

## School Board Approves Capital Improvement Program

Five-year plan includes three new elementary schools and one new high school.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

This year, Fairfax County Public Schools experienced one of the smallest annual enrollment increases in nearly a decade: 1,368 students, compared to the average of 2,400 since the 2008-09 school year, bringing the total to 187,202.

By far the lowest was a growth of only 223 in the 2015-16 school year.

Interim FCPS Superintendent Dr. Steven Lockard attributed the slowed growth to decreases in those entering kindergarten cohorts and net migration. The five-year forecast of enrollment growth, he said in an introduction to the latest Capital Improvement Program information document, has FCPS reaching 190,600 students by the 2021-22 school year.

"These new trends of growth are inconsistent across the county and continue to present a facilities capacity challenge," Lockard said. "The school system struggles to provide sufficient capacity in our schools. Despite the planned additional capacity intended to address projected needs, uneven membership growth throughout the county will necessitate the continuation of small- and large-scale boundary adjustments to



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**The FCPS School Board unanimously approved a new Capital Improvement Program covering FY2018-2022 at its business meeting Jan. 26. The five-year program is updated annually with enrollment projections and capacity calculations, and lays out plans for new construction, renovations and other capacity-increasing work to accommodate the growing student body.**

take advantage of available capacity whenever it is practicable to do so."

The FCPS School Board unanimously approved a new Capital Improvement Program covering FY2018-2022 at the business meeting Jan. 26. The five-year program is updated annually with enrollment projections and capacity calculations, and lays out plans for new construction, renovations and other capacity-increasing work to accommodate the growing student body.

"It has evolved over the past several years and become very responsive to input from the school board and from the community," said Mount Vernon District representative

to the board Karen Corbett Sanders. "It's a great tool for identifying both the opportunities to better serve our students through facilities but also to set a framework on when we need to start talking about how to best provide capacity and programming at each of our schools."

The capacity enhancements in this latest approved CIP include construction of new schools, additions to existing schools and other renovations, with a total price tag of \$824 million.

FCPS said a little less than half of that, \$385 million, will be covered by funds approved in the 2015 school bond referendum

and previous referenda, and the remaining \$439 million is currently unfunded.

Some of the projects already funded by that first figure include a new elementary school in the Route 1 area and additions to South Lakes High School in Reston.

Unfunded projects in the program include a new elementary school in northwest Fairfax County, another in the Fairfax-Oakton area, a high school in western Fairfax County and additions to three other high schools.

The new high school is intended to bring

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 18

## Three Options Presented for Bock Farm Development



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) holds a community information meeting on proposed developments for Bock Farm on Jan. 26 at Walt Whitman Middle School.**

Reduced condo height and unit number for seniors; townhomes with no age restriction.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

At the end of last year, a proposal for development of more than four acres of the land close to the Inova Mount Vernon medical office suites on Hinson, or Bock, Farm came before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. They voted to defer a vote until Feb. 14 of this year, with Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) leading the call for more time to meet with stakeholders and facilitate community dialogue.

On Jan. 26, Storck hosted a

meeting at Walt Whitman Middle School to share some of the information he's gathered with the community.

Before the board is a proposal for a senior (55-plus) independent living community with four, four-story buildings with 128 units at 55 ft. in height, including under-

ground structured parking.

Some of the concerns around this proposal are that the increased density on the property would add too much traffic to the area, potentially hindering response time by first responders. Others have said having the structures so close

SEE THREE OPTIONS, PAGE 5

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# Body-Worn Cameras for County Police Coming Closer

Policy addressing privacy, mental health, metrics needed before pilot begins.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police could have a body-worn camera program for officers up and running as early as the fall. That's what Police Chief Edwin Roessler and the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee discussed at the committee's first meeting of 2017 on Jan. 31.

Roessler said he has already put out a formal Request For Proposals from vendors in advance of a pilot program. That RFP closes Feb. 28, the chief said, after which it will take him about two weeks to evaluate the proposals.

He would then come back to the supervisors with specific needs as far as budget and staffing. Once approved, Roessler said, it would take an estimated 90 days to get the program up and running for FCPD.

That would also follow a pilot program, where Roessler said he intends to select two vendors and run trials at two stations in Fairfax County. In 2015, Rossler came before the supervisors with a model policy for implementing body cameras. No action was taken, however, as they decided to wait on legislation working its way through the General Assembly. Then the chief and department were tied up in litigation surrounding the retention of data from license plate readers, he said.

"Clearly things have evolved," since 2015, Roessler said. To move forward, the chief



**Fairfax County Police could have a body-worn camera program for officers up and running as early as the fall. That's what Police Chief Edwin Roessler and the Board of Supervisors Public Safety Committee discussed at the committee's first meeting of 2017 on Jan. 31.**

said he would reconvene the stakeholders who looked at that model policy and make sure it's up to date for 2017.

Committee chairman Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) was adamant there should be an approved policy in place in time to "govern the pilot."

Among the issues that policy will need to address include how camera recordings will be dealt with in terms of Freedom of Information Act requests, privacy laws and norms, the mental health community and metrics for efficacy and success.

County Attorney Beth Teare explained that the recordings would "clearly be public records," but there are four circumstances in which disclosing them would be prohibited under state law. Those include instances when an individual's address or telephone number is visible in the recording, or a victim of a crime involving sexual abuse or assault can be identified.

Some of these cases, Teare said, can be released however at the discretion of the chief of police. To address mental health concerns, the committee welcomed Jeanne Comeau, president and CEO of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Northern Virginia, and Scott Campbell of the Fairfax County Advisory Committee for Students with Disabilities.

Comeau said there are major concerns with cameras, for privacy and safety both of an individual experiencing a mental health emergency and the responding officer wearing a camera.

There was a question of whether the person who made the call for police assistance would be able to instruct the officer to turn off the camera so as to not further escalate the situation.

"How do we protect them? Family members may not always be present," Comeau

said. "Don't want to see people be reluctant to call for help. We recognize it's a complex problem."

Roessler commented that a further complicating factor is that the majority of use of force cases in Fairfax County stem from mental health-related calls. But greater transparency and accountability related to use of force is one of the issues body cameras are intended to address.

"You don't know how it's going to go until it's over," Roessler said, acknowledging that making policy on when officers may turn the cameras on or off will be tough policymaking sledding.

But, the chief said, he's glad Fairfax County is taking the time to have these discussions, as other jurisdictions around the country have rushed into implementing body cameras and seen negative, unintended effects of the hastiness.

"The vision is to have the program, integrated into our dash-mounted cameras program," Roessler said. "To bring more transparency and accountability by having the cameras on the street."

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee is scheduled for March 21 at 10 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, which will be too early for the Chief's RFP evaluation timeline. It was discussed, then, that he would present on his vendor choices at the June 13 meeting.

For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings).

## Peterson: High Expectations for Student Achievement

### New principal leads Bucknell.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

With 17 years in education, LaRonda Peterson, 40, was named the new principal of Bucknell Elementary School in Alexandria on Nov. 7, 2016, replacing Tim Slayter, who was transferred to Cameron Elementary School.

Peterson, who resides in Prince George's County, Md., will oversee the smallest elementary school in Fairfax County, a building that has 240 students and about 60 staff members. Students feed into Bucknell from the neighborhoods of Bucknell Heights, Bucknell Manor and portions of Groveton.

The school is currently undergoing a renovation, adding a 14-room addition which will increase the capacity to around 700 students. "It's truly a gem of a school and not many people know where we are," she said. "We pack a lot of punch and it's a great place to work and a great place to send your kids."

Bucknell has the following ethnic breakdown of students: Asian: 5.4 percent; Black:

21.8 percent; Hispanic: 16.7 percent; White: 9.7 percent; and Other: 2.3 percent, according to statistics from September 2015. There are 86 percent of students in General Education; 20 percent in Special Education; and 39 percent requiring English language services. A total of 77 percent of students are on free or reduced lunches and 21 percent of students are in Advanced Academic Services.

"Bucknell, albeit small, is an extremely diverse population in students and staff. And due to our size, we are a true family — where teachers have been here for many years and seen families come through from the youngest child to the oldest child, and we embrace the family feel and the diversity represented," said Peterson.

She said the school has a small military presence but most of the families have been in the area for generations. "So we have a lot of parents who are former students and we have a lot of students who all of their siblings have been here," she said. "The majority of our students have been at Bucknell since Head Start, since they were 4 years old."

A part of the West Potomac Pyramid, Bucknell has a Preschool Special Education and PAC Program (Preschool Autism Classroom), with four preschool special ed teach-



**LaRonda Peterson was named principal of Bucknell Elementary School on Nov. 7, 2016.**

ers and one PAC teacher. "We are not an immersion school, not a magnet school; we just provide an enriching educational experience here," said Peterson.

"We are your traditional neighborhood elementary school; we have one school bus

and the majority of our students are within walking distance," she said. "So often times on the weekend, you will see kids playing on the playground, and the school is a large part of the community."

Bucknell has a business partnership with the FBI, which sponsors the sixth grade class and provides students with mentors and field trips to the White House. There is another partnership with Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa. "It's an online learning collaboration, so it's pen-paling to the 10th power. They use online educational tools similar to Skype where the students can have face-to-face meetings with our kids," she said.

She said her biggest challenge is balancing her time out of the building for required meetings with the time that she wants to spend with her students and teachers.

Her personal goals are to brand Bucknell as the premiere educational experience for pre-K through sixth grade students, she said, "where teachers have high expectations for instruction, teachers work collaboratively to impact student achievement, and to continue to foster strong homeschooled partnerships and for kids to make memories that will last a lifetime."

