

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 27, 2017



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Fort Belvoir Garrison Command partnered to clean up trash from around the Jeff Todd Way and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway intersection on April 22.

Cleaning Up Jeff Todd Way

Volunteers from Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber and Fort Belvoir.

Volunteers from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and Fort Belvoir Garrison Command partnered to brave chilly, drizzly weather and clean up trash from around the Jeff Todd Way and Mount Vernon Memorial Highway intersection on April 22. Representatives from the Navy Federal Credit Union and The Cleaning Authority, including some of their children, assisted with the cleanup.

After a welcome from Chamber Vice President Sonja Caison and Fort Belvoir Col. Christopher Tomlinson, volunteers picked up more than 20 bags of trash from around the roadway.

— TIM PETERSON



Representatives from the Navy Federal Credit Union and The Cleaning Authority, including some of their children, assisted with the cleanup.

Board Approves Budget Mark-Up

Final adoption of the county budget takes place on May 2.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

By an 8-2 vote, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted on Tuesday, April 25, to approve the FY 2018 Budget Mark-up. Although the formal adoption of next year's budget won't take place until May 2, historically the board does not make changes to the package after the mark-up is held.

"I'm pleased that the majority of my colleagues were able to support a budget package that preserves vital county and school programming," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who chaired the Budget Committee. For the record, McKay read the county's Third Quarter FY 2017 Review, the Mark-Up recommendations, the board's Budget Guidance for FY 2018 and FY 2019, and the FY 2018 – FY 2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) before the

supervisors discussed each portion of the budget process and cast their votes.

The final draft is a balanced budget. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said that while it does not provide for "real tax relief," the budget still represents a "victory for taxpayers" since it holds the property tax rate at the current level of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value, although some homeowners will see a slight increase (0.7 percent for the average taxpayer) due to increases in property values.

THE AMENDMENTS to the FY 2018 Advertised Budget that was originally presented by County Executive Ed Long on Feb. 14, restored funding to several human services programs that had been shifted to the "unfunded for 2018" column, including the Insight

SEE BUDGET VOTE, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova and Budget Committee Chair Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

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Belle Haven \$1,195,000

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Seeds of Change

Volunteer Fairfax honors service award-winners at 25th annual ceremony.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Volunteer Fairfax marked an historic 25th annual Service Awards ceremony April 21 with 193 individual and group nominations. Nominees and award-winners were recognized at a morning event held at the Waterford at Springfield for their hundreds of hours volunteering.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said the trick of putting people who want to help into action is harnessing them in a given direction. "That is the work of Volunteer Fairfax," Bulova said.

Bulova read a proclamation from the supervisors declaring April 21, 2017 an official day to recognize all volunteers around Fairfax County.

"Each one of our 2017 nominees has strengthened the community with their selfless service and we honor them today," Volunteer Fairfax CEO Elise Neil Bengtson said in a statement. "May their service inspire others to join the network of strong community roots."

Senior, family youth and group volunteers were recognized, as well as Community Champions selected by each magisterial district supervisor.

Volunteers from the Friends Groups of Huntley — Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Historic Huntley — won a handful of awards at the event.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) called the park "the crown jewel in the county," and that the care and vitality of the park couldn't happen without the volunteers.

"It's great to see them recognized and awarded," McKay said. "The natural environment is great for people — it's serene, peaceful."

Springfield resident Marie Monsen won the Volunteer Fairfax Lifetime Achievement award.



Fairfax County supervisors and their 2017 Community Champions posed together after being announced at the 25th annual Volunteer Fairfax Service awards on April 21.

Monsen co-founded the Interfaith Communities for Dialogue after September 11, 2001 and for years has volunteered with the Annandale Christian Community for Action.

Along with Rebuilding Together, they help low-income homeowners in the Annandale, Lincolnia, Bailey's Crossroads and Culmore areas of Fairfax County.

Monsen said giving back was just something she learned from the good values of her Scandinavian immigrant parents, being a child of the 1960s, as well as her faith.

She said she was attracted to the diversity in Fairfax County, and appreciates its tradition of government agencies working together with people.

"We have an opportunity to model," Monsen said.

Monsen added it was exhilarating to "see so many people doing so many things."

For more information, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.



From left, Chairman Sharon Bulova presents the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Adult Volunteer Group to Carolyn Gamble and Cathy Ledec of the Friends Groups of Huntley — Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Historic Huntley.



Right, Denise Mackie-Smith wins the RSVP Northern Virginia award at the Volunteer Fairfax Service Awards. "Dee" has volunteered with New Hope Housing helping shelter clients search for employment, as part of the development team and with the Giving Hope Tours.



Center, Karla Jamir receives the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Fairfax County Government Volunteer from Chairman Sharon Bulova (right) and Supervisor Jeff McKay (left). Jamir began volunteering with Huntley Meadows in 1995, where she currently serves as Herbarium Coordinator.



Members of the Stony Brook Junior Volunteers receive the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Youth Volunteer Group. The young volunteers benefit the community of Stony Brook in Alexandria, as well as the Buckman Road corridor, by organizing stream clean-ups, community beautification activities and distributing flyers and information to residents.



Center, Shannon Dart receives the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Rising Star from (left) Chairman Sharon Bulova and (right) Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee). Dart has volunteered at Huntley Meadows park at the front desk as well as amphibian specialist and frog call surveyor.

Determination at Parkway Classic Over 5,000 runners participate.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE

Jamie Watts will be pleased when she sees her time for the 33rd annual George Washington Parkway Classic. She cut her time down to six hours and 20 minutes, covering the 10 miles with the kind of dedication she shows in the rest of her life. Alexandria residents cheered her on as she closed in on the end of the race in Old Town. Donald Trilling, the oldest participant in the race, will be pleased he once again came in just short of last. His time was four hours and 51 minutes, which is not bad for 89.



Arlington resident Meredith Klinger was running her first GW Parkway Classic. She started running this year, for the first time in her life to shed weight. Walking off the pounds at first, she realized she could get her exercise over with faster if she ran. Sixty pounds later, she ran the race in just over two hours.



Chris Petrock of Alexandria won first place in the 45-49 age group, running the race in just 1:01.



Donald Trilling and his two friends, Thai Phi Le, from Arlington, and Eileen Gaughran, from Alexandria, is running his 30th consecutive George Washington Parkway Classic, at age 89. He is given race number "one" every year to honor his long record of consecutive runs in this race.

The GW Parkway race again proved to be an inspiring race on Saturday, April 23. Four thousand four hundred and eighty-one runners ran 10 miles. Another 1,318 runners ran the 5K race. As they did last year, Pacers Running Shops handled logistics, busing runners into the start and back to their parking lots, with Two Men and a Truck

shuttling belongings, Starbucks offering coffee, the National Park Service taking pictures of participants, bands entertaining, Port City Brewing handing out beers, and local residents, volunteers, and security officials providing a friendly buffer along the parkway.

Once again, running groups raising

money for veterans, neighbors in need, and breast cancer were there, getting shout-outs on the public address system.

Meredith Klinger, who was running her first GW Parkway race, and who began to run for the first time in her life this year, finished in just over two hours with a 12:05 mile.



Alan Nguyen, a civilian employee at the Department of Defense, and Mary-Elizabeth Pratt, a veteran of the Coast Guard, ran carrying the American flag to support veterans.



Jay Wind (left) of Arlington won the men's 65-69 race with a time of 1:23:69, after competing in the Boston Marathon only six days ago. At 67 years old, as soon as the race ended, Wind was already handing out flyers for the upcoming benefit 5K "The Mercy Run" to be held in Falls Church next weekend. Mary Fredlake (right), from Washington, D.C. won first place in the women's division 65-69 years, running the race in just 1:31:31. She ran a 9:09 minute mile.



Jamie Watts, of Arlington, has run the GW Parkway Classic three times. She started at 4 a.m. and thinks she did a little faster than her previous time of six and a half hours. Watts has done over 109 races. She has cerebral palsy and walks with canes. Watts was born prematurely in a small town in Missouri, where the medical team did not have the resources to help her: still, she says, "I wouldn't trade my life for another: you either make the most of a handicap, or you don't. I work for Bender Associates and help people with handicaps get jobs."



Alexandria resident Donna Oliver holds a sign up for runners, pouring on the good cheer runners need at that point in the race.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/GAZETTE PACKET



Bryant art teacher Rachel Albert with students working on the mosaic.

Creating a Mosaic at Bryant

Bryant Alternative High School is partnering with local mosaic artist Ali Mirsky to create a large-scale mosaic on one of the concrete walls surrounding the school. Students in art classes are using colored glass and hand made ceramic pieces to create the 32'x12' mosaic. The design was inspired by a conversation that the artist had with students. They discussed the many journeys that Bryant students take and how detours and different directions can lead to new opportunities. The colorful, abstract design consists of shapes and lines featur-

ing a series of circles as focal points of the lines of departure.

