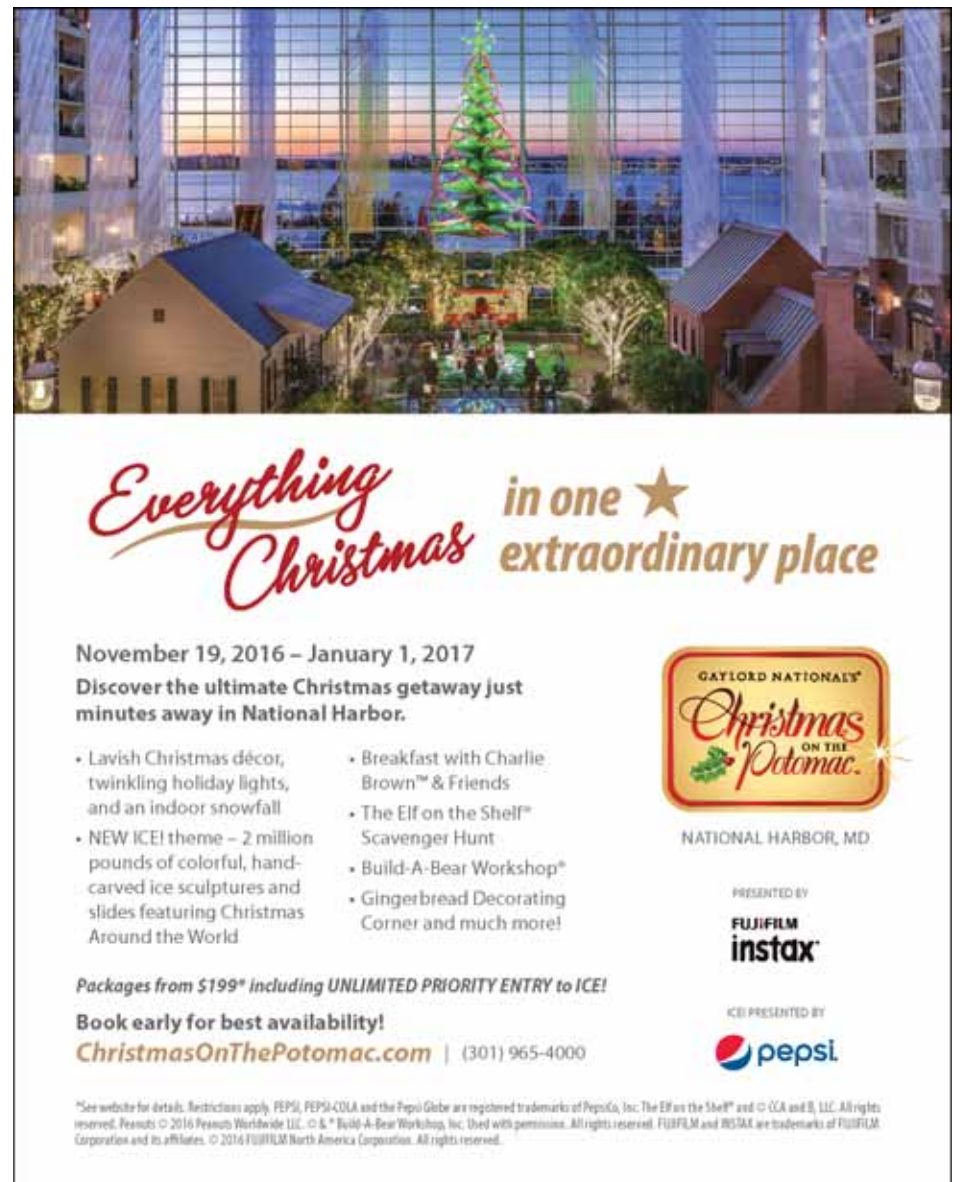
Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy. Mount Vernon opens its doors to trick-or-treaters, highlighted by a costume parade around the mansion at 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the best “George” and “Martha” costumes. Tickets are required for all adults and children to attend this event. The cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 per child (11 and under).



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday- Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m. .