What she loves most about her job is the

SEE HIGH EXPECTATIONS, PAGE 18

# Anti-Immigration Ban Rallies Held at Dulles

**Demonstrators, volunteer attorneys and elected officials welcome travelers, extend help to detainees.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**D**el. Marcus Simon (D-53) brought his two children, 13 and 11, to Dulles International Airport Jan. 28, not to fly, but to witness and learn.

Demonstrations sprang up at airports around the United States over the weekend, following an Executive Order by President Donald Trump that blocks travelers from seven largely Muslim countries — Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Libya and Somalia — in the interests of more significant vetting and preventing would-be terrorists from entering the country.

Simon's wasn't the only family in attendance. Many had brought their children to the demonstration.

"You show them this is what you do, how you protest, be patriotic," Simon said, "when the government does something you don't agree with. You expose them to something positive."

**THE BAN** was announced Friday and officials at airports began enforcing it immediately. Travelers from the seven countries are blocked from entering the U.S. for 90 days, and new refugee admissions from the same nations blocked for 120 days. Syrian refugees are blocked indefinitely, according to the ban.

Some individuals who hold valid visas were impacted by the ban, and others with legal status and green cards have been detained at airports. A federal judge in Brooklyn passed a ruling over the weekend that blocked part of Trump's action, and Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia issued a temporary restraining order Saturday night specifically for those detained at

Dulles.

Brinkema ordered airport authorities to grant lawyers access to detainees who are permanent legal residents, and that permanent residents not be removed for seven days.

Simon was at Dulles Saturday and Sunday, as well as state Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), asking that some of the more than 20 lawyers present be given that opportunity to meet with the detainees.

The scenes were intense and a little chaotic, Simon said, but the demonstrators were non-violent and positive.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Simon. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting to [the ban]."

Gov. Terry McAuliffe appeared and spoke at the airport Saturday. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) visited the ongoing demonstration Monday afternoon.

Connolly was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran. He was in that country receiving medical treatment, Connolly's office said.

"America has always stood for being a beacon of hope," Connolly said in a statement reacting to the ban. "Donald Trump would paint over Emma Lazarus's words on the Statue of Liberty. There are millions of us willing to stand with immigrants coming into our country. There are millions of



**Right, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) speaks with Dulles airport security officials, requesting lawyers be granted access to detainees impacted by executive action taken Friday by President Donald Trump.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Other Local Leaders Weigh In

**On her Facebook page Monday, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said:**

"The Executive Order issued on Friday is offensive and counter to what defines this country. We are a nation of immigrants committed to religious freedom. I am committed to keeping Fairfax County a safe and welcoming place. When I was sworn in as chairman, I swore to support the Constitution. I believe this ban on travel is unconstitutional and I urge the judiciary to continue to exercise its role in preventing further damage to our country's values and our reputation around the world."

**U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D), released a statement Friday, the same day as the Executive Order was announced. Warner is vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:**

"The Trump Administration Executive Order that indefinitely suspends the Syrian refugee program and pauses visas from Muslim countries runs counter to our American values. While I have always been open to a pause on our refugee program to ensure appropriate time for intelligence and law enforcement experts to ensure we protect our national security, these actions by the President presume the solution before the review is complete. It is a policy targeting Muslims that national security experts have testified would harm, not help, our national security interests. I join the interfaith community in Virginia and around the country in objecting to these moves, and I will work in Congress to block an effort which trades dubious increases in U.S. security for certain alienation of partners with whom we must cooperate to address terrorism."

**The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, released a statement as well, expressing solidarity with refugees:**

"In his statement on the Executive Order halting refugee admissions, Bishop Joe Vasquez, chair of the Committee of Migration and Bishop of the Diocese of Austin, highlighted our nation's long and proud tradition of welcoming newcomers and refugees in a humane manner, even as we have pursued a strong vetting system to ensure our safety and security. Together with Bishop Vasquez and my brother bishops, I encourage Catholics to contact our elected officials to make our voices heard: Our communities have been and will continue to be hospitable to refugees, in keeping with our legacy of welcoming the stranger. Together, we also pray for comprehensive immigration reform and for peace, safety and harmony within our nation and throughout the world."

**The full text of the Jan. 27 Executive Order is available online here:**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/01/27/executive-order-protecting-nation-foreign-terrorist-entry-united-states>.

**IN A STATEMENT** released through her Twitter account on Jan. 29, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) said she supports increased vetting based on national security concerns. However, Comstock said she has consistently asserted: "I don't believe it is constitutional to ban people from our country on the basis of religion."

"The President's Executive Order issued yesterday went beyond the increased vetting actions that Congress has supported on a bipartisan basis and inexplicably applied to green card holders," Comstock continued, "people who are legally within our country who have followed the rules."



**Right, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was able to get one pair of detainees released Saturday evening with the help of immigration attorneys: Fairfax County resident and green card holder Ahmed Mohedian, 71, who had been held with his wife after returning from Iran.**

# NEWS



**Option A for the Bock Farm site, which has already passed planning and zoning to reach the Board of Supervisors and was deferred last fall: a senior (55+) community with four, four-story buildings with 128 units at 55 feet in height.**



**Option B for the Bock Farm site is, again, a senior community proposal, but with lower building height (50 feet) and approximately five to 10 fewer units.**



**A third proposal, Option C, proposes 35-40 units of townhomes that aren't age-restricted and would be around 35 feet in height, not including the peaks of the roofs.**

IMAGES CONTRIBUTED

## Three Options for Bock Farm Site

FROM PAGE 1

to the road and reaching a height of 55 feet would destroy the organic feeling that's been enjoyed by the community for decades.

"This is a difficult decision that impacts not only adjacent community, but also has overall impact on the Mount Vernon community," Storck said at the Jan. 26 meeting. "We're not talking about just another housing development, we're talking about an opportunity to create something that is not as available in this part of Mount Vernon district: independent living for the senior 55+ community."

Storck's point was accurate for the first option, "Option A," as well as a second option for independent senior living, which developer Joe Francone explained lowered the building height to 50 feet and dropped the unit number by around five to 10 condominiums. All the condos, Francone said, would be

priced between mid-\$300,000s and upper \$400,000s.

Option C, Francone said, would no longer be age-restrictive, but universally available townhomes, priced in the \$700,000s.

With only 35 to 40 units in the Option C development, the height would again be lowered, this time to around 35 feet.

Attendees at the meeting were given note cards to provide feedback, and there was some live question-and-answer with Storck and Francone.

Storck's office streamed the entire meeting live on Facebook; the video is still available to watch online here: [www.facebook.com/danstorckforsupervisor](http://www.facebook.com/danstorckforsupervisor).

A survey went out after the meeting soliciting additional feedback, including a link to the full Fairfax County report on the proposed development, available online here: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXLHCS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXLHCS).



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# Prisoner Reentry: Some Solutions

Local programs, services help ex-offenders.

## Part II

In a three-part series focusing on prisoner reentry in Northern Virginia.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

**T**hirty-eight thousand prisoners are incarcerated in Virginia with 12,000 adults and 500 juveniles projected to be released each year. Ninety percent of those released return to their communities. Ex-offenders may face stigma, lack of family support, inadequate life skills suitable for making it on “the outside” and difficulty getting and retaining employment.

Local solutions include Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) serving Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church; Guest House located in Del Ray serving women in Northern Virginia; and St. Joseph Catholic Church in Alexandria which ministers to both adult and teen-age former offenders including an employment initiative for teenagers. In addition, the prison system emphasizes intensive reentry training for ex-offenders, and parole and probation officers focusing on ex-offender rehabilitation as well as law enforcement.

OAR provides reentry services to previously incarcerated individuals including transition assistance and employment coaching. A new reentry program begins working with prisoners while they are still in jails or correction centers. On a 12-degree day in January the phone is busy and the reception room of the OAR office on N. Uhle Street in Arlington has a steady stream of visitors. Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, executive director of OAR, says it may be someone with sweatpants and a plastic bag of clothes who has just been released from jail and who needs temporary assistance like warmer clothes, transportation, or snacks while they are filling out the two hours of paperwork.

Sometimes it is a client with a clothing appointment who has come to be measured for a complete wardrobe suitable for that “look good, feel good” job interview or someone with an intake appointment to discuss their community service and work out a schedule around their job and family. OAR manages a community service program that is an alternative to jail or prison. A bright yellow table with crayons and a coloring book sits in the corner. “We want our clients to feel they can come with their children. A lot of them don’t have babysitters,” she said.

OAR’s pilot of the reentry program is based on 20 years of research focusing on criminogenic principles. The case manager does an in-house assessment of the prisoner to determine who is at high risk. “Then we set up meetings with them and give them information on the program and they decide whether they want to participate.” Jones Valderrama says since they launched the program in July 2015 they have worked with 24 participants both pre- and post-release. The first class of five graduated in



**Kari Galloway, director of Guest House:** “They have had a lot of trauma. They have so many barriers.”

**Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, executive director of OAR:** “OAR partners with Men’s Warehouse to provide a closet of suits for that look good, feel good interview.”



July. “This program is very labor intensive. It takes 300-600 hours of services for one prisoner each year. “And,” she said “it takes two and a half years of training for each staff member to be able to effectively administer the services offered.”

Jones Valderrama added, “We have changed everything in the last two years since the intensive reentry model.” This program focuses on cognitive development and behavioral thinking. “Before we didn’t focus on the cognitive; we helped people get jobs. We found that in prison they had a lot of groups but people didn’t get individual attention. “That’s when people come back.” She said in the past we were counting a lot of widgets like how many bus tokens we gave out but that didn’t change behavior.” For instance, Jones Valderrama remembers one person who said, “Yes I did steal from that family but they had insurance so they could buy new things. I did them a favor.” She says they have to change that kind of thinking.