To raise money for the project, the school has been accepting donations from teachers, staff, students and others in the community. Anyone who donates \$100 or more will have a special tile created in their honor to be incorporated in the design. The project is currently underway with completion anticipated at the end of May. To make a contribution to the project or see updates visit <https://www.gofundme.com/BryantMural>.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE FOR CINCO DE MAYO

Free Sober Rides. Friday, May 5, 7 p.m. through Saturday, May 6, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe

ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

APRIL

Coffee for Campers. April is the Month of the Military Child, and to honor our nation's littlest heroes, the National Military Family Association is asking if you'll give up your coffee shop coffee and donate that extra \$5 a day to send a military kid to Operation Purple Camp. Visit www.militaryfamily.org/get-involved/donate/coffee-for-campers.html to learn more.

DEADLINE FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber Scholarships. At least \$12,000 will be awarded to local graduating seniors pursuing further education in business. Students may apply online at www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/scholarship-application or call 703-360-6925 to request an application.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Franconia District Station, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb or email wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Teen Job Fair. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3

Route 1 Development Discussion. 9-10:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. A Realtor Town Hall Meeting with Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck to discuss the future development along the Richmond Highway (Route 1) Corridor. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 10

South Flow Alliance. 7-9:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, Lecture Hall, 2500 Parkers Lane. South Flow Alliance Community Action Meeting. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ for more.



U.S. NAVY PHOTO/ALYSSA WEEKS/RELEASED

General Quarters Drill

Lt. Jennifer Jones of Alexandria, searches for contacts aboard the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Donald Cook (DDG 75) during a general quarters drill. Donald Cook is forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, conducting naval operations in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations in support of U.S. national security interests in Europe and Africa. Jones graduated from the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and grew up in the Stratford Landing community in Mount Vernon.

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Wessynton \$634,900
3114 Cunningham Drive
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 hwd flrs, gas FPL and plenty of storage.

Backing to woods for privacy & serenity. Wessynton offers a pool, tennis courts, basketball court and water access with its own boat launch.

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Wessynton \$659,900
3301 Wessynton Way
Beautiful Contemporary Home on one of Wessynton's premiere wooded lots, backing to over 10 acres of pristine forest, teeming w/wildlife & spectacular views. Large kit w/breakfast area, separate dining rm, beautiful hwd flrs. Liv & Din rms w/fireplace, wall of windows brings outdoors inside - Garage & Deck -Community boat ramp, swimming pool, & walking trails. Minutes to Old Town (N) and Ft. Belvoir (S).

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Riverside Estates \$579,900
8324 Blowing Rock Road
Beautiful and meticulously maintained 3 level Colonial on a quiet and private cul-de-sac. Numerous updates include: roof, furnace, A/C, HWH, windows and refinished hwd floors. Also kitchen and baths. Spacious 1 car garage w/double width driveway. Lovely 3 season sun room overlooks a spectacular backyard and deck. Lower level offers a huge recreation room, utility room, and storage room. This is a Gem!!!

OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Kings Landing \$579,900
3512 Wood Pile Court
Everyone's Dream! - A beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial nestled on a private, cozy cul-de-sac. 3 finished levels - tons of storage, 6 panel doors & double pane windows plus a large 2 car garage. Stunning kitchen & baths w/beautiful granite counters. Interior family room w/fireplace off kitchen & breakfast area w/SGDs to a large deck overlooking a wonderful backyard. Great, Great Value!

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Riverside Estates \$568,500
3020 Battersea Lane
Must see this immaculate & pristine 5BR, 3BA Split w/garage & 2 level addition. Totally upgraded & meticulously maintained: roof, windows, kitchen, all 3 baths, flooring, furnace, A/C, HWH etc,etc...Upper & lower level sun rooms & beautiful multi-tiered decks & patio overlook spectacular yard w/sprinkler system, perfect for entertaining. Nothing like it in Mt. Vernon. This is a 10!

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Riverside Estates \$584,900
3129 Battersea Lane
Stunning 4BR, 3BA Split on a beautiful corner lot. Updated eat-in kit w/granite & SS appliances. Kit opens to a spectacular screened-in porch, perfect for entertaining. Lower lvl has Fam rm w/FPL & 4th BR. Beautiful hwd flrs, crown molding, & built-in bookcases. Totally organized garage plus dazzling paver driveway. Lawn sprinkler system, updated HVAC, dbl pane windows, solar tubes, & baths. It doesn't get much better than this! 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 28 mins to Ntl Airport, 33 mins to Pentagon.

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Grist Mill Woods \$938,000
5414 Grist Mill Woods Way
Spectacular 5BR, 4 1/2 BA Colonial home in Mt. Vernon on .5 acre, built 2001. 2 car garage. Gorgeous backyard w/sparkling swimming pool & beautiful landscaping. Dramatic grand foyer. Large gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinets, stainless steel, gas cook top island. Large breakfast room. Modern serving pantry. Formal Dining & Living Rooms. 2-story Family Room w/gas fireplace. Main level library. Architectural detailing. Front & rear staircase. Tray ceilings. Luxurious owner's suite w/sitting room, walk-in closets, & deluxe Bath. Finished lower level w/huge Rec Room & bonus rooms. It is superb!



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Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



Helping Immigrants

Advice about DACA, green cards, work permits and more.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

The Just Neighbors office on Columbia Pike in Falls Church is bustling. The phone rings with an immigrant inquiry on how to get a green card or apply for a work permit. Phone volunteers ask an initial set of questions. An initial triage of clients for the interview process determines if this is the kind of case Just Neighbors handles, do they have the capacity or does it need to be referred out. Erin McKenney, executive director of Just Neighbors, says they handled 650-700 clients last year and turned away 1,000 due to lack of capacity.

A Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) client (sometimes referred to as dreamers) has come into the office to apply for citizenship for the first time.

“We have just started taking applications again,” McKenney said. “We were only processing two-year renewals but stopped taking new applications right after the election because we thought there was a good possibility the Administration would vacate Obama’s order on dreamers.”

She says today they have five or six new DACA cases scheduled and will have five more later in the week, now a routine pattern.

Sarah Milad, one of the three staff immigration attorneys, has just interviewed a DACA renewal client. “It’s a great story. He is on his third renewal and about to become married to a U.S. citizen. His mother was here with him today; she was so happy. It will be a normalized status soon.”

Maria Maldonado, a volunteer attorney, is photocopying the thick stack of paperwork submitted by a DACA client. McKenney says in the initial screening meetings volunteers collect a wide variety of demographic information on ethnicity, source of income, family composition, plus copies of passports and other official documents and any information such as interactions with police.

Right now “we are taking only squeaky clean clients because anything, even a minor offense, adds an element of risk,” McKenney said.

In the initial meeting Just Neighbors collects \$100 as a legal fee to cover all future court costs. “For a domestic abuse victim it could be 13 court filings. These can be long, complicated cases. And if they don’t have the money, we waive the fees.”

The next step is attorney review of all of the materials to determine if there is any legal pathway to citizenship for the immigrant. “We won’t file unless we’re pretty sure they will get through because it just puts them at more risk since that information would be out there on their illegal status,” she said. “We tell them don’t give your money to anyone else who tells you that you do have a pathway because there are a lot of unscrupulous people out there who



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

Volunteer hours at Just Neighbors in 2016 were valued at \$400,000, almost equaling the entire Just Neighbors budget. Just Neighbors provides services to immigrants with a legal pathway to citizenship. They have served over 10,000 clients from 130 countries over the last 20 years.

Erin McKenney, executive director of Just Neighbors, says in recent months the phones have been ringing off the hook with people volunteering time and money and wanting to sponsor families.



will just take your money. On the other hand we just did a grant to do screening because it was estimated that 10 percent of undocumented probably had a pathway to citizenship but didn’t have the knowledge or money to apply.”

After any required medical check-ups, police reports or other documents have been submitted, the case is sent in to USCIS. “In a good case it may take six to eight weeks,” McKenney said, “it takes about two years to get provisional approval which allows you to get a work permit. Then it takes another two years or longer to get the U visa. Legal status takes four to six more years.”

A DACA applicant on his second renewal says Just Neighbors made this a streamlined, smooth application process for him: “They told me what I needed to bring, helped fill out all of the forms and sent in all documents.” He continued that the entire process would be very complicated and “I’d probably not do something correct. There are a lot of people out there who don’t know.” He says he has been in America since he was 7 years old. “I grew up here. I consider this my country. If the DACA order is repealed and I had to return to Peru, I don’t know what I would do over there. I’m not

Sarah Milad, a staff immigration attorney at Just Neighbors, is working with a client on his third DACA renewal. She says he has a happy story, is about to be married and normalize his status soon.



familiar with the culture. I would be lost for a while.”

McKenney said, “We have had a rush of volunteers recently, and the phones are ringing off the hook. I probably get five new volunteers a week.” The organization’s volunteer coordinator sits at a long table working on scheduling and organizing volunteer activities. Behind her a volunteer sits translating a client’s story from Spanish into English to add to his stack of papers.