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Ghosts of Alexandria Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. This ghostly experience explores Alexandria's most haunted locations on and off the beaten path. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, active duty military and veterans, \$5 children, free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

Workshops: "Come Play with Collage Cut Ups." 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Activity lead Millie Mateu will guide participants through an art activity. She will start by doing some creative exercises, then create some simple collages that have high impact, using "Local Flavor" as inspiration. Free for Del Ray Artisans

members and \$10 for non-members. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

Veterans Ball Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. In preparation for the Veterans Ball on Nov. 12, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Tickets are priced per person at \$12 per class or \$30 for the series. For more information, call 703-746-4242.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Injecting Color & Structure. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Let Master Gardeners show you how trees and shrubs can provide structure and year-round interest, and how to add seasonal splashes of color with annuals and perennials to make your house pop. Tickets are \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 401 2301 or call 703-642-5173.

Halloween Bash at the Brewery. 3-10 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. The Tasting Room and brewery will be filled with tricks and treats. Free. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/the-brewery/events

Bark or Treat Canine Cruise. 5:30-7 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. Come out with your costumed canine and cruise to some Halloween tunes along the Potomac. Tickets are \$16 adults; \$10 children; dogs ride free. Visit www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com.

Ghosts of Alexandria Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center,

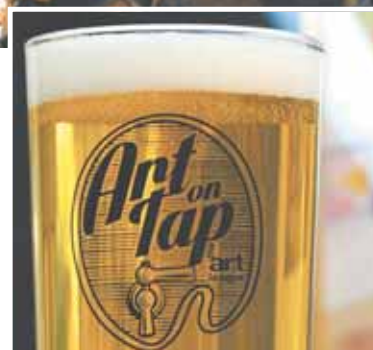
SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Art League's 'Art on Tap' Returns

Craft beers from local breweries have been paired with a work of art from an Art League instructor. Local restaurants have chosen a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse to create the complementary appetizer. Event is on Friday, Nov. 4, 7-10 p.m. at The Art League's third annual Art on Tap event. Tickets are \$35-45. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.



STRATFORD LANDING ELEMENTARY

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

221 King St. This ghostly experience explores Alexandria's most haunted locations on and off the beaten path. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, active duty military and veterans, \$5 children, free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

The Gadsby's Tavern Ghost Tour.

7-9 p.m. (tours start every 30 minutes) at 134 N. Royal St. Follow a colonial-costumed guide through the eerie Alexandria streets, visit a cemetery, and enter one of the most haunted buildings in Old Town. Hear the tragic story of the Mysterious Female Stranger. Tickets are \$20 adults; \$10 kids ages 7-17. Visit www.AlexColonialTours.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 28-30

State NAACP Convention. Various times at West Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. The theme is "NAACP: Let's Go." Registration is \$15-225. Visit www.vscnaacp.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Poisonous Plants Garden Tour. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. A Master Gardener docent tells tales of wicked plants hiding in plain sight, showcasing obvious culprits and some surprises. Learn which to weed out and which we can live with. Enjoy refreshments at the Historic House, including edible flowers. Tickets are \$12. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 483 2001 or call 703-642-5173.

Cat-urday Toy Making Workshop.

10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate

National Cat Day by making toys. This workshop gives the tools needed to make felt mice and birds, wine cork candies, and a classic stick with string taunting toy, as well as an optional T-shirt cat tent. \$5 supplies fee. Instruction free for Del Ray Artisans members, \$10 for non-members. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt.

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Alexandria's ghosts and goblins will fill the museum's garden with hundreds of colorful toy-filled Halloween pumpkins for local children to discover. Other activities include crafts, refreshments, spooky stories, and a costume parade. Every participating child will receive a toy pumpkin. Advance tickets are \$12 for participating children, and \$5 for adults. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

Let's Grow Garden Club: Garlic Planting.

1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Help with planting garlic. Tour the garden grounds to view the changing fall colors all around us and learn a little about pumpkins. Tickets are \$15 per child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 402 8901 or call 703-642-5173.

Ivy Hill Cemetery Tour.

4:30 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Learn the rich history of Alexandria from a different perspective. Visit the graves of many of Alexandria's most prominent and historic families, including nurse Emma Green and Confederate spy Frank Stringfellow from the hit PBS series, "Mercy Street." Hear the stories of how the Civil War transformed their lives and the city forever. Tickets are \$20 for

adults, \$10 for children. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

The Voices of Bethlehem Mass

Choir Live Recording. 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road. Free. Visit www.bethlehemofalexandria.org for more.

Walking Dead Footsteps Zombie

Event. 6-9 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Visitors will experience firsthand some encounters with zombies from the 18th-century, a-la-walking dead style. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.

Ghosts and Grief Tours.