OAR’s reentry program serves Haynesville and Coffeewood Correctional facilities and Peumansend Creek Regional Jail as well as the Arlington and Alexandria jails. There are five high-risk prisoners enrolled in the program at Coffeewood out of 1,193 prisoners. “We are trying to assess the need out there,” Jones Valderrama said. OAR works with about 2,100 people in a given year including about 1,600 individuals completing community service hours and 800 men and women receiving reentry services.

While there are a number of community resources offering food, housing and other assistance to the general population including ex-offenders, there are not many organizations specifically addressing their needs. Jones Valderrama said, “That is a good thing because it is difficult to do this correctly and easy for well-intentioned but untrained people to do harm and frustrate the client. We want our clients to have a positive experience.”

**ANOTHER RESOURCE** is Guest House located in Del Ray for recently incarcerated women who are on supervision. It is the only residential house of its kind serving women in Northern Virginia. There is no comparable residential house for men in Northern Virginia.

The participants at Guest House must be non-violent offenders with priority given to

the Northern Virginia area. They must have been free of drugs and alcohol for three months and willing to make serious changes.

Terry Garrett, a nine-year alum of Guest House said, “If I hadn’t come here, I’d probably be back in jail, high or dead. I’m voting for dead the way I was living.” Now she is a speaker for Guest House and a part time monitor responsible for logging the women in and out, distributing passes if they go out, administering breathalyzers and urine tests “just as a precaution.” But she says the best part is sharing her experiences with the women going through the exact same thing — helping them get through the rough spots to know they can make it like she did.

The program offers a three-month residential stay providing a structured home environment with services and support. Each of the 24 women receives a mentor as well as a case manager who helps them develop an individual program with short and long-term goals. It can include visits to doctors, referrals to counseling and therapy, life skills development and mentoring, job counseling, or AA meetings. The after-care program can last 6-9 months.

Kari Galloway, director of Guest House, says both of these parts have to be completed in order to have a successful completion. “I wish we could keep them longer. I can’t even stay on a diet for six months, but we expect them to change their whole life in that period of time.” She adds if they stay in the program for a year the recidivism rate is 10 percent, “but they have to go the whole year.”

Galloway says when she came 12 years ago, there were nine beds. The Department of Corrections increased it to 17 beds three years ago and then in July to 26. “There is a huge need. We have a waiting list of 6-12 at a time.”

Galloway said, “There is a misconception about their circumstances. They have had a lot of trauma, domestic violence, childhood abuse. They have so many barriers.”

Garrett said, “We are amazing women

who made a mistake.”

Jones Valderrama added, “There are a lot of injustices in the criminal justice system. If they had better counsel or opportunity to grow up in a different neighborhood, they wouldn’t be where they are.”

Jones Valderrama said, “I stay on because I went to Coffeewood in 2010 and saw my friend from childhood incarcerated. So I said to myself wonderful people make mistakes. “

**ST. JOSEPH** Catholic Church on N. Columbus Street in Alexandria has entered into a partnership with the Court Service Unit of the Alexandria Juvenile District Court to help youths on probation find employment.

“We are only eight months into the program; nevertheless, we can already point to some successes,” Michael Diffley said. “Six teenagers have found employment so far with our help.”

Diffley also works with adults, an effort began after meeting panhandlers on the street and finding out who they were. “I connected with them, all homeless and all ex-felons.

It hasn’t been without its ups and downs. But we have to help them cross the street from their side to our side. There is a place for programs which help a lot of people, but there is a place for intensive focus — a place for holding onto a guy’s hand while going through a hard time. Guidance on how to help them when they fail. They can’t make it without it.”

Harold Clarke, director of the Virginia State Department of Corrections, says there are intensive re-

entry programs in 16 of the state’s 39 facilities in an effort to help them get contacts and get out in the community. These programs begin 3-6 months before release from prison or jail.

“We teach motivational interviewing to engage the offender,” he said.

Clarke explains that the culture of prisons depends on which of the six levels the prisoner located in; the higher the level, the more control. “As people move from higher to lower, they approximate outside society.”

Under Clarke’s leadership there has been a new focus on prisoner reentry. He says the DOC is responsible for public safety but “if we help ex-offenders make better decisions and help them become successful, then in the larger picture we are helping create public safety.” Clarke adds that it takes a process to focus on the culture of an organization and to help change the mission of an agency. It takes clarity of purpose and “we have annual training seminars and speakers to focus on our mission and vision.” Clarke said in Virginia 26 percent of ex-offenders are back within a year compared to over 40 percent nationwide.

SEE PRISONER, PAGE 16

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# OPINION

## So Much Happening, Don't Blink

**Demonstrations at Dulles in reaction to travel ban; fast moving General Assembly lacks transparency; other key issues.**

**T**here is so much going on this week: Locally, the effects of a travel ban at odds with American values played out at Dulles International Airport, but stimulated a heartening response, with volunteer attorneys offering help, local, state and federal elected officials demanding accountability and peaceful demonstrators protesting the un-American assault on travel from particular Muslim-majority countries.

"I was just amazed at the number of people, the energy, the spirit, the spontaneity," said Del. Marcus Simon, who used FaceBook Live to share the scene over several days. "In some ways, it was heartening, to see so many Northern Virginians reacting."

See reporter Tim Peterson's story in this paper.

**CROSSOVER** is Feb. 7; that's when only bills that have passed either the House of Delegates or the Virginia Senate can move forward.

As this date approaches, the General Assembly has a serious transparency issue, as it continues to kill most proposed legislation with unrecorded voice votes in subcommittee, with no accountability or record of how members voted.

This was raised to new heights earlier this week, when a House of Delegates subcommittee killed proposed constitutional amendments including non-partisan redistricting and restoring voting rights of felons, along with more than 20 proposed amendments, in a single vote.

John Horejsi of Vienna, who heads the organization Social Action Linking Together, notes that his organization is unable to track what

happens to legislation they support. This headline, which ran last week on [www.roanoke.com](http://www.roanoke.com), says it all: "Bill to require recorded votes dies on an unrecorded vote, again."

State Sen. Creigh Deeds continues important work on mental health reform, citing three priorities this year, requiring most of Community Services Boards around the state to provide same-day service and certain outpatient services; to assess and provide care for inmates who have mental health needs; and long-term supportive housing to help avoid repeated mental health crises.

About 200,000 people in Virginia have had their motor vehicle licenses suspended for a legal infraction that has nothing to do with a driving offense. And 650,000 people in Virginia have a suspended license for failing to pay court costs. This is an obstacle to holding a job and being able to meet other obligations, and legislation to stop this counter-productive practice is still alive in the Virginia Senate.

The sale of high-proof grain alcohol in Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control stores passed the House of Delegates earlier in the session, and is just foolish.

**EFFORTS** by state Sen. Adam P. Ebbin and others, supporting repeal of the Virginia constitutional amendment approved by voters in 2006 forbidding gay marriage should move forward. The 2006 amendment is no longer valid because the U.S. Supreme Court in 2015 legalized same-sex marriage.

State Sen. Chap Petersen introduced a doomed bill to ban contributions from public utilities. "Monopolies like Dominion or Appa-

lachian Power have an undue influence on the political process. That leads to legislation which has a direct cost to Virginia consumers, both residents and small businesses," Petersen said.

It looks like the felony threshold will increase to \$500 from \$200, an important distinction championed by Petersen and state Sen. Scott Surovell.

While the constitutional amendment to address voting rights for felons who have served their sentences died in the above action, Gov. Terry McAuliffe should be commended for restoring the civic rights of more than 128,000 Virginians, and his plans to restore rights for any remaining Virginia citizens who lost their rights. This has been a laborious and worthy process, adapted as needed to meet legal challenges and court rulings.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Submit Photos to Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 15.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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listen to the concerns of adjacent neighbors and satisfy those concerns. Perhaps a balloon test would help determine the visual impact of the proposed development on adjacent neighbors. That would help the Board of Supervisors in assessing the credibility of adjacent neighbor concerns.

**H. Jay Spiegel**  
Mount Vernon

## Voting Matters

To the Editor:

I had to laugh when I read Jay Spiegel's letter suggesting that Gerry Connolly and Don Beyer violated their oaths of office by boycotting President Trump's inauguration. I read the text of the oath Mr. Spiegel cited and failed to see any mention, implied or otherwise, of a requirement for members of Congress to at-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

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A Connection Newspaper



# OPINION

## Cycling Safety and Tuition Transparency

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

**W**EEK three saw our General Assembly in full swing and movement on many bills.

First, over 100 residents came out for my two Town Halls in Prince William County. There were many questions about my “hand’s free” legislation, coal ash legislation, increasing teacher salaries, tuition affordability, predatory lending, and other issues.

Thirteen of my bills have either passed or are poised for passage out of the Senate this week, 10 bills were rejected, and 16 are still awaiting action in committee. One day, I had to defend 11 different bills in committee in addition to attending a floor session and two committees.

Two cycling safety bills passed this week. First, one bill clarifies that no motor vehicle can use a bicycle lane to pass another vehicle on the right. More bike lanes are being constructed across Virginia and our traffic code does not clearly prohibit the interplay between these lanes and passing on the right using pavement. Cutting into a bike lane to pass on the right can be deadly and needs to be illegal.