“We always try to have one Spanish-speaking person available to answer the phones,” McKenney said. “We had 154 volunteers last year; a number of them are attorneys who are retired and were not originally immigration lawyers. Immigration law competes only with tax law in its complexity.” McKenney adds that some of the volunteers work once a month and others may work 8-15 hours a week.

Lisa Trangsrud has been volunteering for Just Neighbors for at least 10 years “since we were in a church basement.” She says

Contact

JUST NEIGHBORS MINISTRY INC.

Main Office:
5827 Columbia Pike #320, Falls Church
703-979-1240
Herndon Office
1141 Elden Street, Suite 200
Herndon

she started out interviewing clients but now “I’m not a typical volunteer anymore.” Trangsrud serves as treasurer on the Just Neighbors Board of Directors. She says she first got interested because she had taught in a school with a large immigrant population “and I had an investment.”

On the other side it’s a bad time because of fear. “We have happy, sad and angry — all kinds of stories,” Trangsrud said.

McKenney adds that immigrants don’t show up in their usual places because they are afraid, even if they are citizens, because they think ICE will arrest them. She explains there is also a fear of separation. Children are afraid they will come home and their parents will be gone. McKenney explains that the attorneys talk to the families about separation and preparation planning so if they are deported someone has the power of attorney for the children’s future.

In addition, Just Neighbors holds education sessions titled “Know Your Rights.” There has been much demand for these sessions, and they have trained 50 volunteers who can organize and present this information on what is required if a person is stopped by a law enforcement officer. “We’ve been giving these sessions all over the local area,” she said.

Just Neighbors is a non-profit organization providing legal services to low-income immigrants in Northern Virginia focusing on humanitarian cases. The breakdown of services is 18 percent of the cases for DACA, 25 percent for victims of domestic violence, 6 percent employment authorization, 22 percent advice and counsel and 29 percent for refugees and asylees. Fifty-eight percent of their clients live in Fairfax with 16 percent in Arlington and others in Alexandria, Prince William and Loudoun.

“We have happy, sad and angry — all kinds of stories.”

— Lisa Trangsrud



Just Neighbors is funded by contributions from government grants and foundations, faith communities and businesses,

individuals and client fees. “We are currently trying to raise \$50,000 for another lawyer — we’re at \$40,000 right now,” McKenney said. But she adds that volunteer hours last year were valued at \$400,000 almost equaling the entire budget of \$439,947.

McKenney says there has been an outpouring of support from people who say, “I’ve got to do something. There is a gush of people donating money, time, things.”

Budget Vote on May 2

FROM PAGE 1

Memory Care program that provides day care services for county residents suffering from mid-late stage dementia. The Community Readiness and Support Program, under the umbrella of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, was also given a reprieve, and its four staff positions re-instated to continue offering an intensive, low ratio-to-client service to those with a variety of mental health and developmental disability issues.

There was general consensus that finding at least partial funding to launch Phase II of the Diversion First Program, which seeks to provide treatment instead of incarceration for people with mental health or developmental disability issues who come into contact with law enforcement for low-level offenses, was a real achievement in the approved Budget Mark-up. The program succeeded in diverting 375 individuals from potential arrest in its first year.

WHEN THE MOTION to approve the Mark-up was called for, the dissenting votes were cast by supervisors Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) and Kathy Smith (D-Sully).

"This budget will not meet our needs," said Smith, who also questioned whether the budget process was "working the way it should."

Among her concerns is the gap between the Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) financial ask for FY 2018 and what the county transferred.

Smith, who served on the School Board before her election to the Board of Supervisors, says the gap will mean even more teacher vacancies and larger classes. The FCPS did receive an additional \$1.7 million during the mark-up process, resulting in an operating transfer increase of 2.79 percent over last year.

Storck thinks "we're making a mistake" with this budget, calling for a plan that focuses more on investments that will grow revenues. Storck said Fairfax County "keeps funding the success of the rest of the

state at the expense of our own."

Several of the supervisors commented on the county's limited options for raising revenue, and in a statement released after the meeting, McKay wrote: "We will again have a dialogue with Richmond ... state law limits our revenue sources, we are left with property taxes as our main resource. This is not sustainable."

Further discussion surrounded the proposed Budget Guidance, which serves as a template for the county executive and staff in the development of the next budget and the financial plans for years to come. Included for consideration and for sourcing "fiscally-constrained funding options" are: addressing the growing opioid abuse crisis, tax relief for spouses of first responders killed in the line of duty, the procurement and implementation of a pre-notification 9-1-1 data repository system, further Public Safety staffing, county employee pay and pension review, and how to deal with the looming increases expected for funding the county's commitment to the Metro system.

The motion to adopt the Budget Guidance as written passed unanimously.

With one budget not yet officially adopted, the supervisors seemed eager to begin their work on the issues set forth in the Budget Guidance, with Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) asking staff to begin looking for additional meeting time slots in order to tackle the working agenda.

"Looking ahead," said Bulova, "the FY 2019 budget will pose new challenges, including potential federal cut backs and sequestration ... As always, Fairfax County will remain vigilant to any future changes that may impact the local budget in the upcoming fiscal year."

SUMMARIES of the documents discussed and approved at the Budget Mark-up session are available on the county's website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov. The meeting, which was streamed live, is archived and can be watched via the website.

PEOPLE NOTES

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

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association elected **Sarah Miller**

Coulson of Bryn Mawr, Pa., to serve as its 22nd Regent, or chairwoman.

Bill Dickinson, of Alexandria, was named to the Citizens' Advisory Committee to the Chesapeake Bay Executive

Council by Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Dickinson is the Secretary and Treasurer, Alex Renew Enterprises, a Public Authority; Board Member, Northern Virginia Land Conservation Trust.

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OPINION

Your Summer, Your Child, Your Values

A time for parents to build humanitarian spirits.

BY SHARON STRAUCHS

It's summer. The rigors of homework, youth clubs and team-scheduled Saturdays are over. No more carpools. Now it's your turn to make empowering choices to impact your child's life and eventually the lives of their children.

While our kids are young, the challenge is how to find summer-perfect opportunities that are fun, yet meaningful, and how to get the kids away from their electronic devices. When choosing summer activities, this is your golden opportunity to focus on your specific family values.

While swimming lessons, camp-outs, and sports are important, wouldn't it be wonderful to incorporate activities that help your children focus beyond themselves and to the world beyond Northern Virginia?

We educators emphasize that the earlier your child engages in volunteer activities you find important, the more likely children will grow up respecting your family's values. In the D.C.

Metro Area, there is a plethora of humanitarian programs for the under-18 age group that will get them into the habit of helping others. College advisers all know that beyond APs, GPAs, and SAT/ACT scores, colleges today scrutinize applicants' activities, their "resumes," to help determine acceptances and scholarships.

So start now, at a pivotal point in your child's life and witness the hot, summer days of NOVA becoming wondrous as you watch priorities slowly change. We recommend starting at www.VolunteerFairfax.org (Opportunities Just for Youth). Plus, in Virginia, kids have the opportunity to earn service-oriented awards such as the "Diploma Seal of Excellence in Civics" (www.doe.virginia.gov), or "The Prudential Spirit of Community Award," Virginia state-issued civics "diploma" for students in grades 5-12 who complete at least a 50-hour service project.

Where could you possibly begin to invest 50 or more hours, and for what cause? Our family discovered the famous "Meals on Wheels" program, started by former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, and delivered meals to senior citizens for our 10-year, part-time family project. (www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org)

For our "foodie" kids who are cooking or gardening enthusiasts, The Food Network

sponsors "No Kid Hungry." Proceeds from bake sales are donated to help end childhood hunger (www.bake.nokidhungry.org) and the Gardening for Good project encourages kids to grow vegetables to donate to senior centers, or help fight senior hunger by sharing a meal. This encourages kids to learn to cook, and helps your

family bond with a senior while eating and storytelling. (www.hunger.generationOn.org)

What about our animal-loving children? They can develop a Dog Park Clean-Up plan at their favorite park or socialize with dogs and cats at local shelters with the Puppy and Kitty Love programs. This is great for families who love pets but can't actually own one. (www.GenerationOn.org/parents/resources/projects/animal-welfare).

As always, we parents must insure that activities are safe and the charities are legitimate. The benefits of helping humanitarian organizations while taking advantage of your relaxed summer schedule can create so many powerful, long-lasting memories and family summer traditions. Aesop states, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Sharon Strauchs has been Director/Owner of Herndon-based Cortona Academy in Northern Virginia. Visit www.CortonaLearning.com.

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Students: Connect with Local Businesses

BY DAN STORCK
SUPERVISOR, MOUNT
VERNON DISTRICT



In 2014, Fairfax County Public Schools adopted the "Portrait of a Graduate" — an initiative that I fully support in which the schools are looking beyond the high-stakes testing environment to better equip our students with the skills necessary to be successful in the workforce of the future. To supplement this movement, I will be hosting a Teen Job Fair and Resume Building Workshop on Saturday, April 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road in Lorton.

