



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

This year at the 54th Needlework show, 396 pieces are on display from around the country, and there are daily demonstrations of various needlework techniques scheduled daily. They vary in style from the resurgent surface embroidery to silk ribbon, counted cross-stitch and gold work.

Needlework Show Opens

On display at Woodlawn Plantation.

Needlework is no dying art, says Ellen Meyer of Alexandria, owner of the specialty needlepoint store "In Stitches" in Mount Vernon. Meyer is also a volunteer with Nelly's Needlers, a service

organization that helps preserve Woodlawn Plantation and sponsors and operates the annual Needlework Show & Sale taking place at Woodlawn this month.

SEE NEEDLEWORK, PAGE 15

Board Appoints Police Civilian Review Panel

Residents can submit complaints concerning allegations of abuse of authority or misconduct by Fairfax County police through the panel.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

The ongoing goal of increased transparency and accountability for the Fairfax County Police Department now has nine fresh faces. On Tuesday, Feb. 28, the Board of Supervisors announced its appointees to the inaugural Civilian Review Panel, one of the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

"The Police Civilian Review Panel will promote further transparency and openness in community policing," Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said. "Each appointed member will bring a valuable perspective, extensive knowledge and years of community involvement to the table."

"Together with their impressive skill sets, this group of individuals will set the bar high for how the Civilian Review Panel will oper-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Adrian Steel addressing the Board of Supervisors about Ad Hoc Commission recommendations late last year along with Phil Niedzielski-Eichner.

ate," Bulova continued. "I am very proud of our Fairfax County Police

SEE BOARD, PAGE 6

Rising Hope Minister Invited to Joint Congressional Session

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner critical of ICE activity.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D) invited the Rev. Dr. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church to be his guest for President Donald Trump's address to a joint session of Congress on Feb. 28.

Warner is one of several politicians who have spoken out against what several witnesses described as a stakeout and round-up of Latino men exiting the Rising Hope hypothermia shelter on the morning of Feb. 8.

ICE has said two men were arrested in a parking lot across the

street from the church, but would not confirm other elements of the witnesses' account — that Latino men from the shelter were lined up against a wall for questioning and fingerprinting, and six or seven of them were put into handcuffs, loaded into vans and driven away.

Warner said he is concerned about the fear and uncertainty that's been caused by this incident.

"Since the Administration has not been forthcoming or transparent about how and why ICE conducted this roundup, and what criteria are being used to prioritize these enforcement actions," Warner said in a statement, "I'm taking this opportunity to send a message to the President: These actions diminish the immigrant community's trust and cooperation with law enforcement, and they hurt Virginia's families, neighbor-

hoods and communities."

Gov. Terry McAuliffe also sent a letter to Secretary of Homeland Security Gen. John Kelly, demanding answers clarifying what took place the morning of Feb. 8.

McAuliffe spokesman Sam Coleman said the Governor and Gen. Kelly met on Sunday Feb. 26 to address the letter.

Coleman said Kelly assured McAuliffe that ICE is "only targeting illegal aliens involved in criminal enterprise," and that ICE officers would not be performing random pickups.

McAuliffe took Kelly at his word; Coleman said the Governor was satisfied with the responses.

"That doesn't mean the Governor will stop being vigilant on this question," said Coleman.

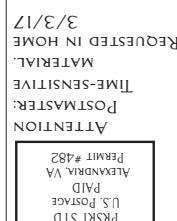
Kincannon hasn't stopped pursuing the issue either.

In attempt to get more informa-

tion about the Feb. 8 incident, Kincannon and other religious leaders held a prayer vigil on Feb. 17 at the ICE field office in Fairfax. They tried to speak with ICE officials about the men allegedly detained in the vans but were turned away.

"Rising Hope is committed to ministering in love to the needs of everyone, especially those living in poverty and on the margins of society," Kincannon said in a statement with the Warner announcement. "Houses of worship and shelters are both places where the

vulnerable come for sanctuary — to get out of the cold, or to get assistance because they are in a desperate situation. We should be helping them, not instilling fear that they could be targeted. Sacred places should remain sacred places." Another prayer vigil, and service of solidarity for immigrants and homeless community members, is scheduled for Saturday, March 4 at Rising Hope Mission Church, located at 8220 Russell Road in Alexandria. Music begins at 1:30 p.m., with the service lasting from 2-3 p.m.



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Community Urged to Get Involved

NAACP Fairfax chapter hosted meeting at Kings Park library.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Mohib Ullah and Saquib Raheem of Sterling didn't bring their boys to Burke's Kings Park Library on Saturday morning to check out books. The representatives from All Dulles Area Muslim Society came for a community gathering and Black History Month commemoration on Feb. 25.

Raheem said they attended "to be part of a movement."

"You have to be active," he said. "To have a complaint is one thing, you have to do something about it."

Engagement and knowledge were two primary themes of the meeting, which was standing-room-only in one of the library's large multi-purpose rooms.

NAACP Fairfax chapter education chair Ralph Cooper of Springfield gave opening remarks and shared emcee duties with chapter president Kofi Annan.

"Don't you ever forget what happened in the past in our country," Cooper said. "We used to be a model for civil rights, moral rights. I hope we continue on that path."

Annan's message cited minority unemployment, education and criminal justice reform as areas where the country has taken several steps back.

"Progress isn't linear," Annan said. "We should feel emboldened to dig our heels in, and secure the gains we've made thus far."

On a positive note, Annan announced the Fairfax chapter has seen a 10 percent increase in membership in just the past two months.

A hopeful in the race for Virginia's next governor, former U.S. representative Tom



Engagement and knowledge were two primary themes of the Feb. 25 NAACP Fairfax community meeting and Black History Month commemoration, which was standing-room-only in one of the library's large multi-purpose rooms.

Perriello continued the message of involvement and reconciliation, as did Pastor Brett Fuller, senior pastor of Grace Covenant Church in Chantilly.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) painted a more positive picture of progress on law enforcement issues in Fairfax County, though he said there are still items to address including sexual harassment, bullying, behavioral health — he mentioned referencing a recent report from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue department.

Supervisor Kathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) also said challenges remain in Fairfax County, including bringing more minorities, and young minorities, to the table where policy is made.

"We need your voice," Hudgins said.

The supervisor explained she has had a seat at the board for 18 years and remains the only African American on the governing body.

Board chairman Sharon Bulova explained the Fairfax County seal to be translated as "put your actions where your words are," echoing the consistent message of community engagement and partnerships.

Attorney General Mark Herring reflected on the recent renaming of the building that houses his office in honor of Barbara Johns, a young civil-rights leader who led a school walkout to protest segregation in 1951.

The Fairfax NAACP has scheduled an immigration discussion panel also to be held at the Kings Park Library, located at 9000 Burke Lake Road in Burke, on March 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The panel will include Bulova, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) and representatives from the Fairfax County Police Department, ADAMS Center and American Civil Liberties Union.

The event is free and open to the public. To RSVP or request more information, email Karen Campblin at politicalaction@fairfaxnaacp.org.



NAACP Fairfax chapter education chair Ralph Cooper of Springfield gave opening remarks and shared emcee duties with chapter president Kofi Annan.



NAACP Fairfax president Kofi Annan's message cited minority unemployment, education and criminal justice reform as areas where the country has taken several steps back. "Progress isn't linear," Annan said. "We should feel emboldened to dig our heels in, and secure the gains we've made thus far."

Case Resigns, Assistant Lyttle Still on Leave

After announcing West Potomac High School principal Alex Case and assistant principal Michelle Lyttle were on administrative leave Feb. 13, Region 3 assistant superintendent Terry Dade sent a letter to the West Potomac community Feb. 24 informing them of Case's resignation.

Case has been principal for the last four years.

Lyttle remains on leave, according to

Fairfax County Public Schools spokesman John Torre.

Retired principal Dale Rumberger, who opened Westfield High School in 2000 and South County High School in 2004, took over as interim principal at West Potomac effective Feb. 21.

"[Mr. Rumberger's] considerable educational experience will provide West Potomac High School the leadership necessary as we move to identify a new school leader," Dade

writes in the letter.

In his resignation letter, forwarded by Dade, Case says the decision to step down was not an easy one to make, after nearly a decade of work in the community as a teacher, assistant activities director, assistant principal and principal.

"Yet I am excited to pursue new opportunities to serve our community while also dedicating more time to my family," Case writes, "which has been challenging while

working so tirelessly to champion the excellence we so consistently see from you and throughout all parts of West Potomac High School."

No other explanation has been given so far, for both administrators' absence or Case's resignation.

Dade said more information with regards to the principal search process will be provided in the coming weeks.