The Senate Transportation Committee passed legislation modeled on “vulnerable user” bills passed in 12 other states. The legislation creates a traffic offense if careless or inattentive driver causes a serious injury to a lawfully present cyclist, pedestrian, or other non-motor vehicle user. Today, these types of victims are at a significant disadvantage after collisions due to concussions, massive injuries, and little forensic evidence to help re-

construct collisions. This legislation will allow pedestrian and cyclist victims to receive justice.

My legislation to require 30-days notice and a public comment period before any tuition increase can be discussed passed the Senate Education Committee and should pass the Senate this week. Students, parents and the public deserve as much notice of a tuition increase as they get for a tax increase. Also, my legislation to require the Rector and Vice-Rector of a state-supported university’s governing board to be an in-state resident appears ready to pass as well.

This week, my legislation to expand Virginia’s pre-school sales tax holiday to computers will be heard. This legislation would save Virginians up to \$40 per computer. Also, my legislation to prohibit schools from using electronic textbooks unless all students are given computers should be considered as well.

Finally, my legislation regarding coal ash will be heard on Thursday. I introduced three separate bills requiring clean closure, more robust studies an assessment, and recycling of coal ash. Each is important to ensure protection of our groundwater and the Potomac River. Although Dominion’s waste permit for closing its coal ash pond at Possum Point is pending, my legislation could still require regulators to revisit pending decisions.

Please email me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org) if you have any questions. Make sure you “like” my facebook page ([www.facebook.com/surovell](http://www.facebook.com/surovell)), watch two 30-minute interviews of me on my online newsletter ([scottsurovell.blogspot.com](http://scottsurovell.blogspot.com)) or follow me on Twitter ([/ssurovell](https://twitter.com/ssurovell)). It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

### LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

tend presidential inaugurations. It would appear that Mr. Spiegel confused a traditional behavioral norm with a legal requirement. Newt Gingrich was under no such illusion when he stated, “The 70 Democrats who didn’t go to the inauguration were neither missed nor deeply regretted, and nobody, frankly, cared.” “And if they feel better about it, good for them.” From a Republican perspective, that pretty well sums it up.

Mr. Spiegel then went on to lament that the poor folks who voted against Mr. Connolly and Mr. Byer were not represented at the inau-

guration. At least Mr. Connolly and Mr. Beyer won the majority of the votes cast in their elections. Mr. Spiegel may not have noticed but President Trump lost the popular vote and I suspect that there are going to be a lot of voters during the next four years who will feel that he is not effectively representing them. To them, as well as Mr. Spiegel, I can only say that elections have consequences. If Mr. Spiegel doesn’t like the way he is being represented, he will have a chance to vote accordingly in the next election.

**John B. Allen**  
Alexandria

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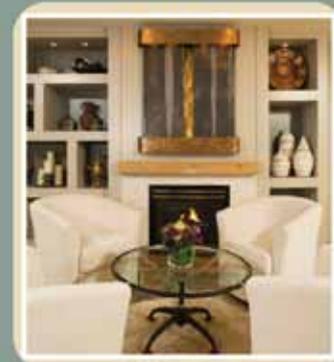
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## WELLBEING

# To Move Or Not To Move

## Local family moves mother into newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the most heart-wrenching decisions that Denise Schossler, her two siblings and her 95-year-old mother had to make was whether or not to move her into an assisted living facility, leaving the home where she's lived since 1954. Physical limitations and a need for social interaction drove the decision to relocate to the newly opened Kensington Falls Church.

"My mother has managed to stay in her home all this time with the help of an aide who comes every day, but she realized that it just couldn't continue. One of the main things is the isolation and the loneliness," said Schossler. "She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."

A dearth of social interaction is one of the factors that can lead seniors into assisted living facilities. In fact, a recent study published in the Journal of Gerontology shows that seniors living in assisted living facilities have fewer unmet needs such as companionship, help with cooking, bathing and doing laundry than those who live independently. However, the survey of more than 4,000 people over the age of 65 shows that even in such retirement communities, unmet needs still exist. To address this challenge, local gerontology experts say that families must determine whether a loved one's needs meet the criteria for assisted living candidacy and once placed, work to ensure that those needs are being met.

"In counseling families making this difficult decision, I focus on safety factors for the patient and other family members," said Maureen Moriarty, D.N.P., assistant professor of nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "Often cognitive impairment is the reason for assisted living. Perhaps memory is affected so the patient can no longer safely drive or remember the steps in carrying out activities of daily living such as cooking, bathing or management of finances."

In making this decision, an evaluation by an objective gerontology expert can be necessary, says Patrice Winter, DPT, assistant professor at George Mason University in the Department of Global and Community Health. "They come out and evaluate the house and the person as well," she said. "You have an objective, unemotional person instead of an

### Local Resources

- ❖ Alexandria Area Agency on Aging <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Aging>
- ❖ Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/>
- ❖ Arlington Aging and Disability Services Division <https://aging-disability.arlingtonva.us/>
- ❖ Kensington Falls Church Open House Feb. 1, 5 and 22, 4:30 to 7 p.m. 700 West Broad St., Falls Church

adult child going, 'Mom you can't live here anymore.' and the mom saying, 'Stay out of my business.'"

Such an evaluation will show that there are times when a lifestyle adjustment is all that is needed. "Sometimes they can offer simple solutions that can make huge changes," said Winter. "Could it be that they need their eyesight and hearing checked? Or the washing machine moved upstairs" so they can do laundry more frequently?

When seeking an evaluation, Winter recommends local social service agencies such as the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging. "The issue may not be cognitive, but the need for a living environment with more support may be triggered by physical limitations," added Moriarty. "Perhaps a chronic degenerative illness such as Parkinson's Disease has left the patient with physical care needs beyond the scope of family members."

Safety can become an issue when family members' physical limitations restrict the quality of care they are able to offer. "This opens issues not only to patient safety but also the family member may be frail or have their own physical limitations that limit their capacity to assist someone who, for instance, has balance loss," said Moriarty. "The key assessment as a clinician for me is that the family no longer has the

resources to care safely for this individual in a home environment."

"If there is any question at all, the person should have a medical evaluation," added Winter. "There could be an imbalance in the system that could cause changes so a really good physical by a geriatric internist would be paramount before any drastic actions are taken."

Once a senior has moved

into an assisted living facility, they often need someone to advocate on their behalf. Regular visits and telephone calls to both the family member and the staff are necessary. "You need to make sure you know what's going on," said Thompson, who recently moved her own mother into an assisted living facility. "It's OK to be a pest. I communicate with the staff at my mother's facility. She complains to me about things that she won't complain to the staff about so I have to complain on her behalf."

Even in the best of facilities, a person's needs can be inadvertently overlooked, says Thompson, so a family member's presence is necessary. "Walk around, pay attention to how other residents seem," she said. "Are they happy and engaged or are there signs of neglect?"

"Establish a relationship with those providers who will be involved in the care of your family member," added Moriarty. "Become part of the team by attending regular team meetings. Make them aware of your loved one's special needs. For example, if your family member always had tea in the morning, request that this continues."

Schossler says that her proximity to the Kensington Falls Church will allow her to be in regular contact with both her mother and the staff.

"My mother has grandchildren and great-grandchildren and we can visit her because the Kensington is just a few minutes away from where I live," she said. "My mother has already made connections with three people who will be there, so she's looking forward to moving. We happened to find the right fit at the right time."

**"She needs more social interaction than she gets alone in her home. She's someone who's had an active social life, but now it's just television and books."**

— Denise Schossler

# ENTERTAINMENT

## All In for 'The Gin Game'

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN  
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The next production at MetroStage is "The Gin Game," a Pulitzer Prize winning classic play by D. L. Coburn, opening Feb. 2 and running through March 12. It has been produced all over the country and all over the world since it opened on Broadway in 1977, and it is famous for showcasing many famous acting pairs in this two-hander that takes place on the sun

### NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

porch of a retirement home. Of course, the most notable acting pair was the husband and wife team, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, appearing in the original production, which received four Tony nominations with Ms. Tandy winning the Tony for Best Actress. There was a Broadway revival in 1997 starring Julie Harris and Charles Durning, receiving three more Tony nominations, and then in 2015, in the same theatre on Broadway, the John Golden Theatre, where it had opened 38 years earlier, it opened with none other than James Earl Jones and Cicely Tyson.

Now what does all of this have to do with

MetroStage? First of all MetroStage loves to find the perfect actors to showcase on its intimate stage. (Case in point Tom Story playing 40 characters in "Fully Committed" over the holidays.) Secondly, back in 2015 in our world premiere production of "Up-rising" actors Doug Brown and Roz White played opposite each other as Lottie and Charlie Pick. They were so charming on stage together, having been in many MetroStage productions but never together, that I, the producer, said to myself, "I need to find a play for these two actors."

And I guess you could say the rest is history. Here they are in "The Gin Game," following in the proud steps of so many, and we are delighted to be showcasing them together in this production. So grab a seat at the table (a card table that is!) and meet Fonsia and Weller, two remarkable characters, while they get to know each other, playing cards while exposing their lives, the aspirations and the disappointments, and ultimately revealing who they really are. It is a rewarding journey we will be taking with these two, so join these memorable characters and two of MetroStage's favorite actors over a game of cards. Who knew they could be so revealing?

See [www.metrostage.org/](http://www.metrostage.org/).



PHOTO COURTESY OF METROSTAGE

In rehearsal at MetroStage with Roz White and Doug Brown for "The Gin Game."

