

'Parkway Problems Will Get Worse'

Residents cite traffic volume, speeding and maintenance.

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE GAZETTE

"If I have my kids in the car or it's after 6:30 a.m., then I don't even use the GW Parkway," said Matthew Parks, a resident in the Kirkside neighborhood in Mount Vernon. "It's just too dangerous."

On the other hand, Stratford Landing resident Jeff Lowery argues against overreaction — adding traffic lights and more police, for example, to better handle Parkway traffic. "Remember, the federal Bureau of Public Roads created this lovely and scenic road to illustrate the beauty of the drive between George Washington's estate and our nation's capital. By adding additional traffic control devices along the Parkway would be a clear affront to the original goals and plans of the BPR."

While many Mount Vernon residents have voiced varying views on the state of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, politicians who represent them have consistently voiced concern for Parkway safety.

"There's no question that southbound morning rush-hour traffic volumes have increased on the Parkway," state Sen. Scott Surovell said. "It's due to the Pentagon's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process at Fort Belvoir, 2005 - 2011. Other pressures in-



The Parkway's center lanes measure only nine feet wide, or 108 inches. The tour bus pictured is 102 inches wide. The outer lanes are 11 feet wide. Neither lane dimension meets current Virginia highway standards.

clude increased congestion on U.S. Route 1 and the widespread use of navigation apps like Waze and Google Maps."

Del. Paul Krizek, whose district includes the southernmost part of the Parkway, echoed Surovell's assessment. "I have always felt there were too many accidents and too much speeding on the Parkway, and it's only gotten worse."

Katherine Ward, chair of the Transportation Committee within the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association, seconded comments from Surovell and Krizek.

"The committee has concerns with the reckless driving and speeding on the Parkway. And the situation has gotten worse since the BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir increased the number of drivers commuting to the post."

Joe Richard, public affairs director at Fort Belvoir, provided numbers to substantiate Ward's and Surovell's impressions of workforce growth at the installation. "Pre-BRAC number of people working on Fort Belvoir was twenty-three thousand," Richard said. "The current number stands at 50,000, a gain of 27,000 civilians, contractors and military."

On the other hand, changing visitor totals at the Mount Vernon Estate don't appear to be a factor in Parkway traffic volume. Nine hundred thousand people visited in 1941, 1,250,00 in the mid-1970s, and 1,075,109 in 2016.

The dialogue on Parkway traffic south of the Beltway has gained urgency in the past year among citizens and elected officials because of several Parkway accidents. The most significant occurred on June 14, 2016, in which a head-on collision between a car and small tourist bus near

Stratford Lane left one dead and 15 injured.

More recently, another bus accident closed the Parkway near Waynewood Boulevard on April 3 of this year. Three weeks later, on April 27, a two-car crash occurred during the morning rush hour at the Parkway's Morningside Lane intersection. A helicopter ambulance took one critically injured occupant to a nearby hospital.

The April 27 accident caught the attention of Waynewood resident David Anderson, who commutes daily on the Parkway. "I've always considered Morningside to be the most dangerous part of the Parkway," Anderson said. "Traffic flows at high speed southbound from the stone bridge and sight lines of those waiting on Morningside to turn north are obscured. Because of this, I've always believed that left turns should be prohibited at

that intersection."

Soon after the Morningside accident, Anderson posted a poll on Nextdoor.com, an online community list serve, which asked residents if authorities should prohibit northbound turns from Morningside onto the Parkway. More than 60 percent of 630 responses favored such a restriction. "In addition," Anderson said, "the survey provoked a pretty vigorous debate among those who posted their views on the Parkway's traffic conditions." Nearly 160 residents commented on Anderson's posting.

Unbeknownst to Anderson and his respondents, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer had asked the National Park Service and the Federal Highway Administration in 2015 to examine the Parkway - Morningside Lane intersection. The study, conducted in December 2015, determined the 85th percentile of vehicular speed of vehicles passing the intersection was 52 mph. Moreover, historic crash data revealed 30 accidents at or near the intersection occurred 2006 - 2012. That data made the examiners label the Morningside intersection a GWMP "hot spot."

Despite concern for traffic volume, accidents and reckless driving south of Old Town, two more matters, both equally dangerous, have garnered less attention — Parkway lane widths and road surface deterioration. The inner lane in each direction is only nine feet wide, and the outer, 11 feet. In contrast, Virginia's Department of Transportation currently requires a principal rural arterial with design speeds of 45 - 50 mph to have lanes at least 12 feet wide. Curbed urban arterials that ban trucks can have 11-foot lanes at 45 mph, but need 12-foot lanes at 50 mph.

The large tour buses serving Mount Vernon visitors are 102" wide, and they routinely travel in the center lane that is only 108" wide. They have to travel in that

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 3

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL K. BOHN



State Sen. Scott Surovell, left, and Del. Paul Krizek watch Parkway traffic speed by.

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Residents: More Traffic, More Speeding

FROM PAGE 1

lane to pass under the Alexandria Avenue stone bridge, but when queried, two drivers parked at Mount Vernon said they prefer staying in the lane for the entire route.

The Parkway road surface has suffered from a plague of potholes, largely caused by wintertime freeze-thaw cycles, in recent years from Mount Vernon north to the American Legion Bridge. The only thing Parkway maintenance crews have done lately is pack the potholes with asphalt soon after they appear, but not before drivers suffer flat tires and suspension damage.

The ongoing debate about how to address the Parkway's safety has historical precedents. Similar problems and potential solutions have made news in the past, and those situations and actions give context to today's traffic issues.