The goal is to get students familiar with the job hiring process and have them meet face-to-face with potential employers, which in turn, will allow them to gain valuable experience

— something that cannot be taught or learned inside a classroom. More than 700 teenagers in search of a job and 48 businesses looking to attract top-notch talent to fill their open positions have signed up to participate.

It's a win-win endeavor for our community. Teen Job Fairs are a fun, mutually-beneficial way for local businesses and organizations to pair-up and connect with teens in our neighborhoods. The focus will be on students and younger job seekers looking for full time employment, after-school employment, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, or volunteer experiences. Hopefully, the fair will result in a significant number of hires and career advancement for area youth.

The Teen Job Fair at South County High School is the fourth and final installment in a series of teen job fairs and resume-building workshops held Countywide this year — and it's open to all teens in Fairfax County looking

for employment or wanting tips to build their resumes.

The 2017 Teen Job Fair is another step in the right direction for preparing our youth with the workforce skills necessary for success for all children in this rapidly changing, increasingly diverse, and interconnected world.

Interested in attending? Complete information about the Teen Job Fairs are available online.

To register to attend and for more information, visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm>

Working closely with Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity and his staff has helped launch this initiative in the Mount Vernon District. Thank you to the South County Federation, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County High School and Connection Newspapers for their partnership to bring this to the community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Route 1 Needs Widening

To the Editor:

Thank goodness that the Virginia Department of Transportation has finally realized what Route 1 really needs. The plans that they showed at the meeting described in last week's Gazette are what we need. The Embark project has wasted \$4m and come up with a plan that probably will

not happen in 30 years. Embark supporters somehow think we need more buses. The buses are almost empty now. Check with data; more cars are being purchased than ever before. Metro ridership is declining. Unless the buses have a dedicated pull off stop they should not be allowed to plug up traffic. If you drive a vehicle please let Sen. Scott Surovell and Del. Paul Krizek know you support the Route 1 widening project.

Our primary transportation problems have been generated because Ft Belvoir has added thousands of people without contributing anything to trying to figure out how all of these people are going to get to work every day. This is the reason Senator Surovell says, "Route 1 is simply no longer functional."

I do not care one bit if anybody else lives here or if any new businesses are started. We have enough until the congested roads

get improved. All new building permits should be denied until we have roads that can handle the additional traffic.

Phillip Boughton
Alexandria

Protect Vernal Pool

To the Editor:

In response to H. Jay Spiegel's
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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Leading Globally Matters Locally Connolly addresses Global Leadership Forum.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

I'm going to be political, because we have to be," U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) began as keynote speaker and panel member at a luncheon forum hosted by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition on April 18. Better known for starting off his speeches with a few humorous quips, on this occasion Connolly wasn't joking.

A member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the co-chair of the Congressional Caucuses on Korea, Georgia and Taiwan, he said, "The world counts on American leadership. To retreat is risky. Damage has already been done," referencing recent Executive Orders by President Donald Trump, and statements by the President and other members of his administration. "Words have consequences. To retreat now is to open the door to grave situations."

While acknowledging that criticism of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was not without validity, the Connolly called the pull-out of the United States from the trade agreement as "an incredible gift to China. I bet they're still drinking champagne in Beijing." According to Connolly, at least the TPP imposed certain conditions and set standards that had to be met by all countries doing business with the partners. "That's all been zeroed out now."

With tensions running high in the Asian region, Connolly also worries that the U.S. has no regular diplomatic presence there now, with no ambassadors in Japan, China or Korea. Without these portals to the American president and to other high-ranking American diplomats, the stage is set for misunderstandings, and decision-making — by all parties — while operating in a vacuum.

Connolly recently returned from a trip to South Korea where he visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the country from North Korea, an hour's drive from Seoul. The capital city and its environs are home to more than half of the country's population of 50 million people. "The South Koreans [and the Japanese] are apoplectic" being about 30 minutes from potential annihilation by North Korean nuclear missiles.

In the view of Connolly and the members of the USGLC, a large part of tackling



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

The panel at the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition forum advocated for U.S. leadership around the world, and adequate funding of the International Foreign Affairs budget and USAID. From left are John Mennel, managing director with Deloitte Consulting; Vice Admiral William Sullivan, U.S. Navy (Ret.); U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11); and moderator Jason Gross, executive director of USGLC.

today's diplomatic issues and the increasing threat of terrorism is to maintain and enhance the U.S. role on the world stage, and to keep funding intact for the International Affairs Budget. It's also critical to the economic health of the nation, and to the Commonwealth of Virginia, he said.

Most people don't know what is included in the International Affairs funding. "Everyone just automatically thinks handouts to foreign countries," said USGLC Executive Director Jason Gross, but the budget, which has been placed in the reduction crosshairs in recent days, funds U.S. embassies, the Peace Corps, global health threat watches and research, and assistance for start-up companies in emerging markets. The presence of NGO's (non-governmental organizations) and official organizations promotes democracy and a "rule of law" environment that helps develop new trade partners and economic opportunities for workers here at home, he said.

The speakers provided data showing that 8,000 companies in Virginia do business around the globe. The state exports more than \$18 billion in goods to foreign mar-

kets each year and trade supports more than 1 million local jobs. "It's a win-win. It's the right thing to do as human beings, and it helps make our own economy stronger," said Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, president of the American Foreign Service Association and a speaker at the event.

"Ninety-five percent of the world's customers are outside the U.S.," said Stephenson. "Using only 1 percent of the federal budget, these programs and grants help grow more customers and create jobs. It's a great return on the investment."

Stephenson also warned that if the U.S. didn't take advantage of these opportunities, other countries certainly will.

Connolly pointed to China's growing presence in Africa. "They're building everything in sight, getting contracts and spreading their influence." He said that the Chinese know how to play "the long-term game" and that they are slowly winning over the emerging market in the world's economy.

Other countries may also step in militarily "if the U.S. fails to lead," cautioned Vice Admiral William Sullivan, U.S. Navy (Ret.), "and we may not like who steps in to fill

the void." Sullivan advocates for "thoughtful diplomacy" to complement a prepared military force. "I strongly believe in preventing violence rather than resorting to violence," and he agrees with the USGLC membership and his fellow speakers that continuing to support an adequately funded international affairs program is the way forward to success.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP on the military and the diplomatic fronts is key to combating terrorism in action today, and fighting the root causes that keep the problem growing, he said. Failure to act and stay engaged, especially in "failed or failing states" just "fertilizes the breeding grounds of terrorism," in the opinion of Sullivan.

According to the speakers, there are still more reasons to stand against cuts to the International Affairs and USAID budgets. Connolly brought up another threat to world interests if the Administration's thoughts on foreign policy don't change direction. Proposed international aid budget cuts could mean the loss of "first warning beacons against pandemics."

Despite the toll taken by the Ebola outbreak that began in 2014, the congressman noted that in the United States, "we still kind of dodged a bullet." Cutting aid to some of the programs cuts a first line of defense against many deadly viruses, "that are only a plane-ride away. These are cuts to worldwide mechanisms that we all rely on" for citizens' very lives.

Sullivan agreed, saying that so much of the military's work is humanitarian, and that the military provides security to help researchers, medical personnel and others get to difficult and often dangerous places.

The session ended with USGLC Northeast Regional Field Manager Colleen Bowman urging the attendees to stay informed and get engaged.

"We really don't have a choice," said Connolly. "It's our responsibility to speak up. It's in our best interest," and with one more parting shot, he added to the citizenry at large, "you voted to make America great again. Live up to that."

The USGLC is a network of 500 businesses, NGOs, national security and foreign affairs experts, military, academics, faith leaders, and more. For more information, see www.usglc.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

letter ["Good Use for Dirt," April 20] about filling the park area adjacent to Stratford Landing with the dirt excavated from the school construction, we wholeheartedly disagree.

The area of the park that is referenced in his letter is a wetland, home to frogs, lizards, birds and insects that rely on that habitat to survive.

More specifically, it is a vernal pool, an area that is home to distinctive species because of its six months of the year wet season. It is not merely standing water due to

rain, which is perhaps what the construction crews thought when they ran the waste water into the park. Their error was realized and efforts were taken to make sure that it wouldn't happen again.

In fact, in the warmer months, a symphony of frogs can be heard in the evenings, and children can be found wading in the water, identifying tadpoles and chasing skinks.

It's actually well worth protecting this area in the spring from too much exploration because that is the when the salamander and frogs are hatching from eggs,

and they are what help to control our mosquito population. Forts are also built with downed tree limbs from the park trees, and, in the colder months, small little rinks sometimes form which provide places for discovery for the children and adults walking to and from school.

As we write this, it is Earth Day. We hope that those making decisions about the park know better than to consider Spiegel's suggestion, and to consider the wellbeing of this community when making decisions about the disposal of the school's dirt pile. We suspect there must be a much more well

thought out plan already in place.

Sara Jefferies
And **Eleanor Whitaker**

Opposing Suggestion

To the Editor:

In the April 20 Mount Vernon Gazette ["Good Use for Dirt"], Mr. Spiegel makes an argues that a large mound of dirt on the Stratford Landing Elementary School

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

grounds be spread over the adjacent Stratford Landing Park. I have a few rebuttal comments.