7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of supernatural encounters. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern day funeral practices. Customs such as draping the mirrors, how long a widow would mourn for her husband or children, social expectations and dress will be explored. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

"Feast Your Ears."

7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The Fairfax Choral Society opens its 55th anniversary season with an evening of some of the greatest and most popular masterworks for chorus and orchestra composed throughout history including works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms, just to name a few. Tickets start at \$15. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org for more.

Halloween Tap Takeover. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron

St. Guests can enjoy the spooky holiday fun with a tap takeover by South Street Brewery from Charlottesville, highlighting fall and pumpkin-themed beers, as well as a costume contest. Dante Coley, brewery representative from South Street brewery, and Patricia Washington from Visit Alexandria will be in attendance to judge costumes and present awards. Free; beers \$7 per draft. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 30

Doggy Trick-or-Treat. 1-6 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. We will have treats, sales and a costume contest. Visit The Dog Park in Old Town Alexandria to get your map and pictures taken, then tour the rest of the participating stores to get more treats and find a sale or two in town. Free. Visit www.thedogparkva.biz.

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave. All are welcome to march in the parade. Parade ends in a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, free refreshments, games, best costume awards, and more. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween for more.

A Spooktacular Preschool

Halloween Extravaganza. 3-5 p.m. at Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane "Trick-or-Treat" inside Fort Hunt Preschool's Carriage House, "spooky" story in the garden, festive games, and create fun Halloween crafts. Tickets are \$10 per family (2 parents and 2 children) and \$5 per additional child. For more information, contact Neil Smith, fhp.publicity@gmail.com, 703-780-0680.

Special Halloween Ghost Tour.

6 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. The Halloween Ghost Tour starts at the Alexandria Visitor Center and wraps through the back roads of Old Town stopping at places like The Christmas Attic, John Douglas Brown House, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and many more. The Halloween Ghost Tour takes visitors past Christ Church to other less-visited stops like the Freedom House. At each stop guides cover a brief background of the location, what horrible event occurred there, and what modern day paranormal phenomenon was detected. Tickets are \$12 adults; \$10 senior citizens, active duty military and veterans; \$5 children; free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

Collective Delusion. 8 p.m. at Los Toltecos, 4111 Duke St. Local band plays rock songs from '70s to present. Free. Visit www.CollectiveDelusion.net.

Photo Contest Deadline.

12 a.m. Enter photos of Northern Virginia's beautiful urban and rural outdoor spaces in the Nearby Nature Photo Competition, sponsored by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. The contest is open to all non-professional photographers, with prizes for youth and adults in two categories: "the land and water around us" and "people enjoying the land." Free to participate. See www.nvct.org for entry details.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 30-31

Poe in Alexandria. 8-10 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum's lecture hall to re-create Poe's visit to SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 19



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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 18
Virginia in 1849, shortly before his death. Individual works performed each year vary, but the program always includes a chilling story or two such as "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado," or "The Tell-Tale Heart," along with well-known poems "The Raven" and "El Dorado." Tickets are \$15. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov/events for more.

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Trick-or-Treat with the Boo-tiques. 2-6 p.m. throughout Old Town. Start trick-or-treating early and stop by the dozens of shops of the Old Town Boutique District dishing out treats. Free. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join the costumed cast of interpreters for a special opportunity to trick-or-treat in the historic area. The cost is \$12 per adult and \$6 per child (11 and under). Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Halloween Trick-Or-Treating. 5-7 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com to register.

TUESDAY/NOV. 1

Community Reception for New Fort Belvoir Command Team. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Fort Belvoir Officers Club, 5500 Schulz Circle. Any business or community member with a connection to Fort Belvoir is invited to attend. Bring plenty of business cards and prepare to expand your professional network with the Quantico/Belvoir Business Alliance. The cost is \$10 which provides admission and two drink tickets at the event. Contact Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce 703-360-6925 or visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org.

All Saints' Day Choral Evensong. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Old Town, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the choir in an All Saints' Day Choral Evensong. Candles will be available to light in memory of loved ones. Donations and non-perishable foods will be accepted for St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry, raising hope for those in need. All are invited. Reception follows. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 2

Lecture & Book Signing: "The Historical Apothecary Compendium." 7:30 p.m. at Alexandria Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Join medical toxicologist and amateur apothecary historian Dr. Daniel Goldstein as he discusses his research method and adventures while writing his recently published book "The Historical Apothecary Compendium." Tickets are \$10. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. The Colliders play classic rockabilly, blues and honky-tonk from back in the day. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.gottaswing.com for more. Commonwealth Academy Fundraiser at Port City Brewing, 4-9 p.m. donating 10% of their earnings for the day to Commonwealth Academy, an extraordinary college preparatory program.