— TIM PETERSON



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Back row: Robert Nachnani, Jordyn Youngblood, Aidan Kwelberg, Micaya Koenig, Carmela Dangale; Middle: Aidan Connors, Annetta Sheriff, Asiyah Khan, Jaya Nachnani; front: Destiny Lawrence, Diana Binette, Will McCarthy, and Haley McKenzie. Not pictured: Deric Quincy Allen, Yara Ammar, Rachel Baker, and Emma Fisher.

Competing to 'Take a Stand'

Seventeen seventh grade students from Walt Whitman Middle School will be moving on to the National History Day regional competition at Mount Vernon High School on Saturday, March 4. These students researched and created projects highlighting historical figures and events exemplifying the theme of this year's competition, "Take a Stand."

Whitman's social studies and English teachers collaborated to teach students about the national competition's theme and the research process. Students could choose how to present their research in the form of an exhibit, performance, documentary, or website. Their work was judged by school system and community volunteers here at Whitman on Feb. 1 and 2 to determine who would advance to the regional competition.

The following students will represent Walt

Whitman Middle School:

- ❖ Individual Documentary: Deric Quincy Allen (John Lewis), Rachel Baker (Joan Baez), Aidan Connors (Osceola)

- ❖ Group Documentary: Aidan Kwelberg and Robert Nachnani (Doolittle Raid)

- ❖ Individual Website: Diana Binette (Birch Bayh), Will McCarthy (Robert Morris), Jaya Nachnani (Katherine Johnson)

- ❖ Group Website: Micaya Koenig and Haley McKenzie (Marie Curie)

- ❖ Individual Display: Yara Ammar (Brown vs. Board of Education), Asiyah Khan (Cuban Missile Crisis), Destiny Lawrence (Ida B. Wells)

- ❖ Group Display: Carmela Dangale and Annetta Sheriff (Alexander Hamilton)

- ❖ Individual Performance: Emma Fisher (Sophie Scholl), Jordyn Youngblood (Harriet Ross Tubman).

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Wessynton \$649,900
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Great price on this charming 4BR/3BA Split w/garage, in Mount Vernon's premier Contemporary Community. Efficient double pane windows, remodeled baths, replaced furnace, A/C & HWH, all in 2013. Refinished hdwd flrs, gas FPL and plenty of storage.

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Riverside Estates \$459,900
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Board Appoints Police Civilian Review Panel

FROM PAGE 1

Department. This panel will contribute toward making us a model of excellence for the nation."

Earlier in February, the board announced the hiring of Richard Schott as independent police auditor, a full-time paid position whose office is charged with reviewing police use of force cases that involve serious injury or death.

The panel's purview will include public complaints, allegations of abuse of authority or misconduct by FCPD officers. The panel will review completed police internal affairs investigations regarding such complaints and may hold public meetings to go over the investigations with members of the community.

Another function of the panel is the ability to make recommendations for revisions to police policy, training and practices.

Adrian Steel of McLean, a member of the Ad Hoc Commission, was appointed the panel's first chairman. Steel said that the function of addressing policy may be "as important, if not more important in terms of reach of impact, as reviewing an investigation."

First on the Panel's agenda is drafting bylaws for itself. Steel said they plan to look to jurisdictions including Denver and San Jose that have similar bodies for guidance. He intends to set up a first meeting in March, and is hopeful the panel can begin reviewing cases by mid-summer this year.

The volunteer panelists' biographies, as provided by Fairfax County, follow in alphabetical order:

Hansel Aguilar, Fairfax

Aguilar, originally from Honduras, investigates allegations of police misconduct at the D.C. Office of Police Complaints. Aguilar is a former police officer for the George Mason University Police Department and previously worked as a case manager and internal investigator for Youth for Tomorrow. He has served with the Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean and with the Fairfax County Office for Women &

Domestic and Sexual Violence Services. Aguilar is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Kathleen Davis-Siudut, Springfield

Davis-Siudut has spent the past 15 years providing training as well policy development and implementation in the areas of sexual violence, human trafficking, and cultural diversity. Davis-Siudut is of Korean descent and has previously worked for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Polaris Project, and the U.S. Marine Corps. She currently works with the Air Force as a sexual assault prevention and response subject matter expert.

Steve Descano, Springfield

During his six years as a federal prosecutor, Descano led numerous investigations conducted by FBI, IRS and USPIS agents. While at the Department of Justice, he analyzed documentary evidence, interviewed witnesses, and reviewed the investigatory work of agents and other prosecutors. Descano currently works as chief operating officer and general counsel for Paragon Autism Services and serves on the Criminal Justice Committee of the Fairfax County NAACP. Descano also serves on the Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee, is a graduate of West Point, and was nominated by the Fairfax County NAACP to serve on the Civilian Review Panel.

Hollye Doane, Oakton

A Fairfax County resident for more than 30 years, Doane spent most of her career as an attorney in Washington, D.C. representing an array of clients, including the National Down Syndrome Society and Down Syndrome Research and Treatment Foundation. Doane has been an advocate for the disability community for more than 20 years and understands the importance of building positive relationships between law enforcement officers and people with disabilities. Her experience as a journalist prior to attending law school gave her an appreciation for clear, timely and transparent communication between government officials and the community. After her re-

tirement, Doane trained as a mediator and facilitator and currently serves as a lay pastoral minister in her church.

Douglas Kay, Fairfax

Kay is a trial lawyer who has handled civil litigation, criminal defense and personal injury cases for over 20 years. He currently focuses his practice on commercial litigation matters. As a criminal defense attorney, he has represented individuals charged with everything from simple traffic matters to the most serious felony offenses in state and federal courts. Kay previously served as a judge advocate in the U.S. Navy and Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County. A lifelong Fairfax County resident, Kay attended Fairfax County Public Schools, coaches his son's youth basketball team, and served on Fairfax County's Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. Kay was nominated to serve on the Civilian Review Panel by the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the Fairfax Bar Association.

Randy Sayles, Oak Hill

Sayles has over 35 years of law enforcement and criminal investigations experience. He worked as a Federal Agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), and served as a police officer for the Denver, Colorado Police Department. Sayles gives back to the community by volunteering for the Clean Fairfax Council and Creekside Homeowners Association, and was the recipient of a Fairfax County 2016 Environmental Excellence Award for removing 800 bags of trash and over 1,200 illegal signs along nine miles of Centreville Road. Sayles served as a member of Fairfax County's Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and has continued to work with the Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Police to implement the Commission's recommendations.

Jean Senseman, Lorton

Senseman is a licensed clinical social worker who has spent many years working

with clients who experience mental illness, PTSD and substance use disorders. Senseman has worked in private practice providing treatment and therapy for individuals young and old who experience a variety of mental health disorders. Senseman taught at George Washington University Medical School and volunteers for her Condo Association Finance Committee. Previously, Senseman worked at the Woodburn Community Mental Health Center and at the Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter helping residents of all socioeconomic backgrounds receive mental health treatment.

Adrian L. Steel, Jr., McLean (Chairman)

Steel served on Fairfax County's Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and has continued to work with the Board of Supervisors to implement the commission's recommendations. Steel has been appointed by the Board of Supervisors to serve as the first chairman of the Police Civilian Review Panel. Steel has demonstrated extensive knowledge and a strong commitment regarding 21st century police policies and best practices, including civilian oversight. Steel currently works as a senior counsel at Mayer Brown LLP where he has practiced law for over 35 years, and previously served as special assistant to FBI Director William H. Webster.

Rhonda VanLowe, Reston

VanLowe was appointed to the Governor's Taskforce for Improving Mental Health Services and Crisis Response and served on the Public Safety workgroup. She has devoted much of her community service work to serving those with physical, mental, emotional, intellectual or cognitive backgrounds. VanLowe practiced law in law firm and corporate settings, served as board chair of The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, Inc., and received the National Women of Color Special Recognition Award at the 2008 STEM Conference. VanLowe is a 36-year resident of Fairfax County.

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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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SCHOOLS



Carl Sandburg Middle School students received awards at the FCPS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America contest last month. The students are (from left) Sophia Wypyski, Dianna Rivera, Denali Mason, Juliana Dexter, Annabella Mason, Cecilia Morales Barraza, and Winnie Mikulski.

Preparing for State Contest

Seven members of the Carl Sandburg Middle School Chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) will join more than 700 other family and consumer sciences students to participate in Virginia FCCLA's Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events Contest and State Leadership and Recognition Conference, April 6-9, in Virginia Beach.

Juliana Dexter, Annabella Mason, Denali Mason, Winnie Mikulski, Cecilia Morales Barraza, Dianna Rivera, and Sophia Wypyski qualified to attend the

state contest by participating in the Fairfax County Public Schools FCCLA STAR Events contest on Feb. 6 at South County High School.

Juliana Dexter, Cecilia Morales Barraza, and Annabella Mason won first place and a gold award in the junior Life Event Planning contest. Winnie Mikulski won first place and a gold award in the junior Nutrition & Wellness contest. Dianna Rivera and Sophia Wypyski won second place and a silver award in junior Food Innovations. Denali Mason won first place and a silver award in the junior Recycle and Redesign contest.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Bryan Corvera-Flores of Alexandria, was named to the Middle Atlantic Conference 2016 fall academic honor roll at Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.).