❖ He presents no evidence that the transient marshy area in the park is, in fact, a “likely breeding ground for mosquitoes” and a “serious health concern” that “cause[s] harm to the children.” My wife and I have walked our dogs by and through the park for nearly 20 years and have never noticed a mosquito problem in the marshy areas. When mosquitoes do seem to be a problem in our neighborhood, they seem to be concentrated in ivy-covered areas under trees. If there is a mosquito problem in the park that needs to be addressed (and I do not think there is), it should be done based on facts and not suppositions.

❖ Even if the transient marshy area is not officially listed in a “Resource Protection Area” by the county, it does not mean that it makes sense to drain it or fill it in. In the last few years, I have personally witnessed a mallard duck pair living in the marshy area for several days or more, I’ve seen deer and foxes, and a I saw a bald eagle feeding on a squirrel in the park. Wildlife is under enough stress without increasing it by reducing further our existing quasi-

natural areas. In the winter, much of the park has a high water table, so any effort to address the marshy area of concern to Mr. Spiegel is likely to be much more involved than simply spreading a mound of dirt and “providing appropriate drainage pipes.” Reducing the opportunity for water to slowly return to the earth risks increased runoff problems and all that entails.

❖ I assume that the contract to renovate the school and do any required excavation included detailed statements about how any excess dirt should be removed from the site. That would seem to be a standard part of any excavation contract language. I have recently noticed that the large mound seems to have had at least 20 percent of the dirt removed from one side, so the issue, such as it is, seems to be in the process of being resolved. I would be adamantly opposed to “spreading [the dirt] over the park”, especially “the sooner, the better.” There is no demonstrated need to do so, there are risks in doing so (damage to the environment, wasted money for no mosquito-control benefit), and there has been no scientifically-based case for it.

D.S. Katzer
Alexandria

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ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Presents 'The Fabulous Lipitones'

Musical comedy about a barbershop quartet tackles racism and other issues.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theatre of Alexandria (LTA) is presenting "The Fabulous Lipitones" from April 22 to May 13.

The musical comedy depicts what happens when a barbershop quartet is forced to take on an unconventional replacement when one of their members suddenly dies. When they meet face to face, the new guy is not what they expected. First-time LTA Director Chuck Leonard said: "When I read the show, I asked to direct it for a number of reasons; first and foremost, I love the comedy, which is family-friendly, yet hilarious. The subject matter is barbershop quartet singing and I have been an a capella fanatic for decades."

He said he loves how the characters are self-aware that their barbershop passions label them as "different," adding: "The Fabulous Lipitones' celebrates the connection of people who have a passion for something that mainstream society labels as something of an awkward niche. I think there is a building acceptance of nerds in current society and a broadening of the definition of a nerd beyond science and tech types. I love to see my children and my students proudly wave their flags of difference, but barbershop singing shows that there has long been arenas for people with shared passions, to bond. The play also explores male bonding, as well as racism."

He said finding the right tone for a play that is so funny, but deals honestly with racism, was crucial to him. "Finding actors who could play this was a challenge, which was made more difficult by the casting limitations," he said. "Because of the themes of race and age in the play, the casting is quite



From left: Jerry Hoffman, John Brown, Peter Halverson and Gurpreet Sarin rehearse a scene from LTA's production of "The Fabulous Lipitones."

specific. Furthermore, each character must fit a specific vocal part and the actors have to be able to blend voices in the barbershop style. I was incredibly fortunate to find the foursome we have."

Gurpreet Sarin plays the main role of Baba Mati Singh (aka "Bob"), who hops around the stage full of energy, optimism, humor and passion. "He loves singing and dancing and interacting with people, which makes him an ideal candidate for 'The Fabulous Lipitones' barbershop quartet," he said. "He's a Sikh man in his 20s, who's firm in his faith and excited at the opportunity to share his experiences with others. As the story unfolds, the rest of the characters learn more about Bob's faith and history."

Sarin said he was blessed to be part of the LTA production for a few reasons. "One, because I truly believe in the message this play delivers. Two, because this happens to be my first play. Being my first play, I experienced a unique set of challenges, as I was

learning a bunch of things every day — but that's what has made this experience so wonderful. It's truly been an honor working with all of the cast and crew," he said.

He hopes the audience has as much fun watching the play as the cast and crew have had in bringing it to life. "I believe this play is about celebrating the uniqueness we have in America — I'm a firm believer that America is a 'melting pot' and that we shouldn't judge a book by its cover," he said.

Peter Halverson plays the role of Phil Rizzardi, the bass who runs a health club and fancies himself as a ladies' man despite the encroaching effects of middle age. "He's brash, ambitious, and passionate. This is a frequent source of friction between himself and the other members of the quartet, but the bonds they've forged through their shared love of barbershop quartet singing have always been able to overcome the occasional flare-up," he said.

He added: "Perhaps that's why Phil



PHOTOS BY HOWARD SOROOS

Jerry Brown (left) and Peter Halverson rehearse a scene from "The Fabulous Lipitones."

struggles the most to accept the changes following the unexpected death of their lead singer. The group has been his foundation, his emotional lodestone, and he's not sure what he will do now that it's different."

He said the role was larger than others that he's done, both in terms of dialogue to master and the complexity of the character. "My training and background is in vocal performance, so I'm accustomed to using the musical aspects of song — rhythm, harmony, dynamics — as means of expression when telling a story. With drama, however, the only thing you're given are words on a page. It's up to the actor to transform those words into something real, someone the audience cares about. I was a bit intimidated by this when I first started," he said.

"I hope people leave with a better appreciation for the art of barbershop quartet singing. It's a unique style, distinctly American, with gloriously rich harmonics and wickedly delicious contrapuntal lines, all of it infused with a wonderful joy," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Fabulous Lipitones" from April 22 to May 13. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

"Breaking the Glass Ceiling — The Sky's the Limit" exhibit. Through April 30, 7-9 p.m. at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. at Del Ray Artisans. Artists reflect on this metaphor of pushing through barriers. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

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.

Water Taxi to National Mall.

Through April 16. Departing at 11:10 a.m., 1:35 p.m., and 4:30 p.m. from the waterfront at Cameron and Union streets. Potomac Riverboat Company offers a 30-minute direct water taxi to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to access events of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, including the Blossom Kite Festival. \$28 round-trip for adults, \$16 one-way for adults; \$16 round-trip for children under 12; \$8 one-way for children under 12. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/water-taxi/national-mall/ or call 703-684-0580 for more.

The Mercy Walk Tour. Saturdays and Sundays through April 16, 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/themeracywalk for more.

3-Dimensional Views Artshow.

Through April 23, various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will also highlight the work of three featured artists: Emma Bednar, Gayle Roehm, and Emma Thompson. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

Singing the Blues exhibit. Various hours through May 21 at the Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Highlights the work of three featured artists Beverly Baker, Joanne Bast, and Laura Savage. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935 for more.

Native Plants, Herbs, and Heirloom Tomatoes.

Various times through mid June at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.mvuc.org for more.

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 alexandriaviva.gov/Lyceum or call

703-746-4994.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.

Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual

ENTERTAINMENT

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 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/fortward 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.fortward.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 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



Celtic Spring Fling

On Saturday, May 13, the Celtic Spring Fling, 3-7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church at 8531 Riverside Road. Games, crafts, food and drink, plenty of music and dance, face painting, and corn hole tournament. Email MBartel@bartelassociates.com or call 703-548-4250.

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. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.alexandriaarchaeology.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.

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Super Summer Resource Fair. 6-8 p.m. at William Ramsay Elementary, 5700 Sanger Ave. Learn all you need to know about ACPS summer enrichment programs, City of Alexandria summer camps and activities, library reading programs, local summer camps and classes. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more.

NOVA Student Film Festival. 6-9 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Bisdorf Building, Room 196, 5000 Dawes Ave. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Former FBI investigator Robert K. Wittman highlights "Priceless: How I Went Undercover to Rescue the World's Stolen Treasures." Free. Call 703-746-1770 for more.

Membership Night. 7 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. The Alexandria Virginia chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will host a membership night. Call 703-684-



Revolutionary War Encampments

On May 6-7 more than 300 hundred Revolutionary War military re-enactors are camping out at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Learn more about life in the 18th-century, discuss military techniques, and watch battle re-enactments. Visit www.mountvernon.org/revwar for more.

6190 for more.

The Everly Brothers Experience. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

Poem in a Pocket Day. 7:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In celebration of National Poetry Month and Poem In Your Pocket Day, Wendi R. Kaplan, Alexandria's Poet Laureate, is having a community gathering called Generating Hope. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Musical Tribute. 6-10 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Brencore Entertainment presents a tribute to the music of Marvin Gaye and Teddy Pendergrass. Music by the Brencore Allstars Band. \$30-35. Visit www.brencore.com for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Yard Sale and Second Hand Boutique. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Large Furniture, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, electronics, appliances, children and baby clothes and toys. Call 703-780-3081 or email office@stjamesmv.org for more.