THURSDAY/NOV. 3

Del Ray Aglow. 6-8 p.m. at Ease Yoga & Cafe, 3051 Mount Vernon Ave. This annual Del Ray event pays homage to a German tradition of



Folk band Burning Bridget Cleary will perform with Nicole Belanus on Saturday, Nov. 5 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Tickets are \$15-18. Visit www.focusmusic.org/concert-burning-bridget-cleary for more.



Martinmas or St. Martin day celebration, bringing light and warmth into the night as we move towards the darkest days of the year. Stroll the streets of Del Ray with lanterns and end for a treat of cider and cookies. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 4

Art on Tap. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League Gallery - Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Craft beers from local breweries have been paired with a work of art from an Art League instructor. Local restaurants have chosen a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse to create the perfect complementary appetizer. Sample the creative combinations while drinking from a take-home Art on Tap beer tasting glass, and then vote for your favorite at the end of the event. Tickets are \$35 until Oct. 21; \$45 after. Visit www.TheArtLeague.org.

NOV. 4-27

Art Exhibit: "H2O/Waterworks." Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. A visual exploration of humankind's relationship to water, or lack thereof, through 2D and 3D media. They express water's effect on us and our effect on water, for enjoyment, health, political, ecological and environmental outcomes. Free. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

NOV. 4-DEC. 17

Convergence: "Various Small Fires." Gallery hours at Convergence Gallery, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. the Convergence Arts Initiative presents: 'Various Small Fires,' a site-specific installation and exhibit by Isabel Cureux. Various Small Fires explores how each small event in our lives creates who we are. Mental illness, divorce, "biraciality," and religion will be presented in innovative ways to garner a feeling of solidarity with others who have experienced these things, and present a new way to understand them for those who have not. Free to attend. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

NOV. 4-DEC. 18

"Raising: Motherhood in Modernity." Gallery hours at The Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. Elements of motherhood and the good and bad of being a parent can be found in the ceramic pieces Jessica Gardner created for the exhibit "Raising: Motherhood in Modernity." Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

NOV. 4-19

School of Rock. West Potomac Theater, 6500 Quander Rd., presented by the Beyond the Page Theatre Company (BTPTC) at West Potomac High School. Show times vary: Nov 4 - 7 p.m.; Nov 5 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Nov 11 - 5 p.m.; Nov 12 - 7 p.m.; Nov 18 - 7 p.m.; Nov 19 - 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, contact Peelee Clark at WestPoTheatre@gmail.com or 703-718-2585.

SATURDAY/NOV. 5

Horses & Hounds. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. At this exciting event, watch a simulated fox hunt demonstration on the estate of the Father of the American foxhound. Observe a cavalry demonstration on the 12-acre field before meeting the breeds that Washington loved so much. Learn about the role these animals played in the American Revolution and even meet Nelson, a horse similar to Washington's beloved warhorse. Included in general admission. Tickets are \$9-20, with a discount for buying online. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Presidential, Political & Historical Auction. 10 a.m. at The Potomack Company, 1120 N. Fairfax St. Potomack Company tradition returns as the Virginia auction house marks the 2016 Presidential Election with the sale of antiques, documents and decorative art from two John F. Kennedy family residences along with a rare autograph collection of 31 presidential signatures. Free to attend. Visit www.potomackcompany.com.



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OPINION

Vote 'Yes' for FCPS Teachers' Salaries

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

When you vote on Tuesday, Nov. 8, Fairfax County voters can vote for our schools by voting to allow a four percent tax on prepared restaurant meals. Of the revenue generated by the tax, 70 percent is required to be dedicated to public schools and 30 percent to other county services, capital improvements and property tax relief.

I support a meals tax because we need to strengthen our schools. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are suffering from underfunding. While state funds have increased by over 50 percent since the 2009 Great Recession, local funds, which represent 80 percent of our school system's budget, have risen only 20 percent and lagged investments made in Arlington and Alexandria.