Devon McMahon of Alexandria has been named to the fall 2016 dean's list at Florida Institute of Technology (Melbourne, Fla.).

Emily Deller, of Alexandria, was named to fall 2016 dean's list at University of the Sciences (Philadelphia, Pa.). Deller is a master of occupational therapy student.

Dean Kiamos, Petra Elizabeth Sucher, and **Hunter Lee Thompson**, of Alexandria, made the dean's list at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) for fall 2016.

Michelle Lauren de la Guardia, of Alexandria, made the president's list at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.) for fall 2016.

Lindsay Sopko, of Alexandria, was named to the fall 2016 honors list at Mary Baldwin University (Staunton, Va.).

Rhealiza Ambanta and **Shantelle Jennings**, of Alexandria, were named to the fall 2016 dean's list at Mary Baldwin University (Staunton, Va.).

Claire Malkie, of Alexandria, earned a place on the dean's list for the fall 2016 semester at Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.).

Steven R. Garden, of Alexandria, has been named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's College of Science for the fall 2016 semester. Garden is a West Potomac High School graduate.

Bryan Corvera-Flores, of Alexandria, made the dean's list at Stevenson University (Owings Mills, Md.) for the fall 2016 semester.

Michael Odoom, of Alexandria, has been named to the Fayetteville State University (Fayetteville, N.C.) dean's list for fall 2016.

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OPINION

Good, Bad and Missed Opportunities

Results of the 2017 session of the General Assembly.

GOOD THINGS

Progress in funding mental health and addressing the opioid epidemic on multiple levels were among the successes of the 2017 General Assembly session.

❖ In addressing the opioid crisis, the General Assembly passed important steps, including Del. Tim Hugo's bill to limit opioid prescriptions to a seven-day supply in most cases; increased access to naloxone, a drug that instantly reverses an overdose; needle exchange programs (to reduce the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases); focus on infants born with opioid exposure.

❖ Increased funding for mental health included \$7.5 million to facilitate providing same-day access to mental health screening services by July 1, 2019. (The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board began offering same day, in-person screening for mental health/and or substance use concerns to adults in July 2015 and extended same day access service to youth. The official launch date for youth walk-in service was Feb. 1, 2017.) Also supports for discharge planning and services for people with serious mental illness being released from jail.

❖ The budget included 3 percent raises state employees, increase for teachers and a larger increase for state police.

❖ The Virginia Board of Corrections was given added authority and resources to review deaths in local and regional jails.

❖ Negotiation and legislation will accelerate the City of Alexandria's massive undertaking to fix its sewer system that dumps raw sew-

age into the Potomac River whenever it rains. Wendell Berry's version of the golden rule: "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

❖ Scott Surovell's bill requiring Dominion to provide better information on coal ash pollution, disaster preparedness, and recycling.

❖ Eileen Filler-Corn's bill requiring that insurance cover up to a 12-month supply of hormonal contraceptives when dispensed or furnished at one time.

❖ School boards are required to have anti-bullying policies that includes notifying parents that their student was involved in a bullying incident.

❖ Use of FaceBook Live allowed members to stream floor discussion, and report to constituents and answer questions directly.

BAD BILLS

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has already vetoed some of these, and is expected to veto some others.

❖ Expanded access to concealed weapons; vetoed by Governor. SB1362 would allow anyone with a military ID card to carry concealed weapon; HB2077 would allow guns in emergency shelters and prevents state police or others from prohibiting them for any reason

❖ End funding of Planned Parenthood, vetoed by Governor.

❖ Anti-Sanctuary City Law HB 2000 says no locality shall adopt any ordinance, procedure, or policy that restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

❖ As a reality check on the Virginia General Assembly, HB2025 would allow discrimination against LGBT community under guise of religious freedom, and passed 21-19 in the Senate and 57-37 in the House of Delegates.

❖ HJ 545 would allow special committees of the General Assembly to overturn regulations, upsetting separation of powers. Constitutional amendment (first resolution): "Provides that the General Assembly may suspend

or nullify any or all portions of any administrative rule or regulation."

❖ Photo identification required for absentee ballots.

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

❖ The biggest missed opportunity of the 2017 General Assembly session was the failure to advance any redistricting legislation, which passed in the Senate and died in the House of Delegates. It's clear that Virginia voters want an end to gerrymandering, but hopes for reform before the next census in 2020 are diminished.

❖ Mental Health in Jails: \$4.5 million was removed from the Governor's proposed budget that would have paid for desperately needed mental health screening in jails.

❖ Legislation to raise Virginia's threshold between misdemeanors and felonies from \$200 to \$500 failed. Virginia's threshold has not changed since 1981, unnecessarily focusing "police and prosecutors on minor crimes instead of violent crime while tainting thousands of Virginia's suffering from depression or drug addiction with felony charges for life," says Surovell.

❖ Ken Plum's bill to increase and index the minimum wage never made it out of committee.

❖ Bills to address student debt also died during the session, as did bills aimed at reducing student suspensions and expulsions.

❖ Republicans stripped language that would have brought \$6 million in federal funds to provide Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) to those at risk for unintended pregnancy at no cost to Virginia voters.

Thanks to Ken Plum, Scott Surovell, Marcus Simon, Jennifer Boysko, Adam Ebbin and others whose columns and responses helped inform this editorial. We welcome opinions and additions to this list.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why Bar Homeschoolers?

To the Editor:

Virginia Code Section 22.1-254.1 permits parents to home-school their children. According to a 2013 survey of the National Federation of State High School Associations, there are 30 member State Associations that allow home-schooled students to play sports at their local public school. The General Assembly of Virginia recognized the logic of this stance this year by passing Bill No. H 1578 permitting home-schooled students to play sports at their local public school. The Bill as passed has several restrictions including the requirement to demonstrate evidence of academic progress for at least two consecutive academic years preceding the academic year during which the student seeks to participate, compliance with immunization requirements, and that the student has not reached the age of 19 by Aug. 1 of the current academic year. The Bill also per-

mits a school system to charge reasonable fees to such a student for his/her participation. Despite these restrictions, Governor McAuliffe vetoed the Bill.

Home-schooled students can be at a disadvantage when applying for admission to elite universities if they do not show involvement in extracurricular activities. Despite the fact that they are not attending a public school, their parents are paying the same taxes as any other parent. In my opinion, taking all of these facts into account, government officials who stand in the way of allowing home-schooled students to participate in high school sports demonstrate a degree of unfairness that should offend voters in the upcoming state elections. Who are these offensive politicians?

I reviewed the legislative history of Bill H 1578. I analyzed who should be considered located in Northern Virginia as those with district office telephone numbers bearing one of the following area codes: 703, 571, and 540. In the State Senate, the votes were strictly along party lines with all of the Democrats

opposing the Bill and all of the Republicans favoring it. Republicans voting in favor were Vogel, Black and Stuart. Democrats opposing the Bill were Marsden, Surovell, McPike, Barker, Petersen, Howell, Favola, Ebbin, and Wexton. The Bill was approved by the Senate by a vote of 22-18.

The House of Delegates approved the Bill by a vote of 60-38. The vote was largely along party lines. In Northern Virginia, the votes in favor were 22 Republicans and 1 Democrat (Richard P. Bell). Those opposing were 18 Democrats (including Krizek, Bulova, Levine, Sickles and Watts) and two Republicans (Albo and Yost).

In the governor's explanation of his veto, he alleged that signing the Bill "would disrupt the level playing field Virginia's public schools have developed over the past century. While the Bill provides that home-schooled students must demonstrate evidence of progress in order to participate in interscholastic activities, the

SEE LETTER, PAGE 9

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2017 General Assembly Is in the Books

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



COMMENTARY

In the 2017 General Assembly session, which ended on Feb. 25, we were able to make some progress in spite of a \$1.1 billion budget shortfall.

First, we approved amendments to the state's biennial budget. After drawing on a \$560 million Rainy Day Fund, the budget funds the state share of a long-overdue two percent salary increase for teachers, a three percent raise for state employees, and a \$7,000-per-year increase in starting salaries (\$36,000) for state troopers. As always, we met our constitutional obligation to balance the budget.

Fifteen of my bills now await Governor McAuliffe's action. The legislature referred two of my bills for further study. In the session's last week, I served on seven con-

ference committees to negotiate final language for several bills.

My legislation requiring the City of Alexandria to address raw sewage discharges passed both houses. Although the bill will allow Alexandria to discharge an additional 550 mil-

lion gallons of raw sewage into the Potomac River, it requires all discharges to stop by 2025.