Fairfax County Anniversary. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. "A Place Called Home: Fairfax County. A 275th Anniversary Event" is a day-long exploration of the history of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext 6.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot. Fifteen vendors from four states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Call 571-232-0375 or visit www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org for more.

Car Show Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Car Show to support the graduating senior class at West Potomac High School. \$20 to enter a vehicle, attendance is free. Visit www.angcwestpotomac.com/ for more.

Horse Riding Clinic. 10 a.m. at Little

Burgundy Farm, 5715 Sable Drive. Paul Belasik is the author of seven books on riding and riding theory and has worked for 45 years with competition riders on national and world stages, as well as with amateurs. \$20. Email inquire.CES@gmail.com or call 703-395-3299.

Alexandria Earth Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. This family-friendly event includes the Seventh Annual Upcycling Showcase, where students from Alexandria City Public Schools will present upcycling creations based on the event theme, "Clean Water Starts with YOU!" Visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

Meet the Author. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Genealogist and historian Char McCargo Bah explores the historical issues surrounding the Ramsey Homes Redevelopment Project. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

"Yet I Stand." 2-4 p.m. at the Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, "Yet I Stand," is a community play about Elise, a teenager who has been sexually assaulted, the harrowing after-effects and how her family and friends encourage her to heal. Visit www.re-creationsllc.org or call 703-209-6538.

Annual Spring Gala Fundraiser. 6 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. Fundraiser to support the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Tickets to the Gala and sponsorship opportunities are currently available at www.501auction.com/sfa. Individuals or businesses interested in donating goods or services to the Gala and Silent Auction may contact the Scholarship office at 703-824-6730 or email Beth.Lovain@acps.k12.va.us.

Transforming Lives Gala. 6 p.m. at the Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Auction, cocktails, dancing and desserts to help transform the lives of families on the brink of homelessness by providing affordable housing through Good Shepherd. \$175. Visit www.goodhousing.org for more.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Victorian-era ball will feature the waltz, Virginia Reel, and more, as well as live music, desserts, and a cash bar. Period attire, either military or civilian, encouraged. \$45 Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

APRIL 29-30

Grand Opening Weekend. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday at Home On Cameron, 315 Cameron St. Interior designers Susan Nelson and Todd Martz announce the opening of their new shop that focuses on design concepts. Visit www.homeoncameron.com or call 703-888-1475 for more.

The Spring Annual Barley & Music Fest. noon-6 p.m. in John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Craft brews from 18 artisanal breweries, live entertainment, and food vendors. The event will also take place again in September. Visit www.barleymusicfest.com/ for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 30

Ballet Performance: "Cinderella." Three seatings: noon, 3 p.m., and 6 p.m. George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$12. Visit metropolitanarts.org/ for more.

Creating a Bird-Friendly Garden. 1-3 p.m. at Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Learn tips to entice birds and other beneficial pollinators to the yard. Master gardeners and Audubon at Home volunteers will be on hand to offer tours, answer gardening questions, and distribute free seeds. Visit mgnv.org for more.

Book Talk with Fred Knops. 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Alexandria resident Fred Knops has written a tour book of Old Town Alexandria focusing on its colonial heritage. Sales from the books at this event will benefit ACT, the Alexandria Library Special Collection at the Barrett Branch, the Christ Church Foundation, and the Boy Scouts Troop 1515. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

MONDAY/MAY 1

Garden Sprouts: Nature Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Nature-themed activities to meet other playgroup parents one Monday each month. A staff member is on hand to put out nature sensory bins, direct games and activities or lead a garden walk. An adult must accompany registered child. The topics for May is butterflies and Mother's Day. \$6/child. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/MAY 2

Meet the Author. 7:30 a.m. at the Campagna Center, 418 S. Washington St. Frank Sesno will discuss the changing role of the media in America and outline his new book, "Ask More: The Power of Questions to Open Doors, Uncover Solutions, and Spark Change." \$25. Call 703-549-0111 for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. Swing dance with Fast Eddie & The Slowpokes. \$10. Call 703-751-8900.

MAY 4-5

Disney's "High School Musical." 7-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre Arts presents Disney's "High School Musical" with characters from the movie, plus some new friends, as they navigate first love, friends and family, their classes, and extracurricular activities. Visit mvhstheatrearts.com for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 5

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at the at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. In this "Speak Your Mind," exhibit, May 5-28, artists express the message of what they see, feel or think through art. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits. **Family Game Night.** 7-10 p.m. at St.

ENTERTAINMENT

James' Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Call 703-780-3081 or email office@stjamesmv.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Spring Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Spring Art Market showcases original artwork from local artists in a wide range of mediums. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket.

Water Discovery Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1500 Limerick St. Water Discovery Day is a free, family-focused, community event that will give attendees the opportunity to go behind the water cycle scene to explore, learn and create through a series of hands-on activities. Visit alexrenew.com/ for more.

Java Jolt Lecture. 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 N. Union Street, #327. Jay Roberts will discuss his new book, "Lost Alexandria: An Illustrated History of Sixteen Destroyed Homes in and Around Alexandria." Learn about the houses and their environs, as well as the owners and dwellers including Col. William Fairfax, Benjamin Hallowell, Portia Lee Hodgson, and John "Jacky" Parke Curtis. A book signing will follow the lecture. Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399 for more.

Disney's "High School Musical." 2 and 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School Theatre Arts presents Disney's "High School Musical" with characters from the movie, plus some new friends, as they navigate first love, friends and family, their classes, and extracurricular activities. Visit mvhstheatrearts.com for more.

Meet the Author. 4-5:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meet author Fred Knops while he discusses his new book "Historical Tours: Alexandria, Virginia: Walk the Path of America's Founding Fathers." All profits from this book will be donated to Alexandria charities: ACT for Alexandria, The Alexandria Library, Christ Church and Boy Scout Troop 1515. Email pamela.larson@actforalexandria.org or call 703-739-7778 for more.

Hyland Humanitarian Award. 6 p.m. in the Madison Building Atrium, U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Celebrate Honorary Co-Chair Gerry Hyland, Former Supervisor, Mount Vernon District Fairfax County, with the inaugural Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award. Event emcee will be David Culver, NBC4 News4 Reporter. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N.



Opening Reception

Artist Avis Fleming's opening reception 2-4 p.m. Sunday, May 7, at Printmakers Inc., Studio 325 (third floor) of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A one-artist show of etchings, lithographs, monotypes, paintings and ceramics runs May 1 through June 28. Call 703-683-1342.

Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association event. NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Seminary Organ Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel at Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Featuring organists Julie Vidrick Evans, Michael Lodico, and Benjamin Straley. Music of Bach, Duruflé, Langlais, Persichetti, Phillips, Sowerby, and Wammes. Free. Email clm@vts.edu, or call 703-461-1792 for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 6-7

Revolutionary War Encampments. Various times at at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Meet more than 300 hundred Revolutionary War military re-enactors, learn more about life in the 18th-century, discuss military techniques, and watch battle re-enactments. Visit www.mountvernon.org/revwar.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Wetlands Awareness Day. noon-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Wetlands Awareness

Day takes on new meaning this year as Huntley Meadows Park is honored with the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Gold Medal for its successful wetlands restoration project. Call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meet the Artist. 2-4 p.m. at Printmakers Inc., Studio 325 (third floor) of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A one-artist show of etchings, lithographs, monotypes, paintings and ceramics by Alexandria and Loudoun artist Avis Fleming, opens May 1-June 28. Call 703-683-1342 for more.

Choral Arts Society of Washington. 5-7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Join Scott Tucker, the conductor of the Choral Arts Chamber Singers for Music for Chamber Voices. 4:30 p.m. reception, wine and cheese served. \$40. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Master Class Concert. 7 p.m. at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Music direction by Joseph Walsh, featuring Ilona Dulaski as Maria Callas. Call 703-548-9044 for more.

Joe Crookston and Villa Palagonia. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. \$18 in advance at www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets and for members, \$20 at the door.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a brief fireworks display will take place as part of a private event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following date:

Saturday, May 6,
between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. (5 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to: Events@MountVernon.org.

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

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

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

How To Solve Affordable Housing Dilemma

County seeks public's ideas.