Funding shortfalls have serious consequences, the most significant of which is that FCPS teacher salaries are no longer

competitive. A mid-career FCPS teacher makes \$20,000 less per year than one in Arlington or Montgomery counties. The FCPS average teacher salary is only \$3,000 per year more than Prince William County's, \$2,000 more than Loudoun County's and \$800 more than Prince George's County's.

The result is that we are losing top talent and Fairfax County taxpayers are in effect training teachers and staff for the ultimate benefit of other jurisdictions as higher salaries lure them away. FCPS started this year with over 130 teaching vacancies for the first time in the system's history. Who can blame someone for choosing a 20-plus percent raise to support their family?

In addition, FCPS has a \$2 billion capital backlog. School renovations have been deferred. The system has been growing by 120 classrooms of students per year and some students are sitting in trailers instead of well-equipped buildings. In my 13 years as a FCPS student, I saw one trailer. FCPS' elementary school class sizes are now 35 percent larger than Alexandria's and 13.7 percent larger than Arlington's.

Also, FCPS cannot offer the same quality educational experiences of other jurisdic-

tions. All students in five Virginia counties are assigned their own personal computing devices — Henrico, Chesterfield, Albemarle, Alexandria, and Arlington. One-to-one computing for FCPS costs \$50 million and for now, is a pipe dream for FCPS.

It has not always been this way. For many years, including when I was a FCPS student from 1976-1989, FCPS was the envy of all school systems in the state, the metro area and the nation. Teachers began and finished their careers in FCPS. Students at West Potomac, Fort Hunt, Groveton, Hayfield or Edison often shared the same teachers over decades.

Why a meals tax referendum? The Constitution of Virginia and our state laws do not allow all counties to enact meals taxes through Boards of Supervisors without prior voter approval. In terms of tax options, state law effectively only allows Virginia counties to tax three things — real estate, personal property (cars) and business revenue (called "BPOE" taxes). Fairfax County's property tax is actually lower than Prince William and Loudoun counties and is another choice for funding the schools' shortfall.

However, a four percent meals tax is equal

to \$0.04 of increased real estate taxes — the equivalent of \$200/year on a \$500,000 home. A meals tax increase will reduce tax pressure on our elderly on fixed incomes who cannot pay higher real estate taxes. Also, 30 percent of meals taxes are paid by non-county residents.

Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City, Falls Church and the towns of Vienna, Falls Church, Herndon and Clifton already have a meals tax — we are leaving money on the table. High quality schools help sustain home values for all of us. New families often choose homes based on school data. Strong schools increase demand for homes.

Finally, investing in our children pays massive future dividends. Public secondary and higher education is the bedrock of civilized democracies. The core of high quality education is high quality teachers, people who deserve to be paid as the professionals that they are and at salaries commensurate with their training, experience and importance. Good salaries allow them to live in the community they serve.

Vote yes on the meals tax. You can reach me at scott@scottsuovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

tion. For example, tobacco taxes are deliberately designed to reduce demand for cigarettes because of the health problems associated with smoking.

If Mount Vernon residents change their eating habits and cut back a little on restaurant expenditure, the collective impact could be substantial. Opinions differ as to the severity, but a meals tax can be expected to cause some local restaurants to close and to result in layoffs.

Remember that Fairfax County homeowners are also being hit next year with higher property taxes averaging a

whopping \$304. So expect spending in restaurants, as well as in other local businesses, to suffer as consumers try to find ways to save some money.

Is there another option? Fortunately, yes. The county should be focusing much more closely on how it delivers its services. Trimming out waste in the \$4.01 billion county budget would help.

It is also high time that Fairfax County allowed a fully independent audit of its school system. An audit that delivers just 5 percent in efficiencies (surely not an unreasonable expectation) would provide far more for teachers and students than a meals tax. By contrast, the 2013 Gibson

benchmarking efficiency review identified paltry savings of \$2 million per year, despite also finding that little more than half of the parents surveyed thought that their tax dollars were actually being well spent. What is clearly needed is a broad audit in which all education spending is reviewed, from top to bottom and without political interference.

Meanwhile, expanding the commercial tax base would create a larger and more balanced revenue stream for the county to spend. In short, the Board of Supervisors should stop discouraging new tax-paying businesses from locating in Mount Vernon District.

Morality and economics sometimes pull

in different directions. For example, while higher pay is a good thing, increases in the minimum wage must be weighed against economic impacts like the loss of jobs. But in the case of a meals tax, both the morality and the economics scream "no." By any measure, it is immoral to tax food. To do so in a way that places the greatest additional burden on those who can least afford to pay only adds insult to injury.