While this will cost the city about \$150-\$200 million to fix, I am committed to helping locate state funds to support construction over the next eight years. I especially appreciate Agriculture and Natural Resource Chairman Sen. Richard Stuart's dedication to finding a solution and the support of Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Paul Krizek who consistently supported solving this problem.

My legislation requiring owners of coal ash ponds to provide the public better information passed. I hope the Governor will restore some of the key provisions removed in the House of Delegates.

My legislation to make it easier to hold drunk drivers accountable for injuring victims passed both houses unanimously. This

bill was necessary in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Birchfield v. North Dakota* decision last year which now requires a search warrant for nearly all withdrawals of blood.

I introduced two college transparency bills. One requires 30-days' notice of a proposed tuition increase, an explanation of the need and the date and time of any vote on a tuition increase at state-supported colleges. My second bill requires colleges and universities and community colleges to publish a list of all courses guaranteed to transfer so that students do not mistakenly take non-transferable classes and delay graduation.

During the last year, I have been involved in cases in which child support payors passed away while in arrears for child support. I was surprised to learn that this was

not a priority debt during the administration of an estate and basically gets treated like credit card debt. My legislation to require child support arrearages to be paid before general debts passed both houses without a single dissenting vote.

All bills passed by the legislature now go to the Governor who must either amend, sign or veto them by March 27. Next week, I will cover some other bills that the legislature passed and the following week I will report on some bills that the legislature did not pass.

In the meantime, please complete my constituent survey at www.scottsurovell.org/survey and email me atscott@scottsurovell.org if you have any questions.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

unique nature of their educational situation precludes conformity to the same standards." (His comment flies in the face of the requirement of the Bill that the student demonstrate the required proficiency for two full years previous to when the student wishes to participate.) The governor went on to state that "Participation in athletic and academic competitions is a privilege for students who satisfy eligibility requirements." He then claimed that permitting home-schooled students to so participate "codifies academic inequality in interscholastic competition." This is truly absurd given the Bill's strict requirements.

Politicians who oppose home-schooled students participating in high school sports are, in effect, transforming those students into second class citizens while their parents are paying the same taxes as other parents. If Virginia voters are smart enough to elect a Republican governor in November, Virginia can leave the dark ages and join the other 30 states that permit home-schooled students to participate in high school sports. There can be no legitimate excuse for delegates and senators or a governor potentially relegating these students to lower ranked college experiences, and thereby adversely impacting their lives for life, for purely partisan political reasons.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Help Repair Mount Vernon Trail

Sathiya Kannan, a Girl Scout from Reston, will be repairing one of the bridges on the Mount Vernon Trail on Saturday, March 25, as a Silver Award Project for scouting. Kannan, who goes to school in Herndon, is part of a team of National Park Service volunteers that day that will be working on the bridge

from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. near the Belle-Haven parking lot. Additional volunteers are needed and park rangers will be on site to provide materials, tools and training. Light refreshments and water will be available. Teens can earn service hours, ages 10 and up. Email pkmalar@yahoo.com to register.

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WELLBEING

Beware Early Allergy Season

Experts offer suggestions for preventing and treating allergy symptoms.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Those experiencing Itchy, watery eyes and seemingly endless sneezing know that spring allergy season is getting an early start this year thanks to this season's mild winter weather.

"Everything is blooming early because of the warm weather," said Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D., allergist, of Privia Medical Group in Vienna. "People are spending more time outside because the weather is lovely, but they're experiencing allergy symptoms."



PHOTO COURTESY OF
BARBARA MACKIE

Allergist Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D. advises patients who normally have seasonal allergies to begin taking medication early.

pollens that are associated with grass, trees and weeds," said Dr. Victoria A Garrison, M.D., a Student Health Services physician and a professor in the School of Nursing at George Mason University in Fairfax. "In areas that are damp or humid, mold spores can also be a factor. When people have allergies to these substances, the immune system will react and cause symptoms like sneezing, watery, itchy eyes, runny nose, sore or itchy throat, congestion and fatigue."

"Mild winter temperatures cause plants to pollinate early," added Maureen Moriarty, DNP, assistant professor of Nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "This problem may be compounded by a rainy spring season, leading to increased mold levels that can drive allergy symptoms in sufferers through fall months."

Instead of waiting for full-blown symptoms, Mackie recommends beginning medications early. "What I usually tell patients who normally have seasonal allergies is to take their maintenance medications early so they're covered when allergy season hits," she said.

"Being prepared can often help slow down symptoms of allergies," added Kathy Grilliot, director of Clinical Education Respiratory Therapy Program at



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE GAZETTE

A mild winter has led to early plant blooming and an early allergy season.

Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield.

"Before the season starts, it is a good idea to start taking a nasal steroid. This medication takes a few weeks to gain full effect so starting before the allergens are everywhere can really help to control symptoms. Eyes can also have allergic reactions, so see a specialist to have a good eye drop for allergen control."

For those who might be perplexed by the distinction between allergies and a common cold: "If it's lasting more than three days with no fever, it's probably not a cold," said Mackie.

Some precautions that allergy sufferers can take to decrease their exposure to allergens include wearing a face mask when outside during times when the pollen count is high and resisting the urge to open car and house windows when the weather is warm, especially if the wind is blowing. "Take off your shoes when you enter your house so that allergens don't get spread around the house," said Grilliot. "Be aware where you place clothing that has been outside when you enter your house to prevent allergens from entering your home."

"I advise patients to rinse their hair and take a shower to get the pollen off before going to bed at night," added Mackie. "Otherwise you're getting pollen on your pillowcase and sheets and breathing it in all night."

There are certain times of day when allergy sufferers should avoid being outside. "Mid-morning, afternoon and early evening are peak times for pollen," continued Mackie. "When it's windy, don't go out because of the pollen."

Pets can spread pollen as well. "Dogs get spring fever too and want to be outside, but they can bring pollen into the house," said Mackie. "Wipe off their coats and paws when they come inside."

"Everything is blooming early because of the warm weather. People are spending more time outside because the weather is lovely, but they're experiencing allergy symptoms."

— Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D., Allergist, Privia Medical Group

ENTERTAINMENT



Carved birds and other artwork graces the plates alongside the food at May Island.



Tucked away next to a convenience store, May Island is a pleasant surprise.

3 Sushi Bars to Celebrate Springtime

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

The recent warm February weather has pushed the spring foliage to its budding point early, and the cherry trees are no exception. Cherry blossom time – that season where all the region’s cherry trees are bursting with pinks and whites – is nearly here, and the festival celebrating the United States’ relationship with Japan begins March 20. Here are three sushi selections to celebrate the occasion.

May Island, 1669 North Quaker Lane

Tucked away in an unassuming strip mall, adjacent to a convenience store, May Island could easily be overlooked for more flashy locales. But to drive by without stopping in would be a mistake. Once you’re inside, a

menu of sushi delights awaits.

Peruse the menu of “fusion rolls” and it’s hard to miss some of the more exotic and festive of May Island’s options. The Godzilla, for instance, is a mix of spicy tuna and avocado, wrapped with seaweed on the outside and deep-fried. Or try the Dinosaur, which does not in fact contain any of our prehistoric brethren but instead sports shrimp tempura and is topped with avocado. Vegetarians, too, will be at home: May Island offers a number of unusual vegetable sushi selections, ranging from sweet-potato tempura to an avocado-cucumber-squash roll.

Is someone in your party not feeling the sushi love? No problem. May Island offers up a host of standard Asian dishes — teriyaki, lo mein, fried rice, and the like — to suit a host of palates.

Momo Sushi, 212 Queen St.

The stalwart sushi restaurant in Old

Town, Momo Sushi has only strengthened its popularity in the years since it opened several blocks off of King Street, near the water.

It’s a rare evening that doesn’t find Momo teeming with diners (and takeout orders), and one taste will show you why.

Gravitate toward the combination plates to maximize your sushi sampling. The “roll combination” — which allows diners to select from a maki combo, a spicy combo, or a veggie-roll combo — will give you an easy round-the-bar taste of several of Momo’s favorites. Go a step further and share an entrée with a compatriot with the “deluxe” sushi and sashimi combination — a feast of sushi and sashimi options at the discretion of the chef, alongside a spicy tuna roll.

So often at sushi bars, the non-sushi menu options are lacking in punch. Not so at Momo, where the yakisoba remains a favorite from year to year. Order it or its noodle kindred the udon, and you won’t be

disappointed.

Kyoto Japanese Restaurant, 3676 King St.

Two words reign supreme at Kyoto: Sushi boat. The sushi-laden monstrosity pulls into port with well more than two people can reasonably eat, but it’s absolutely worth the time (and the money). A generous offering of various rolls, teeming with fresh fish, it gives diners a veritable tour of Japan right from a wooden serving boat.