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**RockNBlades.** Fridays in February 8:45-10:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Skating with music. \$12 admission includes rental skates. **DASHing Words in Motion.** Through Feb. 1, The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company have joined forces to host a poetry contest "DASHing Words in Motion." Possible inspirational ideas might stem from the Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto which is "Keep Alexandria Moving," or bus stops, neighborhoods, roads, or other modes of transportation within the City of Alexandria. [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts), email at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov), or by phone at 703-746-5565.

#### Multiple Exposures Gallery.

Through Feb. 12 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, #312, 105 North Union St. Colleen Henderson's A Study in Contrasts, and Sandy Lebrun-Evan's McDowell County, WVA. [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com)

**"Sanctuary."** Through Feb. 18 in the Commons Fireplace Alcove of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Selected black and white photographs from Nina Tisara's "Sanctuary" series, shot in Huntley Meadows Park. A closing reception will be held on Feb. 18, 6:30-7:15 p.m., followed by a concert by Nova Chamber Orchestra beginning at 7:30 p.m. Email Nina Tisara at [ninat@ninasarasara.com](mailto:ninat@ninasarasara.com) or call 703-765-5950 for more.

**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](http://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 Goldsmith 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](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) for more.

**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/) or call 703-768-3224.

**Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.** Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/forward](http://www.alexandriava.gov/forward)

**Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War.** Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa

Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum)

**Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit.** Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org).

**Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital exhibit.** Ongoing, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come see the site that inspired "Mercy Street," the new PBS' series inspired by real events that took place at Carlyle House. [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org) or call 703-549-2997

**"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.

**Color Disorder Exhibit.** Ongoing,

Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A joint exhibition of artists Katie Baines and Amy Chan who use diverse painting materials such as acrylic, gouache, airbrush and screen print to build energized abstract paintings. [www.nfaa.org](http://www.nfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**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](http://www.latascausa.com).

**French Movie Night.** Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe and Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit [www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html](http://www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html).

**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](http://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.

**Fifty Years of Collecting.** Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward

collection. Free. Visit [www.forward.org](http://www.forward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**Dinner for the Washingtons.** 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

**Civil War Sundays.** 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. Visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org).

**Doggy Happy Hour.** Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit [www.monaco-alexandria.com](http://www.monaco-alexandria.com) for more

**Wake Up Wednesdays** featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located

## ENTERTAINMENT

# Nicecream To Add Some Factory Flair to King Street

BY HOPE NELSON  
THE GAZETTE

**A**mid the blocks of bustling King Street, a new factory is preparing to open. But it doesn't need an industrial permit to hawk its wares. No, what's rolling off the line within these four walls is something sweet indeed — handmade ice cream, hot (or, more accurately, cold) off the press.

**APPETITE** Founded in Arlington, the Nicecream Factory is preparing to set up shop in Old Town soon, and co-owner Sandra Tran says her team couldn't be more excited about their expansion to 726 King St.

"We're just really excited to bring the concept to Old Town because we feel that it's very family-friendly," she said. "Kids love our ice-cream store; they love to come and watch us make it."

In the world of ice cream shops, Nicecream — which Tran calls a "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory-style place" — stands out.

"We're hand-crafting ice cream the way that ice cream should be made," she said.

And, according to Tran, the way ice cream should be made is this: Fresh and on the spot, with local ingredients (the eatery's fruit comes from Virginia and Maryland, for instance), and flash-frozen with liquid nitrogen before serving.

Nicecream will sport a rotating cast of about six to eight flavors a day in its Old Town location, Tran says, which will change character based on the season. Expect "a variety of berries" in the summer and warm, comforting flavors such as caramel, cinnamon, candied walnuts, and the like in winter, she said.

Founded in May 2013 via a successful Kickstarter campaign and beginning sales as a pop-up in Dupont Circle's Science Club, Nicecream opened its Arlington store in May 2014.

"We were just shocked by how many people were so excited about Nicecream" during the Kickstarter campaign, Tran said. "People all over the world were donating. ... It just grew from there."

Setting up shop in Arlington at first was a no-brainer, as well, she said: "We (Tran and her long-time boyfriend and business partner Gilbert Welsford) live in Arlington, so it was just kind of a good fit."

Tran, a native of Falls Church, had always had her heart set on expanding to Alexandria — it was simply a matter of finding the right match.

"We've always been frankly obsessed with Old Town," she laughed.

"... We just have been so happy and excited, and everyone we talk to has just been the most welcoming."

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

### If You Go

**Nicecream**, 726 King St.  
**Opening:** March 2017. "It's coming quicker than we think," co-owner Sandra Tran laughs.  
**Try this:** Peanut butter cup ice cream made with peanut butter, white chocolate chips, spices, and chocolate. "We roast our own peanuts in-house, so whenever we make it the whole place smells like peanut butter," Tran says.

### CALENDAR

near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. [maurisapotts@gmail.com](mailto:maurisapotts@gmail.com)

#### CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

#### MONDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 30-FEB. 5

**Restaurant Week.** Participating restaurants offer multi-course \$35 dinner, \$22 lunch, and — for the first time — \$22 brunch menus, exclusively available during Restaurant Week. Visit [www.rwdmv.com](http://www.rwdmv.com) for more.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 2

**Coffee and Connections.** 8-9 a.m. at Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick St. Join Alexandria Chamber's Professional Women's Network for its first Coffee and Connections event of 2017. \$10 for members, \$20 for non-members. Visit [alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com](http://alexandriavacoc.wliinc33.com).

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 3

**Garden Talks: Plants that Bully.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardeners highlight the invasive plants and show native alternatives to grow instead. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) for more.

**Mardi Gras in Alexandria.** 6-8:30 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. \$5 residents; \$10 nonresidents. Make a Mardi Gras mask or bring one and plan to participate in the evening's Mardi Gras parade. At door: \$10 residents; \$15 nonresidents. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts).

**Heflebower's Cobblers and Cocktails.** 7-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Come taste tavern keeper Samuel Heflebower's 19<sup>th</sup>-century cocktails, learn a bit of tavern history. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) for more.

**The Bottle Rockets Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. In concert with Marshall Grenshaw. \$29.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

#### FEB. 3-MARCH 5

**Ceramic Guild Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Customer Appreciation: Welcome to our World" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org), [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope) or call 703-548-6288 for more.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 4

**Merit Badge Jamboree.** 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. An event for Boy Scouts to attend and earn merit badges. Visit [www.ncacbsa.org/colonial/advancement/merit-badge-jamboree/](http://www.ncacbsa.org/colonial/advancement/merit-badge-jamboree/) or call 703-324-8662 for more.

**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Alexandria Warehouse Sale.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Discounts from some of Alexandria's boutiques. Visit [www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com](http://www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com) or [www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com](http://www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com) for more.

**The Lee-Fendall House as Civil War Hospital.** 10 a.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. "This Tide of Wounded" tour of the museum and grounds highlights the Lee-Fendall House's role as a hospital during the Civil War. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

**Connecting Communities Through Art Expression.** 11 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. A celebration of art, hosted by the Northern Virginia Alumnae Chapter (NoVAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Free. Contact Samantha Sargent, 703-717-2319 or Ashley Jennings, 757-593-1837.

**World Wetlands Day.** noon-2 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Come celebrate the importance of wetlands and learn why these unique ecosystems are significant to people, plants and



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# ENTERTAINMENT

animals. Ages 4 and older. \$8 county residents, \$10 non-county. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park) for more.

## Happy Birthday John Carlyle.

Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. A 1770s Celebration for the town founder. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com).

**Experiences of Slavery.** 2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. "From Slavery to Freedom," this tour interprets the Lee-Fendall House from the perspective of its enslaved inhabitants, exploring the experiences of slavery in the city. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

## Pipeline Playwrights Launch Party.

3-6 p.m. at the National Arts Education Association, 901 Prince St. The launch party will feature scenes from the four new plays in the spring reading series. Call 703-860-8000 or visit [www.arteducators.org](http://www.arteducators.org).

**Country-Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association dance. \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call 703-860-4941 for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 5

### Philharmonic's Youth Orchestras.

11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Part of the "Bagels and Bach" Concert Series, light brunch included. \$10/Nonresident \$15, under five, free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/arts).

### Winter Warmer Tea.

3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N Royal St. Choose from a variety of 18<sup>th</sup>-century desserts while sipping John Gadsby's special blend of tea or take a cup of American Heritage Chocolate. Historic guest Martha Washington will catch you up on the latest Alexandria news during the tea. \$35. Reservations required. Call 703-746-4242 for more.

### Super Bowl Blitz.

5-11 p.m. at Chadwicks, 203 Strand St. Watch the game on a big projection screen and enjoy unlimited appetizers and drink specials. \$20. There are a limited number of tickets. Call 703-836-4442 for more.

## MONDAY/FEB. 6

### Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup.

10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Preschoolers participate in nature-themed activities while parents meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. \$6. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring) for more.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 7

### Iconography: Prayer in Images.

7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Learn how to read the symbolism in this art form and how icons are used in Orthodox Christian churches and homes with Laura Clerici. Call 703-360-4220 or visit [www.staidansepiscopal.com](http://www.staidansepiscopal.com).

## FEB. 7-MARCH 14

**Mixed Media Exhibit.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the St. George Gallery, 105 North Alfred St. Inspirational approaches in mixed media inhabit this art exhibit. Call 703-299-9495 or visit [www.StGeorgeofEthiopia.com](http://www.StGeorgeofEthiopia.com).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

**Justin Hayward Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon

Ave. Hayward is the vocalist-songwriter-guitarist of The Moody Blues. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 9

**Fort Belvoir Update Breakfast.** 8-9:30 a.m. at the Belle Haven Country Club,

6023 Fort Hunt Road. Col. Holbrooke will provide an update on planned improvements. \$25 for Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber Members and Guests, \$35 Non-Chamber. Email [info@mtvernon-leechamber.org](mailto:info@mtvernon-leechamber.org) for more.