I urge my many friends in Mount Vernon District, of all political persuasions, to vote "no" to the meals tax on Election Day.

Gavin Carter
Alexandria

SPORTS

2-Point Conversion Clinches Game

It was a come-from-behind 22-21 victory for T.C. Williams High School on Friday, Oct. 21. TC's defense held West Potomac's running attack to only 129 yards.



Senior wide receiver Khalil Williams Diggins hauls in the late touchdown pass to put the Wolverines ahead.



Senior Brandan Lisenby had 2 touchdown receptions in leading the Wolverines in scoring.

PHOTOS BY RICHARD MAPLE

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Obituary for Richard J. Muller

October 17, 2016

Richard Johnson Muller died on Tuesday, October 17, 2016 having enjoyed a long loving and productive life. He passed away peacefully at 87 surrounded by family in Alexandria, Virginia. His death from natural causes came a week after his 64th wedding anniversary with Barbara Reading Muller.

His passion for living explained his varied career as a country music DJ after graduating from Bard College, radio news announcer at WICH in Norwich, Connecticut, news director at KDKA in Pittsburgh, public relations and government affairs at Chrysler Corporation for 30 years, first in Detroit and then Washington, D.C. He was a member of the 1980 Reagan Transition Team for NASA where he received the Public Service Award, and a volunteer in retirement as an ESL instructor and 20 years in the Alexandria Police Department communications division.

Captivated by international travel that included the Far East, Central and South America and Europe, his favorite was the United Kingdom. He loved the land of Churchill and became a self-proclaimed anglophile. Time in the Cotswold, Mayfair and Kensington as well as hosting each of his grandchildren for a personal visit to London gave him joy and filled him with pride.

He was a recreational pilot, gourmet cook, and master gardener creating an elegant English garden in the backyard of their 200-year-old family home in Old Town Alexandria. A home they lovingly restored with a Williamsburg flair where they celebrated life for 40 years.

He became a connoisseur of life. Driven by a desire for new experiences and the opportunity to meet people of unusual backgrounds and interests different than his own. His kindness, curiosity and conversation helped him make friends anywhere.

His life was balanced by the deep love, devotion and shared interests he had with his wife, partner and travel companion, Barbara.

Richard (Dick) is survived by his wife, three children, Melissa Bernhardt (John) of Columbia, Missouri; Richard (Chip) Muller, Jr. (Rozanne) of Apison, Tennessee; and David Muller (Patricia) of Corona del Mar, California, and four grandchildren, Matt and Tessa Bernhardt, Daryl and Channing Muller.

Richard is predeceased by his parents, Ethel and Julius (Dick) Muller, and brothers, James and Edward.

A memorial service and celebration of life were held Friday, October 20, 2016 at Christ Church Alexandria followed by a reception and private graveside service at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria.

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Obituary



Ethelyn Evans
Age 81

Of Burke, VA went home to be with her Lord on October 23, 2016. Beloved mother of two daughters, Lisa Kay Lennett (Michael) and Linda Donaldson-Bronder (Steve), both of Burke, VA. Also survived by five grandchildren; one brother, James Turner (Pat); four sister in laws: Fran Turner, Buena Evans, Fay Wilmouth, Bernice Evans; one brother in law, Randle Evans (Darius); many nieces and nephews; and many loving friends. Visitation will be on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 1-4 pm at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA. A Funeral Service will be held at Ft. Myer Old Post Chapel and burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Donations may be made to: Lincolnia United Methodist Church.

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DeArcey (Dee) T. Campbell, age 91, of Daytona Beach, FL, passed away on Oct 18, 2016 at Halifax Hospital in Daytona Beach FL. He was born in Alexandria, VA on September 28, 1925 to the late William W. Campbell (Ret Chief of Police, Alexandria, VA.) and Charlotte (Thomas).