For those not quite so committed (or so hungry), the combinations for one are an excellent option, as is Kyoto’s a la carte selection. And don’t rule out the teriyaki and ramen selections, either — they’re always worth a second look (and another bite), especially while the weather stays cool.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

UCM Raffle Tickets. Ongoing, the United Community Ministries is raffling off a trip to Cancun at the ‘Give From the Heart’ Gala on May 6 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulaney St. \$175 admission, \$25 raffle ticket. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Convergence Arts Initiative. Through March 4, Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Highlights the artwork of students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams,

and St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School. Artists reception: Saturday, Feb. 11, 7-9 p.m. Email danabh@ourconvergence.org or call 703-998-6260 for more.

Ceramic Guild Show. Through March 5, 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, www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/ or call 703-548-6288 for more.

China Photography Exhibit. Through March 6, various hours at the Bisdorf Building, NVCC, 5000 Dawes Ave. “China in my Eyes” photography exhibit. Artists reception: Saturday, Feb. 11, noon. Visit www.nvcc.edu/alexandria/ or email JJZelloe@aol.com for more.

Mixed Media Exhibit. Through March 14, 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 for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery.

Through March 19 at 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 for more.

The Hand Print Workshop.

Through April 2, various times at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dennis O’Neil’s Hand Print Workshop exhibit features a wide representation of the prints created by these artists in his Alexandria studio, including some by William Christenberry and Renee Stout, as well as works by O’Neil himself. Opening Reception, Sunday,

Feb. 26, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking

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

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum’s

Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum’s collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria’s history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

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/ or call 703-768-3224 for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the

ENTERTAINMENT

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 for more

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 for more.

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.

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 or call 703-549-2997

Color Disorder Exhibit. Ongoing, Thursday through Sunday, noon-4 p.m., Sundays, noon-4 p.m. at the 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 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.

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.

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

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

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Under the Sea

Stephany Guadalupe stars as the evil Ursula, Christian Corpening as King Triton, Kyla Carney as Ariel, Audrey Shaw as Flotsam and Georgia Tritak as Jetsam in "The Little Mermaid," a series of performances starting Friday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. A musical from the SSSAS Cappies Award-winning Stage One Players. \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or call 703-212-2845 for more.

Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit 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 for more.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit 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.

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 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 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

CAMPS, CLASSES AND 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 for a schedule.

THURSDAY/MARCH 2

Childrens Jazz Band Concert. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery, NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu or call 703-425-5839 for more.

Alexandria GOP Committee Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road. Call 571-281-7042 for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 3

Children's Concert. 5-6 p.m. at Various hours at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Local musician, Achille, will be singing popular children's French songs. \$5. Email AlexandriaSisterCities@gmail.com or call 202-203-0177 for more.

Whisky and Wine. 7-10 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Alexandria Sister Cities Committee for Scottish Social of Scotch Whisky and Virginia Wines, includes a discussion and tasting instructions led by a Scotch whisky expert. \$45. Call 301-526-0873 or email roberthayjr@gmail.com for more.

"The Little Mermaid." 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. A musical from the SSSAS Cappies Award-winning Stage One Players. \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or call 703-212-2845 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

St. Patrick's Day Parade. Noon-2 p.m. starting at Alfred and King streets. Day includes classic car show, 9-11:45, 100 N. Pitt Street; dog show, 10:30-noon, Market Square; Pre-Parade, 12:15, featuring winners of the dog show. Call 703-823-1801 for more.

Watercolors in Workshops. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Botanical artist Dawn Flores discusses color, orchid anatomy, techniques and transfer practices to compose and paint watercolor orchids. \$88. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/ for more.

Parade Open House. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Open to all during the St. Patrick's Day parade. Free. Visit www.novaparks.com or call 703-549-2997 for more.

"The Little Mermaid." 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. A musical from the SSSAS Cappies Award-winning Stage One Players. \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or call 703-212-2845 for more.

Senior Services of Alexandria Gala. 6-10 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Entertainment by Brothers Plus One. Black tie optional. \$150 www.seniorservicesalex.org/.

Country-Western Dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a

paying adult \$5. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941 for more.

Hollywood Goes Choral IV. 7 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The Symphonic Chorus along with the Washington Symphonic Brass pay musical tribute to several films. \$40-\$15; Students with ID \$10; Children 4 and under free. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 703-642-3277 for more.

MARCH 4-APRIL 16

The Mercy Walk Tour. Saturdays and Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Tour starts at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. The Mercy Walk tour will give visitors and locals alike a feel for what it was like to live in an occupied city during the Civil War. \$13 adults; \$7 children; \$12 seniors Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com/themercywalk for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 5

The Provazak Youth String Quartet. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Part of the The "Bagels and Bach" Concert Series, light brunch included. \$10/Nonresident \$15, under 5, free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/arts for more.

Women's History Tour. 1-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Tour will highlight the many roles women played in tavern life—from women as tavern owners and enslaved workers to participants in events and as overnight guests. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern or call 703-746-4242.

Choral Evensong for Lent. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Will feature music by composers Ley, Walford Davies, Near, Batten, and Stanford. This is free to the public, with donations going to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry, helping those in need. A reception will follow the evensong. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or grant@stpaulsalexandria.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 7

Conversation with Marcus Johnson. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The conversation with Marcus Johnson will include a reading of passages from his new book "For the Love Of..." Visit www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory or call 703-746-4356 for more.

MARCH 8-25

Nutt and Bolt Performance. Various times at the The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Nutt and Bolt are two robots who live in a junkyard. \$9. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org/nutt-and-bolt-buy-tickets.html for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 9

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m. at Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Heidi Nam's "Netted: Morphological State of Our Urban Space," a nixed media and collage works art show, March 8-April 2. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780 for more.

Forty+ Movement and Theatre. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The program of works combines to a collective whole to traverse relationship, the inventiveness of situation, and the progression of life. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035 for more.

President In The Kitchen. 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Director of

ENTERTAINMENT

Lincoln's Cottage puts an apron just as Lincoln did when he helped Mary in their Springfield, Ill., kitchen. \$10. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994 for more.

Tree Lecture. 7:30-9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The George Washington Memorial Parkway All-taxa Biodiversity Inventory: Finding New Species near the Nation's Capital — A Talk by Brent Steury. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 10

2017 Women's Leadership Forum. 7:30-10 a.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. A morning of inspiration and education centered around the theme of shaping tomorrow's leaders. \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members. Email info@alexchamber.com or call 703-549-1000 for more.

Rosanne Cash Performs. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

MARCH 10-11

"The Little Mermaid." 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. A musical from the SSSAS Cappies Award-winning Stage One Players. \$5. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or call 703-212-2845 for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Great Woody Plants. 10-11:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturist Brenda Skarphol highlights flowering shrubs that grow well in Virginia home gardens. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901845501 or call 703-642-5173 for more.

Yoga for Veterans. 2-4 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St., Suite 100. VEToga's mission is to provide yoga, meditation, and healing arts to military, veterans, their families, and communities. Free to veterans, service personnel and their families. Donations welcome. Visit www.vetoga.org for more.

Her Story: Women in Action. 3-4:15 p.m. at the Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201. S. Washington St. Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and their accompanying adults will participate in hands-on activities and add their own future goals to a timeline of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low's story. \$6. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703.746.4994 for more.

Best Bib & Tucker Ball. 7-10 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Doc Scantlin's orchestra and the songstress Chou Chou will be providing the entertainment for the

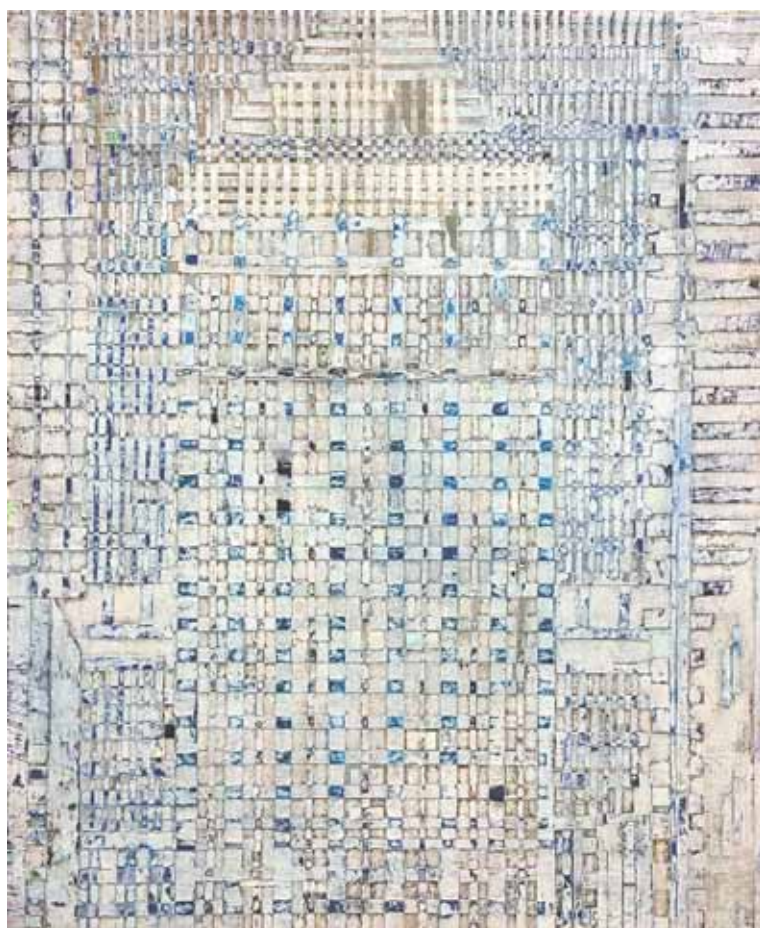


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'Soaked in Blue'

Heidi Nam's "Soaked in Blue" collage is part of her mixed media and collage works art show 6:30-8 p.m. at Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org

evening. \$150. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern or call 703-746-4242.