**Author Charles Mills.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Mills discusses his book "The Civil War Wedding," an entertaining look at the customs and superstitions of weddings during the Civil War era. RSVP at [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org)

## FEB. 9-MARCH 19

### Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery.

Torpedo Factory, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. Cosmic Sights and Sounds, comes as the winter night sky's grand collection of brilliant stars begins to give way to the vernal equinox. This show will also highlight the work of featured artists Carol Bodin, Mickey Kunkle, and Lynda Prioleau. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 11

**Artists' Reception.** 2-4 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Artists' reception for three exhibiting shows for artists Winston W. Harris, John M. Adams and Lonnie Pauls. Free. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/) for more.

**Twig Snowflake Sale.** 4 p.m. at The Twig Shop, 106 N. Columbus St. Everything on sale at this organization dedicated to providing financial aid, volunteer service and support to Inova Alexandria Hospital. Call 571-251-1717 or visit [www.thetwig.org](http://www.thetwig.org).

**Nocturnal Animals.** 5:15-7:15 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Look and listen for owls, beavers and other animals that are active at night. \$8. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/) or call 703-768-2525 for more.

## FEB. 11-12

**All-Mozart Concert.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E Campus Drive. The concert has a focus on musical masterpieces, led by five conductors, anchored by a classical "popular" favorite from the symphonic canon. \$20-\$80, \$5 youth and \$10 student with military, senior and group discounts available. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885 for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 12

**Live Animal Lunchtime.** noon-1 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Bring lunch to Huntley Meadows and dine with a special animal guest — a snake, turtle, or toad. Learn about the critter's diet, adaptations and habitat through crafts and hands-on learning. \$7, dessert included. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/).

**Gardening Author.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Marta McDowell shares the history of the White House gardens and signs her book, "All the Presidents' Gardens" after the lecture. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or

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## Mount Vernon District 30th Annual Town Meeting



Saturday, February 4, 2017, 7:45 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
(Exhibits at 7:45 / Presentations begin at 9:30 am)

Mount Vernon High School  
8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309

Presented by DAN STORCK  
Mount Vernon District Supervisor

Join Supervisor Storck for the 30th Annual Town Meeting. As part of the town meeting, Supervisor Storck will take guests on a "virtual tour" of the changes in the Mount Vernon District over the past year.

Speakers include Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, County Executive Ed Long, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders, and Colonel Angela Holbrook, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir Army Post.

Beginning at 7:45 a.m., a wide array of displays and exhibits will be available in the cafeteria. The Town Meeting program will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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

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

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

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

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# ASO Presents All-Mozart Concert

BY MELINDA KERNC  
 ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**A**lexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) continues its season of celebrated masterworks on Saturday, Feb. 11 and Sunday, Feb. 12 with a pair of all-Mozart performances. The concert set continues the season with a focus on musical masterpieces, led by five renowned guest conductors. Each concert is anchored by a classical "popular" favorite loved by audiences from the symphonic canon. The February program features all-Mozart selections with the exuberant Jupiter Symphony, Piano Concerto No. 20 and the Overture to the Magic Flute.

The ASO welcomes guest conductor Michael Rossi, a rising star in the orchestral world. Graduating from the Washington National Opera's Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, Rossi has led orchestras from Philadelphia to Xalapa. Maestro Rossi is also the founder and artistic director of the Miami Summer Music Festival, which in just two years has become a major international summer festival.

According to Rossi, Mozart greatly influenced his musical journey. "In my lifetime, little has captured my imagination the way the music of Mozart has," said Rossi. "When I was 7 years old, like many of us, I saw the famous movie Amadeus and fell in love with the music of Mozart. When I heard the Piano Concerto in D Minor, I wanted to learn to play it.

Years later, that concerto would become the first piano concerto that I would conduct in public."

Back by popular demand, Thomas Pandolfi will lend his artistry to the piano concerto. Praised by the Washington Post, Pandolfi is "an artist who is master of both the grand gesture and the sensual line." Equally a master of technique and expression, Pandolfi played to a sold-out house with ASO audiences jumping to their feet in a standing ovation with his premiere of Kluge & Kluge's American Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in May of 2016.

"I feel a wonderful rapport and friendship with this wonderful orchestra, and we have covered a wide range of diverse repertoire," said Pandolfi. "This time around, it will be my pleasure to partner with the ASO and Maestro Rossi in Mozart's dramatic, yet beautiful D Minor Piano Concerto. This work was a particular favorite of Beethoven's, who even composed cadenzas for it, and is one of Mozart's few works in a minor key. It displays all of the splendor, mastery and genius of this magnificent composer."

The fully-professional Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at both the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center (Saturday performances) and the George Washington Masonic Memorial (Sunday performances). Ticket prices: \$20- \$80 adult, \$5 youth, and \$10 student with military, senior and group discounts available. To order tickets and for more information, visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

## CALENDAR

visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/) for more.

locations offering lunch from \$10-20/person. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com) or call 703-746-3301 for more.

cake and wreath laying ceremony. Adults, \$20; children ages 6-11, \$10; and children under 5 free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) or call 703-780-2000 for more.

### MONDAY/FEB. 13

**Anti-Valentine's day kickboxing.** 5-6:30 p.m. at iLoveKickboxing, 660 S. Pickett St. Shred Your Ex, a positive way to ditch the Valentine's Day doldrums and get fit in the process. Free for members of iLoveKickboxing. Visit [www.ilovekickboxing.com](http://www.ilovekickboxing.com) or call 571-429-4290.

**Vegetable Gardening Lecture.** 7-8:30 p.m. at the Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation. Free. Email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com) or call 703-228-6414 for more.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 14

**Submission Deadline.** 2017 Needlework Show & Sale mail-in entries: Jan. 11-Feb. 14; walk-in entries: Feb. 12-14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Looking for needlework pieces that showcase many techniques in both traditional and contemporary designs. [woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org](mailto:woodlawnevents@savingplaces.org)

### THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Business After Hours.** 5:30-7 p.m. at The Wharf, 119 King St. Enjoy refreshments and hors d'oeuvres with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce while networking with other business and nonprofit professionals. Members \$10, non-members \$25, and members at the door \$25. Visit [web.alexchamber.com/](http://web.alexchamber.com/) for more.

### FEB. 17-26

**Winter Restaurant Week.** Neighborhood restaurants throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and the West End. \$35 three-course dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two; select

### SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**Eco-Savvy Symposium.** 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn why plant and animal life biodiversity is critical to a healthy ecosystem and what can be done to bring diversity to your own backyard. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**The Lee-Fendall House as Civil War Hospital.** 10 a.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. "This Tide of Wounded" tour of the museum and grounds highlights the Lee-Fendall House's role as a hospital during the Civil War. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

**Experiences of Slavery.** 2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. "From Slavery to Freedom," this tour interprets the Lee-Fendall House from the perspective of its enslaved inhabitants, exploring the experiences of slavery in the city. \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789 for more.

### FEB. 18-19

**Presidents Day Breakfast Sampler.** 9 a.m.-noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Join "General Washington" for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) or call 703-780-2000 for more.

**Visit with George Washington.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy. Mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world, followed by an 18<sup>th</sup>-century dancing demonstration, birthday

### SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Top 10 Plants for the Garden.** 1:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturists Karen Rexrode and Keith Tomlinson of Meadowlark Gardens and Judy Zatsick discuss their favorites. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/) for more.

**Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Concert.** 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Pianist Thomas Pandolfi playing Paderewski's Piano Concerto in A Minor, and Duke Ellington's The River. \$20; children 8 and under are free. Visit [www.wmpmusic.org](http://www.wmpmusic.org) for more.

### MONDAY/FEB. 20

**George Washington's Birthday.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington's Birthday by visiting his home and burial site free of charge on this day, and watch a variety of activities. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/](http://www.mountvernon.org/) or call 703-780-2000 for more.

**Wreath Laying Ceremony.** 11 a.m.-noon at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution, at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 323 S. Fairfax St. Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they host colonial military and civilians to honor the soldiers of the Revolution. Free. Visit [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/) GWBday for more.

U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will

# #ConnectMVD at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT  
SUPERVISOR



It has been a privilege and honor representing the Mount Vernon District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors these past 12 months. We have achieved much together, but also have a great deal more to do. To start, please join us this Saturday for the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Town Meeting at Mount Vernon High School, so you can see for yourself what has been accomplished in 2016, our challenges and plans for 2017, and new this year, take a “Virtual Flying Tour” of the Mount Vernon District.

One of my highest 2016 priorities was to end the decade-long reduction in per student school funding which is essential for keeping the best teachers and schools, protecting our high quality national reputation, and the higher property valuations they help create. The increased school funding I fought for and won is essential to our community’s students. With our larger needy population, additional resources provide lower student-teacher ratios and ad-

vanced classes and specialized support, which leads to greater learning and opportunities for all our students. Other important 2016 accomplishments include:

- ❖ Building a responsive, diverse Mount Vernon District Team with Saturday and evening office hours, weekly

electronic updates, reminders and newsletters, Facebook interactions and increased outreach

- ❖ Initiating District County Boards, Authorities and Commissions appointee standards and annual meeting

- ❖ Increasing Police communications, transparency and civilian review

- ❖ Initiating spot improvements for district roads and trails

- ❖ Actively engaging thousands of residents with responses within two business days

- ❖ Hosting nearly a dozen Mount Vernon District events, most of them new.