He attended George Washington High School where he participated in the sports he loved football, and basketball, graduating in 1944. He joined the US Navy in 1944 where he served his country till 1946. He began his rowing career for the Old Dominion Boat Club on the waters of the Potomac River and secured a job reading meters in the Northern Virginia for the Washington Gas Light Co., where he spent the next 45 years climbing the ladder to finish his career as a lead foreman with many crews. During that time with his full time job at WGL his love for crew never faded and he began coaching as an assistant coach in 1959 at Francis Hammond High School and became Head Coach in 1971. In that year, City of Alexandria combined 3 high schools and formed TC Williams High School, Hammond became an intermediate School and Dee went to coach the Boys Crew at TC Williams High School. The rowing program moved to the Torpedo Factory in the early 70's on the Alexandria waterfront. In 1975 Dee began coaching the Girls Crew as Head Coach until 2005. During the 1990's TC Williams Women's Crew ranked 1st or 2nd in North America. Dee spent a total of 46 years full time coaching and for many years returned to Alexandria to assist the new coaches.

Dee was preceded in death by his brother William W. Campbell Jr. and sisters Marie King, Ruth Morgal, Jean Cockrell, and Aliene Robey, and nieces Betty Jean Bunch and Sally Midkiff, and Deborah J. Crane. Mourning his passing is his nephew, James T. Robey (Karen) of Daytona Beach FL, great niece Erica C. Robey of Springfield Va., nephew, Harley "Skeeter" Swift of TN., nieces, Anna M. Spencer (Joe) of Alexandria, VA., Marsha E. Harlow (Greg) of Woodbridge, VA., Patricia (Pat) Campbell Springer of Alexandria, VA, Sharon (Sherry) Campbell Shelby of Bealeton, VA, Constance (Connie) Campbell Wilkinson of Radford, VA, along with a host of numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends on Thursday, October 27th from 2:00 to 4:00pm and 6:00 to 8:00pm at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA, where funeral services will be held on Friday, October 28th at 12 noon. Graveside services will immediately follow at National Memorial Park, Falls Church. In lieu of flowers please consider making a donation in Dee Campbell's name to be made to the Alexandria Crew Boosters, PO Box 3202, Alexandria, Va. 22302.

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LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T Mobility Services LLC is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 501 Slaters Lane, Alexandria, Alexandria City, VA. The new facility will consist of the removal and replacement of 3 existing antennas on existing mounts at a top height of +/- 142 feet above ground level. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6116003889-MOG c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at 781-572-0698.

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OBITUARY



Bertha M. Halnon "Dusty", 93, former resident of Alexandria, VA, passed away September 19, 2016, due to Alzheimers. Born in Benton Harbor, MI, she received her B.S. from Western Michigan, and she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi. She and husband William L. Halnon had five children who survive them: Tim, Janet Rempfer, Carol Hilgendorf, Pat DeFilippo and William G. Halnon. Dusty's love for young children led to her many years of teaching preschool at Bethany Lutheran Church. Other occupations were draftsman (WWII), floral designer, sales and seamstress at Joann's Fabrics. A "Yes" person, she volunteered as a Girl Scout leader, assisted at Groveton Elementary, served as a member in womens Guild, Stephen Minister, Senior choir, curriculum development for the school. A loving mother, gifted artist, Dusty's attention to detail was shown in everything she did, art projects, sewing clothing for the family-often her designs. She enjoyed gardening and water aerobics, cooking and baking for her family and friends, babysitting the grandchildren at times. In addition to her five children, Dusty is survived by thirteen grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren, one sister, Ruth Wiegand of AL. A celebration of life service is being held at 2:00pm Cross Bridge Church, Rockledge, FL, October 22. Interment is in Florida Memorial Gardens, Rockledge, FL.

Give me where to stand,
and I will move the earth.
-Archimedes

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will hold a Public Information Hearing to discuss the proposed Woodlawn Cultural Landscape Historic District, Alexandria, VA. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday November 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at South County Government Center, 8352 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309. Public comment regarding the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be sent to: Director Julie Langan, VA Department of Historic Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. This proposal has been recommended eligible for the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. This proposal will be presented to the State Review Board and the Historic Resources Board on December 15, 2016 in Richmond, VA. For a copy of the proposal and/or a boundary map, contact Aubrey VonLindern, 540-868-7029 or Aubrey.VonLindern@dhr.virginia.gov.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

Request for Proposals No. 00000644, Commercial Parking Study

Closing Date and Time: November 21, 2016, 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time.

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

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

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NEWS

About Bonds

FROM PAGE 3

velopment, Fairfax County is seeking authorization to issue \$85 million in bonds, \$48 million of which would be used to renovate, expand or replace bonds four shelters operating at capacity that aren't able to meet crisis or emergency needs of homeless individuals.