Laurie Anderson in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or www.laurieanderson.com/ for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

Glasshouses and Conservatories. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. A talk on the history of greenhouses and conservatories by Dean Norton, director of horticulture at George Washington's Mount Vernon. \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901822201 or call 703-642-5173 for more.

MARCH 12-13

An Evening With Colin Hay. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt.

Vernon Ave. \$39.50. Vocalist of 1980's group Men at Work. \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 15

Philadelphia Flower Show. 8 a.m.-8 p.m. leave from Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Highlights the wonders of Holland's innovative eco-design, modern urban greening and sustainability efforts. \$136/person includes motor coach and show admission. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 2901923601 or call 703-642-5173 for more.

Visit to Dyke Marsh. 8:30-11 a.m. at Belle Haven Park, 6401 George Washington Memorial Parkway. Dixie Sommers leads this walk to scope the waterfowl on the river and check out Haul Road for sparrows, kinglets, woodpeckers, and eagles. Sponsored by Northern Virginia Bird Club. Visit audubonva.org/ for more.

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McAuliffe Helps Open Veterans Services Office

Gov. Terry McAuliffe was on hand to open the new Virginia Department of Veterans Services Benefits office in Springfield on Feb. 22.

The new office is located at 6564 Loisdale Court and replaces the VDVS Alexandria office.

McAuliffe said one in 10 Virginians are veterans — the fastest-growing population of vets nationwide — and that it's his goal to make Virginia the most vet-friendly state in America. "It is our responsibility to give back to those who served our country," McAuliffe said in a statement. "From benefit and transition assistance to behavioral health care coordination services, this office truly aims to provide resources to our veterans every step of the way. I am proud to cut the ribbon on the 26th veterans benefits office in the Commonwealth and continue our commitment to making Virginia the best place on earth for veterans and their families to live."

McAuliffe was joined by leaders including Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).

In addition to the new office, Virginia is also planning to break ground on the 120-bed Puller Veterans Care Center in Fauquier County before the end of 2017. The Puller Center, named for former Virginia state Sen. Toddy Puller who represented the 36th district, will offer in-patient skilled nursing care, Alzheimer's/memory care and short-term rehabilitative care for veterans.

Other services offices are expected to open in Prince William and Loudoun Counties this spring, and another in Williamsburg in the summer.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK MOGLE

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Lorton House Fire Leaves Child Dead

Fire declared accidental, started in garage with a lighter.

A 5-year-old child is dead after a fire Feb. 21 in the 8100 block of Arcade Street in Lorton; the cause of the fire was the child playing with a lighter in the garage, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue said.

Firefighters responded to reports of a brush fire at that location around 5:08 p.m. The fire was upgraded to a house fire while they were on their way to the scene.

FCFR said two adults had evacuated the single-family home and told them the child was still in the garage.

Though firefighters were able to extinguish the fire quickly, the child was pronounced dead at the scene.

A retired Fairfax County Battalion Chief and an off-duty Fairfax County Fire Lieutenant, both neighbors of the residence, tried unsuccessfully to save the child and put out the fire themselves before rescue units arrived.

A joint, standard investigation was con-



COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

A 5-year-old child is dead after a fire Feb. 21 in the 8100 block of Arcade Street in Lorton; the cause of the fire was the child playing with a lighter in the garage, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue said.

ducted by the Fire Marshall's Office and the Fairfax County Police Department Criminal Investigations Bureau. Because the fire was determined to be accidental, caused by the inappropriate use of a lighter by the child, Fire and Rescue spokesperson Ashley Hildebrandt said the investigation is considered closed.

Another recent fire in Annandale was determined to have been started acciden-

tally by a 6-year-old playing with matches in their bedroom.

Hildebrandt said that while the two incidents don't constitute a trend, the department is increasing its safety messaging.

The Annandale release publicizes an educational program for known juvenile fire-starters. More information is available by calling 703-246-3801.

— TIM PETERSON

BULLETIN BOARD

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

DEADLINE IS MARCH 3

Local Scholarship. A \$1,250 scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors who are members of Good Shepherd Catholic church or St. Louis Catholic church. For those interested in nominating a high school senior for the award or if any senior is interested in applying for the award they should contact Al Johnson at alex.johnson@nationwide.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Prayer Vigil. 1:30 p.m. at Rising Hope Mission Church, 8220 Russell Road. In light of the recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) action in front of Rising Hope Mission Church, join together for a prayer vigil to show solidarity with and support for the immigrant and homeless communities. Call 703-360-1976 or visit risinghopeumc.org for more.

TUESDAY/MARCH 7

Friends of GSH Tour. Noon-1:30 p.m. at GSH Office, 8305 Richmond Highway, Suite 17B. Tour of by Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services. Visit www.goodhousing.org/ for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 9

Chamber Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Mount Vernon Lee Chamber Business Breakfast will

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 16

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Needlework Show Opens

FROM PAGE 1

Woodlawn was the home of Martha Washington's granddaughter Eleanor "Nelly" Custis Lewis, "a huge needleworker," in her own right, Meyer said.

This year at the 54th Needlework show, 396 pieces are on display from around the country, and there are daily demonstrations of various needlework techniques scheduled daily. They vary in style from the resurgent surface embroidery to silk ribbon, counted cross-stitch and gold work.

"Needlework has lasted, endured," Meyer said. "It's rewarding to see so many people still stitching."

Contestants for categories including original, adaptation and commercial have already been judged by a three-member expert panel.

But Nelly's Needler volunteer Sue Nellor of the City of Alexandria said, from top to bottom, the quality of the work on display "is just gorgeous."

Work from the original Nelly's own hands will be available to view in a behind-the-scenes Collections Closet tour on Mondays and Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m., and 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The Needlework Show & Sale runs all month at Woodlawn Plantation, located at 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. For more information, visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow.

— TIM PETERSON



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Contestants for categories including original, adaptation and commercial have already been judged by a three-member expert panel.

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Chantilly High School
Saturday, March 18
10 am to 12 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

Oakton High School
Saturday, March 18
1 pm to 3 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Linda Smyth and Oakton HS Marketing Department

- Internship opportunities
- Volunteer experiences
- and more!

West Springfield High School
Saturday, April 1
12 pm to 2 pm

Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

South County Secondary School
Saturday, April 29
11 am to 1 pm

Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County Secondary School

To register as an employer or student, or for more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm



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Republicans and Democrats Working Together

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

The 2017 General Assembly session is complete, and I'm proud that we were able to accomplish our top priority for the year, addressing the \$1.25 billion budget hole caused by a weaker than expected economy, in a bipar-

tisan and collaborative manner, starting with the governor's submitted budget. This was after passing nearly 1,800 laws mostly dealing with small legal items and a myriad of tweaks to the Virginia Code. After Governor McAuliffe proposed his initial budget, the House and the Senate each had their own proposed budget. We then had to

make the House and Senate budget identical through a process known as a "conference." Yet, there is some very good news for our state employees who will see more income through the budget. It includes important and frankly, overdue pay raises for teachers, college faculty and the Virginia Capitol and State Police. The agreement would give a 2

percent raise to teachers and college and university faculty and provides Virginia's share of an additional 1 percent raise for faculty at eight higher education institutions that did not give raises or bonuses last year, after a revenue shortfall forced the cancellation of a scheduled 3 percent raise for state employees and faculty last summer.

The pay increases for teachers, faculty and police come on top of the 3 percent raise that the House and Senate restored for state employees in our separate versions of the budget, which also would provide a nearly \$7,000 increase in starting salary for Virginia State Police and an equal pay hike for current troopers.

Under the current pay-system, we are spending our time and your tax money to train state police officers, who then leave Virginia to serve in other states that would pay them twice as much. The rest of the country benefits from our quality training and we struggle to retain good law enforcement personnel. Now, this budget should alter that calculus.