Some projects to highlight for 2016 include the reopening of the Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) Teen Gymnasium, the Lorton VRE Park-and-Ride Ex-

## COMMENTARY

pansion Project, and continued progress on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Embark projects. A personal highlight was the inaugural Tour de’ Mount Vernon. Thanks to everyone who joined me on Dec. 31 for a 50 mile round-trip bike ride along the GWP trail to Mount Vernon Estate and ultimately ending at the Warehouse Arts Center.

Looking ahead to our 2017 Goals, we are working hard to make sure that we accomplish:

- ❖ Increasing connections between you, your community and your local government

- ❖ Balancing a low-growth FY2018 Budget

- ❖ Public safety changes implemented and net new police officers hired

- ❖ Land use improvements continuing with major housing, highways and trail projects

- ❖ Increasing Health, Human and other County Services availability at area government centers in the district

- ❖ An environment that is more protected with less airplane noise

- ❖ Hospitality & Tourism initiatives that increase awareness of our scenic beauty,

history and livability.

Please visit [www.FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon](http://www.FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon) to learn more about your community and tune into our upcoming Ides of Bark for dog lovers, Walk MVD for nature enthusiasts, Taste of Mount Vernon for foodies, Music Nights for music enthusiasts and more later this year. And #ConnectMVD while you’re enjoying these events. And, most importantly, this Saturday:

Please join me for the 30th Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, Feb. 4, at Mount Vernon High School. The exhibitor-filled cafeteria opens at 7:45 a.m., followed with a 9:30 a.m. program with many of our national, state and local elected officials. Speakers include Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, County Executive Ed Long, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders, and Colonel Angela Holbrook, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir. There will be plenty of Q and A time as well. Looking forward to seeing you in person or you can also live stream the program.

It is an honor to represent you. Please contact me anytime at 703.780.7518 or [MtVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:MtVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

# Senate Proposes Sewer Overflow Deadline

BY ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



The Virginia Senate has advanced legislation to establish an extremely aggressive timeline for the City of Alexandria to address concerns over its Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO).

The CSO issue isn’t a new one. Discharges from the combined sewer system in Alexandria, (like those in Richmond, Lynchburg, Washington, D.C. and the more than-800 older cities across the country) that are dealing with this issue, concern environmentalists greatly as they pollute waterways with untreated wastewater.

Cognizant of the importance of addressing this situation, the city has made serious progress in its stormwater and wastewater treatment in recent years, engaging in sewer separation, partnering with Alexandria Renew to process 13 billion gallons of wastewater every year, and beginning work on three of the four CSO outfalls, focusing on the ones that release into Little Hunting Creek. Those three outfalls were prioritized over CSO Outfall #1 that releases a mix of wastewater and stormwater into Oronoco Bay when it rains, because they drain into a much smaller body of water where the wastewater becomes more concentrated. In keeping with the normal regulatory process, there was also an order to address them issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Planning and construction on the Oronoco Bay outfall had been slated to begin once construction of

the other three outfalls was completed. Last fall, after concerns were raised in discussions with environmental advocates, myself, and other legislators, Alexandria voluntarily accelerated the timeline for addressing this outfall by 14 years, and I proposed legislation to advance the project by an additional six years.

Tackling the additional infrastructure project required to resolve the Oronoco Bay outfall while simultaneously addressing the three other outfalls is a daunting task. Solutions range from the construction of a three million gallon holding tank under Oronoco Bay or the shore to, alternatively, a holding pipe, that could be as large as ten feet in diameter. These large-scale options could also be complicated by working in potentially contaminated soil. The project will involve coordination with federal agencies, geotechnical investigators and civilian contractors, and costs under the expedited timeline could range from \$150-\$200 million in addition to the \$188 million already slated to address the three outfalls along Little Hunting Creek.

Legislation proposed by Sen. Stuart (R-Stafford) and co-patroned by Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) (SB898), mandated that the city remedy Outfall #1 by 2020 — an impossible deadline of three years. Engineers working with the CSOs in Richmond, Lynchburg, and Washington, D.C. have estimated that, if started today, the project would take between 9-12 years at a minimum. The bill’s consequences for not meeting that deadline would have in-



**Del. Mark Sickles, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and state Sen. Adam Ebbin at the Jan. 28 town hall meeting at Hayfield Elementary School.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

cluded a loss of all state funding for the city, approximately \$115 million per year. The bill sought to subvert the regulatory process by allowing the General Assembly to act as 140 amateur environmental regulators over the established procedures of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. With an overwhelming 10-3 committee vote, the catastrophic Stuart-Surovell proposal seemed poised to make its way rapidly through the Senate.

Speaking against the Stuart-Surovell proposal on the Senate floor, I stressed the importance of working toward a deliberate, intelligent and realistic solution. After the original proposal was delayed on the floor, I negotiated with Senator Stuart to bring the timeline more in step with reality. While the improved bill that passed the Senate moves towards those goals, it still imposes an onerous completion deadline of 2025. However, it averts the potential loss of state funds and also likely removes the threat of the City of Alexandria having its AAA/aaa bond rating downgraded.

The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce

wrote that the original bill was “a draconian measure that unfairly targets all Alexandria business owners, citizens, employees, public servants including public safety officers and teachers, and visitors.” And, I agree.

Though the compromise is far from perfect, it is a huge step forward and I will continue working to improve the final legislation that emerges. Working with members of the House of Delegates, a similar proposal on has already been improved upon.

It is, as always, my continued honor to serve the residents of the 30th District.

## TOWN HALLS

Join me and other area legislators where we will provide an update on the 2017 legislative session and answer your questions.

- ❖ Mt. Vernon: Saturday, Feb. 11, 9-11 a.m., Whitman Middle School – 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, with Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek

- ❖ Arlington: Saturday, Feb. 11, 2-4 p.m., Arlington Mill Community Center – 909 S Dinwiddie St., Arlington with Del. Alfonso Lopez.



Mount Vernon Unitarian Church members traveled to Richmond Jan. 16 to lobby for stronger state gun laws.



Mount Vernon Unitarian Church members met with Sen. Scott Surovell Monday January 16 to lobby for stronger state gun laws.

## Church Members Lobby for Gun Violence Prevention

**M**ore than 20 members and friends of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church travelled to Richmond on Monday, Jan. 16, to join hundreds of others lobbying for stronger state gun laws. The group attended a vigil for victims of gun violence

on the Capitol lawn, which included remarks from Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Attorney General Mark Herring, and U.S. Rep. Donald McEachin.

Church members met with local Delegates Paul Krizek and Mark Levine and Senators Adam Ebbin and Scott Surovell

as well as House and Senate members of committees dealing with public safety issues. The group shared Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church's "statement of conscience on gun violence" passed by the congregation in 2013. The church advocates for measures that prevent the indiscriminate

purchase of firearms for the use of violence against people who live in the United States; provide safe havens for people to report threatening behavior; provide federal funding to study the causes of gun violence; and support universal background checks for purchase of firearms.

## First for Richmond Highway

**M**ount Vernon has already accepted 72 telecommunication facilities for wireless service, said Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan. Verizon is currently installing them on top of utility poles, he said.

The latest one, with a pair of panel antennas enclosed by a "stealth cannister," will be approved for 6065 Richmond Highway to improve connectivity for a half-mile stretch. Flanagan said it is the first one of its kind to be approved on Richmond Highway.

Verizon will pay for Virginia Dominion Power to replace an existing 35 foot high utility pole with a 47.5 foot high pole on the south side of Richmond High-

way north of its intersection with Fairhaven Avenue, according to Planning Commission documents. With the two antenna on top, the new facility will be approximately 15 feet higher with the new proposed replacement pole.

Should utility poles be undergrounded in the future, Verizon will have to take its equipment down and relocate its equipment elsewhere, according to planning staff and Verizon's agent at the hearing.

The Planning Commission recommended approval on Jan. 26. The Board of Supervisors will make final decision later this year.

— KEN MOORE



PHOTO BY ANDRE WILSON

## Rowing for University of Minnesota

Natalie Lorca, a 2017 West Potomac High School graduate, recently committed to row for the University of Minnesota crew team next year. Pictured here, from left, with her sister Alesha Lorca, Natalie Lorca, Pilar Lorca (mother), Sonya Spriggs (Godmother), (second row) Head Coach Leslie Shinnors, Lead Coach Megan Lister and West Potomac High School Director of Student Activities Aaron Helmick. Lorca started her rowing career as a freshman at West Potomac and continued to excel with her boat placing first at the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association's state championships in 2015 and 2016 and placing seventh and sixth at Nationals. Additionally, Natalie consistently maintained a 3.5 or better GPA and rowed for Old Dominion Boat Club and Thompson Boat Club. While at the University of Minnesota, Natalie will major in animal sciences with a minor in Spanish, to pursue her dream of becoming a veterinarian.

## Prisoner Reentry

FROM PAGE 6

"We must be doing something right."

Gail Arnall, former director of OAR said, "Under his wonderful leadership Clarke has turned the culture for parole officers from law enforcement to guidance and encouragement."

Jennifer Male, parole and probation officer in Alexandria, says when she first started in 2003 a lot of emphasis was on law enforcement. Now there is also an emphasis on helping the client. "We don't want to be known as police. We want to be sure there isn't another victim but also that the client enters society successfully. That reduces the number of victims." Male says she has a passion for this job and has so much invested because "It could be him. It could be me."

Male currently has 50 in her caseload but had 100 at a different location. "We're lucky in a small area like Alexandria to have so many resources available," he said.