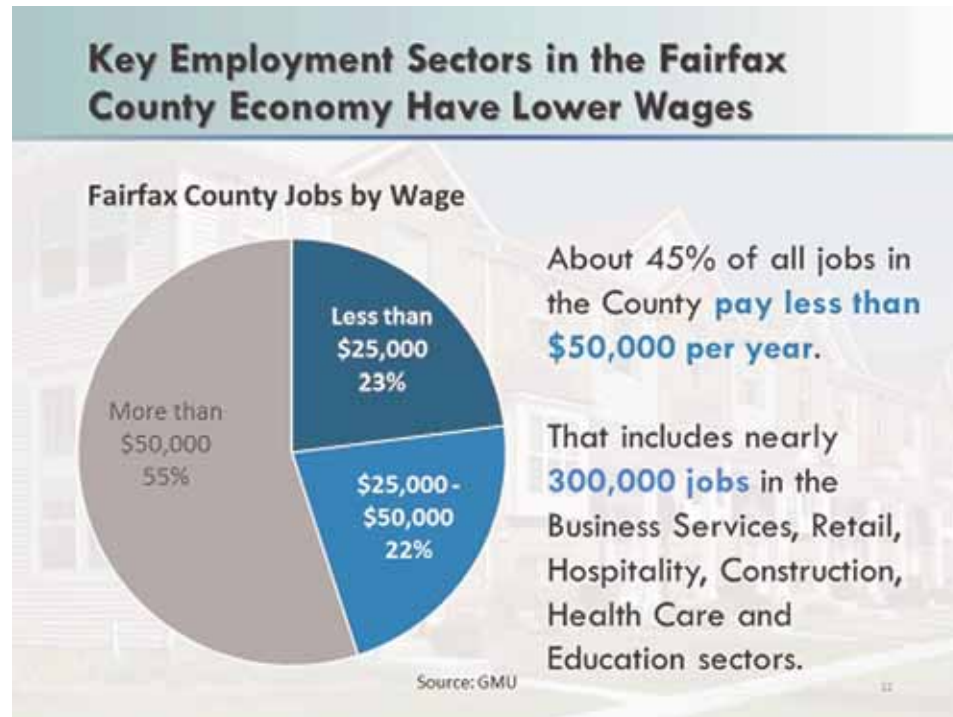
BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

The turnout was pretty small, considering the topic, but those who attended the county-wide Housing Strategic Plan meeting at South Lakes High School, led by the Department of Housing and Community Development and hosted by Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, made up for the lack of numbers with their attention and their engagement in the discussion.

The April 17 meeting was in competition with the joint Town Hall event of state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), and Del. Ken Plum (D-36), as well as several other public meetings taking place simultaneously around the county.

"It was our first go," said Vincent Rogers, director of Policy, Reporting and Communication for the sponsoring Fairfax County government agency. "We will do everything we can to get the word out to the public for future meetings. This is an issue that really does affect us all."

Rogers explained that his department has been tasked by the Board of Supervisors to develop a strategic plan to tackle the problem. "No one wants another plan that sits on a shelf," he said. The goals for this strategic plan are concrete. It must not only "create a shared community vision of how housing supports local economic growth and community sustainability," but also "quantify the housing needed to sensibly accommodate future growth, develop specific, measureable, and actionable strategies for meeting the goals, and identify the programs and policies, and specific funding sources that will be required to address housing needs in 5, 10, and 15 years."



CONTRIBUTED BY FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

At the county-wide Housing Community forum, county staff provided graphs showing the breakdown of wages in the county.

Dr. Lisa Sturtevant reads a series of vignettes, illustrating the extent, and potential harmful impact, of the affordable housing dilemma and leads a discussion with the attendees.



Rogers feels confident that the county staff working the problem are up to the challenge. The county will build on work already done: The Strategic Plan to Facilitate Economic Success, last year's county Human Services Needs Assessment that compiled and analysed the data on who in the county is in need of social services and what those service needs are, and the One Fairfax Resolution that "directs the development of a racial and social equity policy to ensure all individuals in Fairfax have an opportunity to reach their highest potential."

But even all of the previous work, and the dedication of the county staff to solving the problem, will not be enough, said Rogers. He and his group will be engaging with nonprofits and faith-based groups. They will also take the issue to the business community for their input, since "no local workers can ultimately mean no local work."

And then there will be more meetings like this one, aimed at educating the community as to the depth and extensive nature of the problem, and asking for residents to pitch in with their thoughts. As Hudgins said, "This is not a county plan. You are critical to the creation and success of the plan."

THE ATTENDEES SEEMED prepared to accept their responsibilities, but even some among them confessed to not knowing the extent of the problem. Consultant Lisa Sturtevant, Ph.D., and president of Lisa Sturtevant & Associates, LLC, has been con-

tracted to help guide the process. She helmed most of the presentation, and used a series of vignettes as case studies to illustrate the needs, and the potentially devastating effects of failing to find an answer to the housing crisis.

The vignettes not only personalized the issue, but offered some possible consequences if those described in each narrative failed to secure affordable housing in the community.

"Especially when you look at each one as representing dozens, if not hundreds, of people in the same situations throughout the county," she said. The stories were fictitious, but based on real-life people and situations.

In one scenario, Sturtevant spoke about "Patrice Markham" who was a licensed practical nurse earning \$48,500 a year and working at INOVA at a job she loved. In order to afford decent housing in a safe neighbourhood, "Markham" currently lives in Stafford, but the hour and a half commute each way every day has made her consider leaving INOVA for a job closer to home.

Another vignette focused on a millennial worker. A recent college graduate earning \$50,000 as an analyst in the Tysons area, this young woman has accumulated \$40,000 in student loan debt. A friend recently moved to Memphis where the cost of living is lower and she is thinking of moving, too, so that she can afford to live on her own, and consider owning her own home in the future. This particular case had several audience members commenting that Charlotte, N.C., seemed to be a hot destination for many of the young workers in their families or among their acquaintances.

The two-income "Park" family have good jobs and together earn \$118,000 per year. With a new baby to consider, they wanted to stop renting in Herndon and buy their own home somewhere in the area that they now consider home base. Having a hard time finding something that they can afford without over-stretching the budget, the "Parks" are talking about moving back to

SEE AFFORDABLE, PAGE 18



8th Annual Jesuit Rugby Classic

The Fort Hunt Warriors was one of 30 high school teams competing on Saturday, April 22, in the 8th Annual Jesuit Rugby Classic at Morven Park in Leesburg. The championship pitted the Warriors against Gonzaga College High School, from D.C., the number one club high school team in the country. Gonzaga beat Fort Hunt 10-3.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS NUMBER 17-03-01

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking applications from qualified Offerors for the provision of **Administered Commonwealth of Virginia Preschool Initiative Programs (VPI)**.

Initial responses with the notation RFQ# 17-03-01, VPI must be sealed and received on or before 3:00 p.m. on May 1, 2017 in the ACPS Procurement Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia. Responses received after 3:00 p.m. will not be considered in the initial review or award. All responses for the period thereafter shall also be submitted in a sealed envelope with the proper RFQ number and title "VPI" on the outside of the envelope. **All extended responses shall be received on or before 3:00 p.m. on August 18, 2017. No further responses will be received after that date and time.** The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. This RFQ will remain open until August 18, 2017 and applicants may submit applications in response to this RFQ during that entire period; however, responses submitted after initial period shall be considered based on available funding at the time of submittal.

RFQ documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181 or by downloading the RFQ from the ACPS website at: <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>.

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., April 21, 2017. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No RFQ may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFQ. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFQ and/or reject any or all applications and to waive any informalities in any application.

Meloni Hurley
Procurement Manager

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR INFORMATION NUMBER 17-03-02

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking information from qualified Offerors for a **comprehensive media management system** that originates, retrieves, and distributes original, purchased/subscription educational and satellite/cable programming through a high school with over 300 classrooms and located in two campuses.

Sealed Responses, with the notation **RFI# 17-03-02 Comprehensive Media Management System**, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, **on or before 3:00 pm, April 18, 2017**. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Responses appropriately received will be opened and the names of the offerors responding will be read aloud. RFI documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFI from the ACPS website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>. **Registration on the Vendor Self Service system at <https://acps.munisselfservice.com/> is required.**

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., on April 7, 2017. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

Information submitted may not be withdrawn. However, ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFI.

Meloni Hurley
Procurement Manager



ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 17-03-03

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking Proposals from qualified Offerors to provide services for Summer Enrichment Science Technology Engineering Mathematics' (STEM) Program.

Sealed Proposals with the notation **RFP# 17-03-03 Summer Enrichment Science Technology Engineering Mathematics' (STEM) Program for Alexandria City Public Schools** will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, **on or before 3:00 pm, April 18, 2017**. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement Office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the Offerors responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8140, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <https://www.acps.k12.va.us/purchasing>. Registration on the Vendor Self Service (VSS) system is required at <https://acps.munisselfservice.com/>.

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

All questions must be submitted before 4:00 p.m., on April 7, 2017. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site.

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

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all applications and to waive any informalities in any response.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all applications and to waive any informalities in any response.

Francine Morris
Buyer

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

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Obituary



Mildred DeFloria Muchoney
Born Dec 7, 1929 and deceased April 1, 2017.

Mildred [Millie] Muchoney grew up in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and was one of 9 children born to Angelo and Nancy DeFloria, immigrants from Italy. She married William Muchoney in 1949 and together they moved to Alexandria, Virginia where Millie had four children: Tracy, Billy, Douglas and Kelly, five grandchildren: Daniel, Matthew, Keenan Nadya and Serena, and two great grandchildren Luke and Micah, Matt and Lauren Dussia's son. She loved them all unconditionally.