Those shelters include:

❖ The Patrick Henry Shelter in Falls Church

❖ The Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston

❖ The Eleanor Kennedy Shelter, in the Fort Belvoir area

❖ The Baileys Crossroads Community Shelter in Falls Church.

The remaining \$37 million of bonds, if the referendum passes, would be used to replace the Sully Senior Center in Centreville and build a new Lorton Community Center, which also provides space and programming for seniors and is currently housed in a leased space that expires in two years.

For more information from Fairfax County on the upcoming Nov. 8 election, including sample ballots, candidate information and ballot questions, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm. Additional descriptions of the bond items are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/2016-bond-referendum-pamphlet-web.pdf. More detail on the specific park bonds is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2016bond.htm.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 7

honoring State Senator Toddy Puller who served in the Virginia General Assembly for 24 years. All 11th and 12th Grade students are eligible to participate. Participants are accepted in a competitive process based on grades, school activities, and statements of interest. For more information on The Puller Institute and to apply for the 2017 session, please visit Senator Surovell's website: <http://bit.ly/2017puller>. The deadline for all applicants is December 15th and the primary Richmond program will take place on Sunday, January 29th - Tuesday, January 31st.

TUESDAY/NOV. 1

RECenter Aqua Passes. Aqua Exercise Flex Passes will be on sale throughout the month of November at Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters and online. Pass holders can use the flex passes to attend any water exercise class, space permitting, at the county's nine RECenters. For more information, visit us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

FRIDAY/NOV. 11

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 for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

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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8717 Plymouth Rd.
\$1,399,000
Time to add your personalized touches!

Best new home price in Fort Hunt's "Plymouth Haven"



New Melson II model on half acre lot in Plymouth Haven. 3525 square feet on two main levels plus fully finished basement and 2 or 3 car garage. Open floor plan, high ceilings, upgrades throughout. Finished recreation room & bathroom in Basement. Pre-construction contract offers maximum opportunity to customize! \$10,000 towards closing costs! (Using approved lender)



8400 Riverside Rd.
\$795,000
Stunning renovation!

COMING SOON

Spacious 3 level Colonial with 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths & 2 car garage. Totally renovated with truly amazing results! Virtually all major components are brand new. Includes: Roof, siding, windows, flooring, chef's kitchen, luxurious baths, trim detail, & interior decorating. Large deck & private level lot. Walk to Stratford E.S. & Sandburg M.S. If you've been dreaming of a new home in Ft. Hunt without the \$1,000,000 price tag, this is it!



9314 Craig Ave.
\$635,000
Pristine Condition!

Truly exquisite property! Spacious 5 Bedroom home on gorgeous, fenced level lot in premier location. Numerous features include: Bright open floor plan, Hardwood floors, gas cooking/heat/hot water, thermal windows, and garage. Large deck overlooks spacious grounds. Property is in pristine "move in" condition!



4220 Scotland Rd.
\$598,500
Unusual Opportunity

Spacious 3 level Five Bedroom Colonial at remarkably reasonable price! Features include: Large room sizes, Hardwood Floors, Five Bedrooms, Including Master Suite with private bath and sitting room. Prime location on large corner lot in the heart of Mt. Vernon. A ton of potential!



9515 Mt. Vernon Landing.
\$950,000
Brick Colonial - Steps to Marina.

Unique nautical environment, with some river views and steps from marina in Mt. Vernon on the Potomac. The area's premier waterfront community. Spacious home has many features include: 3 finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen, brick exterior and 2 car garage. Expansive rear deck overlooks spacious grounds. A truly unique opportunity!



5428 Grist Mill Woods Way
Great Space for the Money!

COMING SOON

Stunning 5,686 sq ft Colonial featuring dramatic open floor plan, large room sizes, soaring high ceilings, and modern amenities typically found in \$1 Mil+ properties. Features include: 3 Fin levels, walk out lower level, 5BR's, 4.5BA's, Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim, hardwood floors, & 2 car garage. Custom deck and brick patio capitalize on gorgeous fenced grounds backing to park. Amazing Value!



9300 Old Mt. Vernon
\$1,289,000
One of Mt. Vernon's most majestic properties.

One of area's most admired homes! Truly exceptional estate on approximately one acre grounds in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Superlatives include: Three luxuriously finished levels, 7 Br's, 5.5 baths, stunning main level master suite, stately room sizes, elegant finishes + oversized garage. Vacation at home- custom salt water pool and hot tub!



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