We also restore about \$17 million of the \$76 million in funding for higher education institutions that Gov. Terry McAuliffe's original proposed budget cut to address the revenue shortfall in the fiscal year that will begin July 1. Under the plan, no institution would lose more than 1.5 percent of its education and general funding.

We include money for a 2 percent raise for state-supported local employees, such as sheriff's deputies, money to ease salary

compression for deputies and state police that had been eliminated because of the revenue shortfall, and later restored by McAuliffe in his proposed budget. Salary compression is when pay for veteran employees does not keep pace with the salaries of more recent hires.

The House prevailed in restoring more than \$3 million of the nearly \$4 million that the governor had proposed — and the Senate had eliminated — to improve Virginia's problematic voter registration system and replace the federal election funds that are set to disappear.

The budget deal is a big win for affordable housing and includes \$5 million for supportive housing for people with serious mental illness, as well as \$100,000 to enable the State Board of Corrections to investigate suspicious deaths in regional and local jails. The compromise also includes an additional \$1.5 million for helping victims of domestic violence. The money would allow the state to receive an additional \$6 million in federal funds for the initiative.

Again, I am proud to have voted for this budget. The Virginia Constitution requires us to keep a balanced budget, and unfortunately, the shortfall of state revenues in 2016 forced us to make some tough decisions. However, the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats, the executive and legislative branches, worked very well together despite the fractured political environment to propose a fiscally responsible and reasonably progressive budget.

COMMENTARY

City of Alexandria FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

A summary of the City of Alexandria's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget is set out below. Notice is hereby given of a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the City of Alexandria. The hearing will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, on Monday, March 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Persons wishing to speak on the proposed budget may sign up prior to the public hearing by calling the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550. Presenters are requested to provide a copy of their text to the City Clerk and Clerk of Council. Persons with disabilities who wish to request an accommodation for this public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council at (703) 746-4550 (TTY/TDD (703) 838-5056) prior to March 13, 2017, if possible.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2018

	General Fund Proposed Fy 2018 (1)	All Funds Proposed Fy 2018 (2)	Fy 2018 Capital Improvements (3)
City Council	\$593,694	\$593,694	
City Manager	\$2,092,779	\$2,092,778	
City Attorney	\$2,932,644	\$2,932,644	
City Clerk And Clerk Of Council	\$486,777	\$486,777	\$200,000
18th Circuit Court	\$1,687,662	\$1,687,662	
18th General District Court	\$147,191	\$147,191	\$60,00
Clerk Of The Circuit Court	\$1,713,984	\$1,778,984	
Commonwealth's Attorney	\$3,156,702	\$3,524,147	
Court Service Unit	\$1,581,527	\$1,707,516	
Juvenile And Domestic Relations Court	\$79,446	\$79,446	
Other Criminal And Justice Services	\$3,744,360	\$3,928,537	
Registrar Of Voters	\$1,202,289	\$1,202,289	
Sheriff	\$30,528,371	\$31,279,921	
Finance	\$13,267,569	\$14,055,516	\$145,000
General Services	\$14,306,413	\$14,626,913	\$26,761,451
Human Rights	\$832,502	\$872,555	
Information Technology Services	\$10,586,447	\$10,984,691	\$8,948,240
Internal Audit	\$421,642	\$421,642	
Management And Budget	\$1,277,459	\$1,277,459	\$753,558
Non-departmental - Debt Service	\$41,671,127	\$41,671,127	
Non-departmental - Contingent Reserve	\$747,981	\$747,981	
Non-departmental - Insurance, Memberships, Other	\$9,338,531	\$10,338,531	
Human Resources	\$3,709,947	\$3,709,947	
Communications & Public Information	\$1,434,573	\$1,434,573	\$550,000
Performance And Accountability	\$522,090	\$522,090	
Fire	\$52,278,661	\$54,074,424	\$1,664,400
Code Administration	\$24,000	\$7,607,698	
Emergency Communications	\$7,788,326	\$7,924,083	\$1,700,000
Police	\$62,517,186	\$64,847,869	
Health	\$6,872,216	\$6,872,216	
Community And Human Services	\$51,589,791	\$93,507,329	\$25,000
Other Health Activities	\$1,764,347	\$1,764,347	
Housing	\$2,644,313	\$4,122,179	
Economic Development Activities	\$5,436,986	\$5,436,986	
Project Implementation	\$1,842,548	\$3,159,555	\$8,645,000
Planning And Zoning	\$5,608,303	\$6,149,571	\$150,000
Historic Alexandria	\$3,048,786	\$3,961,063	\$100,000
Library	\$6,861,651	\$7,513,290	\$102,000
Recreation, Parks And Cultural Activities	\$21,905,104	\$24,286,949	\$11,756,500
Transit Subsidies	\$26,886,806	\$37,165,806	
Transportation And Environmental Services	\$38,035,303	\$54,268,420	\$69,704,255
Other Educational Activities	\$12,277	\$12,277	
Schools	\$242,592,022	\$312,231,568	\$19,000,000
Cash Capital	\$26,699,296	\$26,699,296	
Grand Total	\$712,471,629	\$873,709,538	\$150,256,40

Any person desiring to review the proposed budget may visit the City's website (alexandriava.gov/budget) or visit City Hall, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3400, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays), 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PROPERTY TAXES

The proposed budget includes an increase of \$0.027 cents in the real property tax rate from \$1.073 cents to \$1.100 per \$100 of assessed valuation based upon an assessment ratio of 100% fair market value. It should be noted that City Council will set the maximum tax rate to be advertised at its March 14, 2017, meeting at 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers and that Council may not adopt a rate that exceeds this tax rate, but may adopt an equal or lesser tax rate. The proposed budget includes no change in the current motor vehicle personal property tax rate of \$5.00 per \$100 of assessed value. All other personal property tax rates, including vehicles specially equipped to transport persons with disabilities, which are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$3.55 per \$100 of assessed value; Business tangible property, including office furniture, fixtures, computers and uncensed vehicles are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value and machinery and tools are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$4.50 per \$100 of assessed value; Privately owned boats and water craft that are used for recreational purposes only are proposed to be taxed at the present rate of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, are unchanged. The amount of real estate tax rate dedicated for affordable housing and to support existing debt service related to affordable housing is 0.6 cents.

BUSINESS NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

Spring Hills Mount Vernon Assisted Living has been selected for the third time as a "Caring Star" of 2017 for service excellence in assisted living and memory care. In ratings and reviews from family caregivers and cognitively healthy older adults, Spring Hills Mt. Vernon, a Spring Hills Senior Communities community, earned a 5-star consumer rating (the highest possible score) within the last year.

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 14

feature a presentation from VDOT on widening Richmond Highway from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. The environmental assessment will include a recommendation for placement of the highway centerline and an economic impact study on businesses. \$25 per person for Chamber members and \$35 for non-

Chamber. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

Huntington Levee System. 6:30 p.m., at the Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Hear about progress being made toward protecting the Huntington community from floodwaters. Call 703-324-5800, or email huntingtonlevee@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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21 Announcements

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Notice is hereby given that TD Bank, N.A., 2035 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, has applied to the Office of Comptroller of the Currency on or about February 23 2017, as specified in 12 C.F.R. §5 for permission to establish a new branch to be located at 6566 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria, County of Fairfax, State of Virginia, 22312. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing to

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nothing too big to attempt.**
-William Van Horne

Obituary

Cockey, John Grafton

September 18, 1942 – January 18, 2017. John passed away unexpectedly at his home in Springfield, VA. John is the son of Grafton Lynch Cockey and Dorothy Ewald Cockey and was a lifelong resident of Alexandria and Springfield, Virginia. John was a graduate of Greensboro College and earned a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Vanderbilt University. John was a teacher at T. C. Williams High School before becoming an administrator at Lee High School and Lake Braddock Secondary School in Fairfax County. In addition to his 30 year career in education, John was an active supporter of youth league baseball and made numerous friends and impacted lives through his involvement in the community. John is survived by his brother, Gary Lee Cockey along with Gary's wife Julia and their two daughters, Laurel and Rachel, and his cousins Patricia Cockey Young, Martha Cockey Webb and Preston Cockey. John was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church all his life. A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held 11 a.m. on Friday, March 3 at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Rd in Alexandria, VA. Graveside service at the family cemetery and reception to follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be sent to The Discovery Eye Foundation, 8635 W. 3rd Street Suite 390w, Los Angeles, CA 90048 (www.discoveryeye.org).

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 17-02-06**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for Roof Replacement Phase III at George Washington Middle School.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB # 17-02-06, Roof Replacement Phase III at George Washington Middle School will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, Friday March 24, 2017. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., March 20, 2017. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

A pre-bid conference/site visit will be held on March 15, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the address listed above.

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

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

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
Senior Buyer

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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OPINION

Hitting the Road

Looking back on 2017 General Assembly Session.

By ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

Just as the frenetic pace of Session seemed to ebb, the activity picked up in the final week with a hustle and bustle of a different sort.

No longer is Senator Surovell (D-Mount Vernon) carrying his six-inch binder with scores of bills from committee to committee, stacks of bills replaced with piles of

COMMENTARY cardboard boxes stacked neatly next to gradually emptier offices. Gone are the days of Senator Petersen (D-Fairfax City) telling members of the Senate that, in no uncertain terms, they were not to send legislative aides to play in the annual Senate/House basketball game unless they were talented athletes. The pages still moved briskly throughout the General Assembly Building (GAB) not to deliver interoffice memoranda, but to collect mugs, office supplies and memorabilia for a “Garage Sale” to benefit the Central Virginia Food Bank.

With cars parked on the sidewalk loading up for the trip to home districts, legislators and aides stood huddled together at the entrance to the GAB for final group photos. And, as my office now sits empty, 14 years of legislative sessions somehow packed into just 11 cardboard boxes, we are preparing for the move to the Pocahontas Building — the temporary new home of the General Assembly, while the GAB is torn down and a new one is built to replace it. No tears were shed in the Senate for the GAB with its constant heating and air conditioning issues, water pipe breaks, asbestos, crumbling facades, and subcommittee rooms too small to accommodate all the members of the public — some of whom drive in for hours to testify or listen in on important hearings.

Like the end of a college semester, while tours of the Pocahontas building were taking place, Delegates and staffers (but not senators!) graffitied a wall or two of the soon to be demolished GAB. The perennial prank of making the Lieutenant Governor’s gavel “disappear” by hiding it inside a Freshman senator’s desk was upstaged when a senator actually left his handgun on a committee room chair!

Looking back, we have considered 3,201 bills — 35 of which I introduced — received over 2,600 constituent emails, and fielded hundreds of letters and phone calls, and visits to the office in just 46 days. I am lucky to represent such an engaged constituency and to have been assisted by my 2017 Richmond staff including my legislative aide Chris Leyen; my session aide, Kirsten Schlegel, a Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) alumna and Clinton campaign

organizer; my intern, Colton Powell, a University of Richmond sophomore and back office rock star; Austin Walker of VCU who assisted with media and communications; and a wonderful new addition this year, my administrative assistant, Sophia Stephens.



After the session ended last Saturday, my office kept working on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday to respond to constituent emails. Governor McAuliffe’s office continues to be abuzz with activity: reviewing, signing and vetoing legislation. Among these bills are my multi-year efforts to remove mandatory driver’s license suspensions for marijuana possession (SB1091) and to research and invest in energy storage (SB1258); and a new bill I introduced to make it easier for restaurants to navigate the Alcoholic Beverage Control licensure process (SB1382). As the senator representing Mount Vernon, it was my pleasure, and a fun break from more serious legislation, to pass a bill designating George Washington’s Rye Whiskey as the official spirit of the Commonwealth (SB1261).

Governor McAuliffe’s veto pen is slated to get a workout this year. Notable vetoes that have taken place, or are promised, include: bills that invoke the spectre of election fraud to investigate voters (SB1105); legislation to defund Planned Parenthood (HB2264) services, bills that require reports on the location and ethnicity of resettled refugees (HB2002), create unfunded mandates requiring local sheriffs to enforce federal immigration law (HB1791); and that ban sanctuary cities (HB2000). He also vetoed ineffective coal tax credits (HB2198) in favor of legislation that expands solar (SB1393, SB1258) — reflecting Virginia’s status that earned it top marks for private-sector clean energy procurement.

As we transition from the legislative season to the campaign season and the 2017 elections for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General draw closer, and hundreds of hopefuls run for seats in the House of Delegates, lots of constituents want to know the best ways to mobilize at the state, local, and federal level against harmful policies adopted by the Trump administration. I encourage you to stay active, stay involved, and carry that passion to the polls. First and foremost, I would encourage you to join your local Democratic committee. There are active organizations in Arlington, Alexandria, and the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts of Fairfax.

If you would like to get more involved on the policy side, I encourage you to research and support the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) or Progress VA, advocate for nonpartisan redistricting with One Virginia 2021, support the LGBT community with Equality VA, defend animals with the Humane Society, and protect the environment by joining your local Sierra Club chapter. These are just some of the many progressive organizations out there.

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Jack Taylor's

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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CHRIS WHITE

Planning to sell in 2017?

Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!

*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!!***



8401 Fort Hunt Rd.

Fabulous Waynewood!

Spacious Home with many significant updates in premier Waynewood location. Numerous special features include: 4 BR's including expanded Master Suite with luxury bath, home freshly painted throughout and newly finished hardwood floors, true oversize side load two car garage. Expansive custom deck overlooks fenced rear yard. Great opportunity!



4301 Adrienne Dr.

Southwood Gem!

Fabulous customized home in prime Southwood location just off the GW Parkway. Stunning family room with dramatic cathedral ceiling and floor

to ceiling stone fireplace. Other features include: updated custom kitchen, hardwood floors, updated baths & oversize 2 car garage. Gorgeous grounds include, stone patio & large fenced back yard.



1604 Baltimore Rd.

\$899,000

Unique Opportunity in Waynewood School area! Best price new construction in Ft. Hunt area! Total renovation and addition totaling

approximately 3,500 sq ft of top quality construction. Features include: stunning open floor plan, high ceilings, 4/5 BR's, 3.5 Baths, luxury master suite, amazing chef's kitchen and two car garage. Patio & large fenced rear yard. Can't be duplicated close to this price! Super Value!



9504 Lynnhall Pl.

\$1,099,000

Prime location near river in prestigious Oxford. Home was crafted with the finest materials & workman-

ship resulting in true custom masterpiece. Features include: High ceilings, glass window walls, exquisite trim work, open floor plan, two story family room with stone fireplace, library on main level with full bath attached would make excellent master, oversize 2 car garage, fenced grounds with custom pool, decks



4601 Cornwallis Ct.

\$475,000

VALUE!

Unique opportunity!

Three level home with rare detached two car garage for under \$500k! Home is in excellent, move in condition. Oversize two car garage has huge second level which creates many potential uses. Prime location on level half acre corner lot. Combination of features that can't be duplicated at this price!



8417 Plymouth Rd.

\$1,399,000

New Build!!

New Melson II model on half acre lot in Plymouth Haven. 3525 square feet on

two main levels plus fully finished basement and 2 or 3 car garage. Open floor plan, high ceilings, upgrades throughout. Finished recreation room & bathroom in Basement. Pre-construction contract offers maximum opportunity to customize! \$10,000 towards closing costs! (Using approved lender)



5427 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$899,000

Stunning 5,686 sq ft Colonial featuring dramatic open floor plan, large room sizes,

soaring high ceilings, and modern amenities typically found in \$1 Mil+ properties. Features include: 3 Fin levels, walk out lower level, 5BR's, 4.5BA's, Chef's kitchen, upgraded trim, hardwood floors, & 2 car garage. Custom deck and brick patio capitalize on gorgeous fenced grounds backing to park.



9027 Mcnair Dr.

\$585,000

Fabulous Home!

Spacious grounds and updated home in pristine condition on half acre lot. Features include: open floor plan, updated

kitchen, hardwood floors, thermal windows, fireplace, custom screened porch with cathedral ceiling overlooks private rear grounds. Surrounded by Country Club grounds and beautiful 75 acre Grist Mill Park!



4221 Dandridge Terr

\$598,500

Beautifully Updated!

Priced to sell - fabulously updated home in Southwood, one of the area's premier communities. Features include: 4 BR's, 2.5 updated baths, stunning Chef's kitchen open to family room with stone fireplace, hardwood floors, and side load 2 car garage, custom deck overlooks fenced rear yard. Nothing like it for under \$600,000!



9419 Mt. Vernon Cir
\$998,500

One time opportunity to acquire true estate caliber property in Mt Vernon on the Potomac- the only community in the area with a

private marina for the exclusive use of its' residents. Imposing residence with many custom touches including open foyer with double curved stairway, custom white brick exterior, high ceilings and spacious room sizes. Columned veranda overlooks pool.



9314 Craig Ave.

\$635,000

Pristine Condition!

Truly exquisite property! Spacious 5 Bedroom home on gorgeous, fenced level lot in premier location.

Numerous features include: Bright open floor plan, Hardwood floors, gas cooking/heat/hot water, thermal windows, and garage. Large deck overlooks spacious grounds. Property is in pristine "move in" condition!



9221 Patton Blvd.
\$795,000

Custom Build!

True custom home with bright open floor plan and Potomac views on half acre lot in premier water access community. Stunning Master suite on main level! Other features include: 5 Bedrooms, 4.5 Baths, Chef's kitchen w/ granite counters, Gas cook top, wood floors, large deck and oversize 2 car Garage. Truly amazing value!



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