Millie worked at the Department of State, first as a member of the typing pool and rose rapidly to begin her distinguished career in Diplomatic Telecommunications and further as a dedicated Foreign Service officer. Her overseas assignments included Accra, Ghana and Nairobi, Kenya, where she was stationed at the American Embassies there.

Our Mom was devoted to her husband of 68 years, Bill Muchoney Sr., and enjoyed the love and respect of her family. Her love of travel, respect for world cultures and exploration of her Italian heritage took her to many foreign destinations where she was always well received and returned with an appreciation of peoples from all walks of life.

As a long time parishioner of St. Rita's Catholic Church, Millie was instrumental in founding the St. Vincent DePaul Society here and worked tirelessly at The Carpenters Shelter along with her husband, Bill.

A private family gathering will be held as the interment will be in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. Online condolences may be made at www.EverlyWheatley.com.

4

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9305 Forest Haven Dr.
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Affordable Housing Dilemma

FROM PAGE 18

Seattle where they have a better chance of finding affordable housing, and where family can help with the newest member.

"So, you are starting to see the common consequence, and what it could mean," Sturtevant said. Losing talented workers and good neighbors is not the way to sustain a diverse, economically healthy and happy community. "Where the work pool goes, so go the employers," she said.

She also offered scenarios that included couples ready to downsize, or even those older residents who want to stay in the community that they know and in which they have their roots, but need to leave the four-bedroom house behind in order to age in place. That was a circumstance that had several in the audience nodding in understanding. The loss of too many people in this age group was of particular concern to Kerrie Wilson, who works for Cornerstones, the Reston-based nonprofit. "People who have retired or are near retirement are the backbones of many nonprofits and faith-based service organizations through their volunteering. So much gets accomplished in the community because of these volunteers."

Sturtevant also presented narratives about the housing needs of public and

health sector workers, like teachers and law enforcement personnel, as well as the many residents who work in retail, restaurants, and other service positions. "Did you know that there are nearly 150,000 workers in Fairfax County earning less than \$30,000 a year?" she asked. "And they are working hard and doing their best."

THE VIGNETTES, coupled with slides and graphs provided by the county, illustrated an issue that touches all sectors of the populace, young and old, below-poverty level earners and households above the mean average income for the region, in jobs as diverse as their backgrounds, ethnicities and religious beliefs.

"That's why we need all of you, all of us, working together to keep our community strong and growing," said Hudgins as she thanked the attendees at the close of the session.

The county will be holding more public forums as it heads toward its goal of producing a strategic plan for review by the end of the year. A website dedicated to the issue and keeping residents informed of future meetings and progress should be up and running shortly. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov\rha.

NEWS BRIEFS

Town Hall Forum In Gum Springs

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer will be holding a Town Hall forum "Your Voice Matters" on Monday, May 15. This Town Hall replaces the "Know Your Rights" forum that was cancelled on March 13 due to inclement weather. The Town Hall may cover any concerns or questions residents may have on any topic including current events. The Town Hall will be held on Monday, May 15 at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Gum Springs at 7 p.m. To register for this event, visit

www.eventbrite.com/e/your-voice-matters-tickets-33438499452.

Smoking Materials Cause Fire

On Sunday, April 16, at approximately 12:01 p.m., units from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and the City of Alexandria Fire Department were dispatched for a reported fire in an apartment building in the 6600 block of Wakefield Drive in the Belle View section of Fairfax County. Units from Fire Station 11, Penn Daw, arrived on scene and reported smoke showing from the roof area of a nine-story apartment building. A second alarm was immediately requested. Firefighters located and extinguished a fire on the building's roof top wooden deck.

The building was occupied at the time of the fire. A resident discovered the fire on the roof top and alerted all occupants by activating the fire alarm. The occupants were in the process of self-evacuating when fire department units arrived.

No occupants were displaced due to the fire. Red Cross assistance was not needed. There were no civilian injuries. One firefighter was transported to the hospital for medical evaluation.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire started on the exterior roof top on a wooden deck and was accidental in nature. The cause of the fire was due to improper disposal of smoking materials. Damages are approximately \$10,000.

This fire was the second fire on Sunday, April 16 that was caused by the improper disposal of smoking materials.

Brideau Appointed CEO at Inova Mount Vernon

Don Brideau, MD, has been appointed chief executive officer of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH) and vice president, Inova. Last month, Brideau was appointed hospital Interim CEO. Brideau's appointment is part of a leadership realignment at Inova, in which Susan Carroll, formerly CEO of Inova Alexandria Hospital, was promoted into the role of regional executive officer over both Inova Mount Vernon and Inova Alexandria hospitals.

Currently also serving as IMVH's chief medical officer (CMO), Brideau will serve in both capacities until a new CMO can be named. A search for his replacement as hospital CMO is now underway.



Brideau

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Emerson

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Summer ²⁰¹⁷ Camps

Education & Activities

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Fighting Summer Brain Drain

**Academic camps keep
minds engaged when
school is out.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year. Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“... Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertimes Camp at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons. The camp will be offered during two sessions: July 10-14 and July 17-21 with half and full day options for students ages 6 to 12.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment. “Campers will be in



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Academic camps such as this one at Marymount University allow students to maintain academic skills while having fun.

small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio and guided by Marymount University Department of Education faculty, students, and alumni,” she said. “Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.

High school students who want an in depth study of globalization can attend Marymount’s D.C. Institute from July 9-12. During the camp, named The Global Village, students will live on campus and earn college credit.

“We will talk about how increasing global connections shape our lives today,” said Dewitt. “Students can expect classroom discussions that focus on a series of central questions followed by field trips to area museums and site visits.”

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burn-out by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child’s natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”

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Nursing Camp for High School Students

Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Nursing Camp for High School Students

JULY 10-14, 2017

Cost: \$275

Time: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Application deadline: May 8

For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide ... time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement

in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

DURING A TYPICAL DAY at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “Then they may have some time in our nursing simulation lab, working with a [simulated human] patient and using some of those skills to practice caring for the patient,” said Urban. “On another day, they will spend several hours in one of the local hospitals on a nursing unit, observing the nurses in-action, and learning about what nurses do there. They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health.”

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their



PHOTO BY ALEXIS GLENN/CREATIVE SERVICES/
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

GMU College of Health and Human Services Nursing student Jakeline Merino works in the Simulation Lab at the Fairfax Campus.

careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

SEE NURSING, PAGE 4

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Introduction To Nursing

FROM PAGE 3

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions ... globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

“We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates’ of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that



PHOTO BY ALEXIS GLENN/CREATIVE SERVICES/GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

GMU College of Health and Human Services Nursing student Megan Holmes works in the Simulation Lab at the Fairfax Campus.

work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is \$275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.

Camp & School Notes

JUNE 19-23

Drama Tots. 9 a.m. - noon at the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Youngsters use an assortment of costumes and simple props to ‘bring to life’ characters from classic and contemporary children’s literature. Ages 3-5 (preschool). Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778 for more.

AUG. 7-11

Drama Tots. 9 a.m. - noon at the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Youngsters use an assortment of costumes and simple props to “bring to life” characters from classic and contemporary children’s literature. Ages 3-5 (preschool). Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778 for more.

JUNE 26-30

Performer’s Playground: Round-About Theater. 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Students get the entire performing experience with this roundabout style camp where campers will learn acting, musical theater, and other forms of the theatrical arts from experienced teachers: Roberta Masters-Cullen, Michael Page, Heather Sanderson, and John Waldron. Ages K-2nd Grade. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

JULY 3-7

Little Stars. 12:30.-3:30 p.m. at the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Instructor Roberta Masters-Cullen takes a familiar story and turns it into a script that children practice at camp, then perform onstage Friday for families. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778 for more.

AUG. 14-18

Little Stars. 12:30.-3:30 p.m. at the Little Theater of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Instructor Roberta Masters-Cullen takes a familiar story and turns it into a script that children practice at camp, then perform onstage Friday for families. Visit



Fairfax City Theater Summer Drama Camp is a one-week long camp in July and August.

www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778 for more.

JULY 18-20

The Lyceum’s History Camp. 9 a.m. to noon at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Engages children in American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and visits to nearby historic places. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

JUNE 26-30

Crystal City Arts and Technology Camp. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Art Underground Crystal City, 2200 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Ages 5-13. Visit arlingtonartistsacademy.org.

JULY 24-28

Crystal City Arts and Technology Camp. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Art Underground Crystal City, 2200 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Ages 5-13. Visit arlingtonartistsacademy.org.

JULY 9-21

The Global Village. At Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. The

course will focus on globalization, the increased connectedness that has resulted in economic, political, and cultural exchanges that transcend national boundaries. Students will live on campus in a residence hall and may earn three college credits. For high school students. Visit www.marymount.edu/ for more.

JULY 10-14

3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp. At Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Social activities include games, sports and leadership skill development. Academic projects will allow students to explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons. It will include full- and half-day options for ages 6-12, along with a “counselor-in-training” option for teens 13-18. Visit www.marymount.edu for more.

JULY 17-21

3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp. At Marymount University, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Visit www.marymount.edu for more.



PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Mom”

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

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