How often she sees an ex-offender depends on their needs and risk level. Male has an initial meeting with the ex-offender and then does a risk assessment based on background, family history, education, and how they feel. They make a case plan together with a goal. "It doesn't have to be like keeping clean. I let them set the goal and what they have to do to get there. We talk about things. I don't just tell them what to do. This drives the supervision. People say to me 'You must see a lot of bad people.' I say some have been here one time and never again. There are a few revolving doors in and out time and time again. I try to figure out why."

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event.

#### SECOND WEDNESDAYS

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

#### THROUGH FEB. 3

**25th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award Nominations.** Now open for the 2017 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. The awards celebration on Friday, April 21 from 8-10 a.m. at the Waterford, 6715

Commerce St., Springfield. [www.volunteerfairfax.org/](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/)

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 4

**30th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting.** 7:45 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Rd. Speakers will include Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, County Executive Ed Long, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders, and Colonel Angela Holbrook, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir. call 703-780-7518 or email [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more information.

#### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

**Free Financial Education classes.** 6-9 p.m. at United Community Ministries, 7511 Fordson Road For low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. Free. Reservations are required. Email [crogers@britepaths.org](mailto:crogers@britepaths.org) or call 703-273-8829 for more information.

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**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

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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. 0000663, Emergency and Winter Shelter Services for Homeless Individuals and Families

Non-mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference: February 6, 2017; 10:00 a.m. prevailing local time, 2355 A Mill Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Request for Proposals Closing Date and Time: March 6, 2017, 4 p.m., prevailing local time

For general inquiries contact Kaylin Gaal, Contract Specialist at 703.746.4286.

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, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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

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**OBITUARY**



**Joan Argiro** of New York City and formerly of Alexandria, VA passed away on Monday, January 23, 2017. She was born on August 3, 1933 in Kearney, NJ and was raised in Phoenixville, PA. A beloved member of the community in Alexandria, VA, she became the doyenne of Public Relations and Marketing and helped many businesses launch and thrive in the area. Her passion was connecting people. She was a matchmaker for both businesses and couples. She successfully matched two couples from Alexandria and it was one of her proudest accomplishments. She was known for her elegant style with her signature red silk rose and dramatic glasses. She is survived by her beloved husband Vincent Argiro, her son Paul of Miami, FL, her daughters Megan (Scott) and Kathlin of New York City, and Grandchildren Abigail, Kayla and Annabel. In addition she is survived by her brother Vincent (Joyce) Gallagher of Mission Viejo, CA; her sister Mary Therese Gallagher of Madison WI and was predeceased by her sister Kathryn Allen. A Memorial Mass will be offered at the Church of

St. Francis Xavier, 46 W.16th St., NY, NY 10011. A celebration of her life will take place following the Mass at the Harvard Club in NYC. In lieu of flowers mom had asked that contributions be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8517.

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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November 8, 2016  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
Lead Agency: Department of Army  
Title of Proposed Action: Supplemental Environmental Assessment of Communications Line Extension, Davison Army Airfield, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.  
Affected Jurisdiction: Fort Belvoir, Virginia  
Prepared By: Directorate of Public Works, Fort Belvoir, Virginia  
Approved By: Colonel Angie K. Holbrook, Commander, Fort Belvoir, Virginia

Abstract: This Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) documents potential impacts to the physical, biological and human environments associated with the extension of a new underground communications line from the main garrison area of Fort Belvoir to Davison Army Airfield (DAAF). The proposed ductbank is required to provide enhanced voice and data telecommunications connectivity to DAAF from the existing communications network within Fort Belvoir. After evaluating communications network needs at DAAF, Fort Belvoir network personnel identified a single viable alternative, extending the ductbank along the Poe Road corridor (Proposed Action). This Poe Road Alternative was selected based upon the location and availability of existing network infrastructure connection hubs at either end of the alignment and required communication system diversity needs. The No Action Alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline for evaluating impacts of the Proposed Action. None of the impacts associated with the Proposed Action are considered significant. As a result, it is anticipated that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be published in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Review Period: Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the EA and draft FNSI during a 30 day period. Please submit any comments to Commander, U.S. Army Garrison Fort Belvoir, Attention: Directorate of Public Works, Building 1442, 9430 Jackson Loop, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5116 or email your comments to: [usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.belvoir.imcom-atlantic.mbx.enrd@mail.mil).

The EA and draft FNSI were available for review on the internet at: <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/envirodocssection2.asp>. Documents were also provided for public review at the following libraries for a period of 30 days:

- Fairfax County Library  
Lorton Branch  
9520 Richmond Highway  
Lorton, VA 22079-2124
- Fairfax County Library  
Sherwood Regional Branch  
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306-2799
- Fairfax County Library  
Kingstowne Branch  
6500 Landsdowne Centre  
Alexandria, VA 22315-5011

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**NEWS**

**Planning for New Schools**

FROM PAGE 1

down capacity stress in the Centreville, Chantilly, Herndon, Oakton, South Lakes and Westfield areas.

Renovations are planned for 32 elementary schools as part of the CIP, as well as five middle schools.

Springfield District School Board representative Elizabeth Schultz praised the FCPS facilities staff that produced the CIP, along with Dalia Palchik of Providence District who introduced the motion to approve it, and Corbett Sanders who seconded the motion.

But Schultz also said there's room for improvement with showing their work over time, looking back in two to three years and assessing the accuracy of these enrollment growth projections.

"That's the space where we still need to do some work for the overall health of the division," Schultz said.

"Everything else after the numbers, whether it's desks, books, buses, teachers — it doesn't matter if we don't get those numbers right," Schultz continued. "It all



Palchik



Schultz

stems from how accurate we are with our projections."

Schultz said she looked forward to working with facilities staff to achieve that objective and "improve transparency of the numbers."

In the next two months, the adopted FCPS CIP should be incorporated into the Fairfax County CIP and presented to the county's Planning Commission.

More information about the Capital Improvement Program (and previous years' programs) is available online here: [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/capital-improvement-program](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/facilities-planning-future/capital-improvement-program).

**High Expectations at Bucknell**

FROM PAGE 3

students and staff. "I truly love the smiling faces of our children, the enthusiasm that they have for learning, the dedication that my teachers give to the school and the community, and the level of parental involvement. It reminds me of my elementary school back in Richmond, Virginia," she said. One of her goals is to reinvigorate the PTA with monthly parent coffees in the morning and evening. She said over 30 parents attended two PTA meetings they've had thus far, and she is hoping to grow the base of parents that she can tap into.

She tries to maintain a high level of visibility in the school so the students are accustomed to her being in their classrooms on a daily basis. "I'm at arrival; I'm at dismissal; I'm in the cafeteria," she said. "I try not to be in the office; I try to save that work for the times that kids are not here."

According to Brian Butler, former principal of Mt. Eagle Elementary, "I think above and beyond anything I could say about LaRonda is that she is passionate and persistent about helping not only her students learn at high levels but helping the adults learn at high levels as well. Her willingness to learn and not think she has to have all of the answers is a strength. I believe to be successful as a principal today you have to be willing to disperse leadership and to not think you need to know or do it all but to have the foresight to create the conditions for all to be leaders in one's building even if the leadership is situational."

Marie Lemmon, principal of Bailey's Upper Elementary for the Arts and Sciences, added: "Ms. Peterson is an excellent instructional leader with high standards for herself and all educators. She is quite focused on helping teachers design and deliver highly engaging, rigorous lessons to promote critical thinking, communication, col-

laboration, and student creativity. She leads this through coaching, modeling, and team building in a school."

According to Debra Demers, a literacy coach at Bucknell, "LaRonda Peterson is a good principal because she was a great teacher. She knows instruction thoroughly and has that strong experience as her reference point. As a teacher, I can appreciate her knowledge and expertise. She is passionate about education; she cares deeply about students and holds high expectations for their achievement. Her genuine sincerity comes across in every conversation."

Peterson grew up in the Richmond area, graduating from Varina High School in 1994. She earned a bachelor's in English with a concentration in early childhood education from Hampton University in 1998. She then received a master's in teaching from Hampton in 1999. For her administrative certification, she participated in the Fairfax County Public Schools LEAD Fairfax Accelerated Certification Program in conjunction with GMU.

She began her career as a teacher at Mt. Eagle Elementary for eight years, where she taught 2nd and 4th grades. She then moved to Franconia Elementary where she taught 3rd grade and was the intercession coordinator for the year-round program. She then moved to Silverbrook and Laurel Hill Elementary for one year where she was an administrative intern. From there, she was assistant principal at Westlawn Elementary for four years, and then Bailey's Elementary for Arts and Sciences for two years before starting at Bucknell.

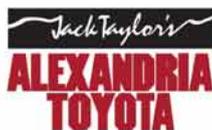
As far as family, her mother is a retired high school teacher; her father was an academic advisor at VCU until his death; her brother works in TV production in Los Angeles; and she has an aunt who is a School Board chair in Richmond.

2

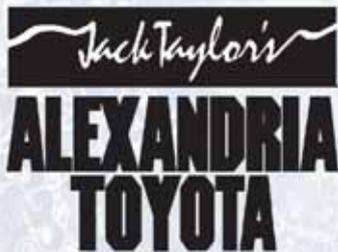
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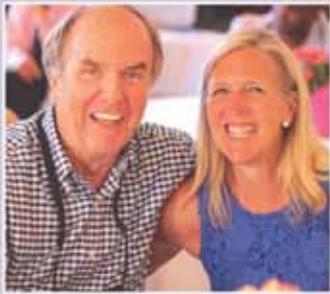
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