PARKWAY GROWTH, GOOD AND BAD

President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover celebrated the informal opening of a new avenue to Mount Vernon, George Washington's iconic estate, on Jan. 16, 1932. Their limousine led a caravan of 12 vehicles across the newly opened Memorial Bridge and then on to Mount Vernon. Later in the year, on Nov. 15, 1932, federal officials formally dedicated the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Throughout the Great Depression and World War II, the Parkway remained a scenic drive through field and forest, offering river views. But post-WW II federal government expansion in the District and corresponding suburban growth in Northern Virginia began to force changes in traffic patterns on the Parkway. Also, the government extended the road north in 1959 to Langley, initially to serve the new CIA headquarters there, and then further lengthened it northward to the new Capital Beltway in the 1960s.

Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, according to the Washington Post, became concerned about Parkway safety in 1962, especially the efficacy of roadside guard-



A 1932 sign that might be useful today.

rails north of the Key Bridge, and threatened to install signs at Parkway entrances that read, "Beware, you are now leaving the protection of the Virginia State Highway Department."

The Post reported in 1971 that traffic volume on the Parkway near the Key Bridge had doubled from 1959 to 1971, presumably because of road's increased length.

In August 1971, Parkway Superintendent Dave Richie acknowledged Parkway traffic problems, noting that drivers were far less interested in the scenery that getting to work on time. "We can't forestall the Parkway becoming a commuter thoroughfare," he told reporters. "Too many people depend on it. We have to make it safe for commuters and still try to make it aesthetically pleasing."

Richie added that drivers were ignoring

the 45 mph speed limit, and most traveled at 60 - 65 mph. According to the Post, he said there were not enough park police officers to enforce the speed limit. The newspaper also reported that the Parkway's high-speed traffic and congestion made it one of three most dangerous roads in the national park system in 1970, with eight fatalities and 123 injury accidents that year.

During the period 1984 - 1988, the National Park Service rebuilt multiple sections of the concrete roadway south of Belle Haven, and the repairs challenged commuters daily. Now, 30 years later, the newer slabs of concrete seem to be faring as poorly as the original road surface. The original segments are a light tan-orange color with more exposed aggregate.

In August 1999, GW Parkway Superintendent Audrey Calhoun announced the Park Service planned to commence a six-month trial of radar-equipped speed cameras in two locations — at Reagan National Airport and near the entrance to CIA headquarters. "The speed on the Parkway and all the aggressive driving," she told reporters, "it's been a problem for years." She said the camera program's impetus came from a 1996 accident that killed three people during a high-speed race between two cars.

The radar/camera device on the northbound lanes just north of the airport determined that 50 percent of the 24,000 vehicles that passed the equipment daily exceeded the 40-mph speed limit by at least 10 mph. The Park Police did not issue any tickets during the trial.

Not everyone was pleased with the speed cameras, according to the Post. One opponent, House Majority Leader Dick Armey (R-Texas), wrote Interior Secretary Gale Norton in May 2001. He asked her to ban the devices on the George Washington Me-

Lack of Data

The office of the George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent is currently unable to provide overall traffic volume statistics south of Old Town to quantify individual observations about the crowded Parkway and BRAC's impact on its traffic.

The one data point made available were car counts for three months in early 2016 on only one of two southbound lanes at Great Hunting Creek — 325,375 vehicles for April. The afternoon rush-hour volume was triple that of the morning, and thus confirming the long-standing trend of commuters leaving the District and Alexandria in the late afternoon. Once the Gazette obtains relevant statistical trends for traffic volume, a supplement to this article will be published.

Similarly, the U.S. Park Police could not readily provide accident, speeding and reckless driving statistics. Park Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Anna Rose told the Gazette that the Park Police's centralized database, the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System, cannot provide useful data from before 2013. Her office is attempting to gather relevant data for a follow-on Gazette article.

memorial Parkway, calling them "a step toward a Big Brother surveillance state." Calhoun told the Gazette in 2005 that the Commonwealth of Virginia eventually had prohibited speed camera use on the Parkway.

During the six-month period February - July 2005, the Gazette learned that the Park Police had recorded 51 accidents on the Parkway between Reagan National and Mount Vernon, including two fatalities; that's about one crash every three-and-a-half days. When asked, Calhoun repeated an assessment of Parkway traffic shared by most local residents: "The Park Police focus on speeding and write a lot of tickets, but when people don't see them, they think they can speed. The reality is that we have too much traffic and not enough officers."

More recently, many Mount Vernon residents have offered the same story from the times they had driven in the Parkway's right lane: "Other cars passed me as if I were standing still! They must have been doing 55."

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The challenges arising from the Parkway's narrow lanes will be unmet without wholesale reconstruction, an undertaking hindered by the Parkway's status as an historic landmark. Similarly, according to Aaron LaRocca, the chief of staff in the Office of the GWMP Superintendent, pot-hole patching operations are limited not only because of the Parkway's place in history, but also the Park Service's shortage of repair funds.

SEE SAFETY CONCERNS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Late day traffic near the Stratford Lane intersection.



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From left are Peggy White, Maha Raja, Maryam Amosu, Adenike Amosu, and D.R. Butler. Not pictured is second runner up, Rahma Qumor.

Essay Contest Winners Recognized

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon President D.R. Butler presented certificates of merit to first place winner Maha Raja and first runner-up Maryam Amosu of the club's 4-Way test essay contest.

Participation in the 4-way test essay contest gave the students an opportunity to examine and evaluate a business ethical standard used by Rotarians all over the world. See www.rotary.org.

The Raja essay was submitted for consideration in the Rotary District 7610 competition.

The Walt Whitman Middle School students are members of Women of Vision and Purpose, a three-year-old organization of 40-plus young women who

would like to go to college one day and to become professional women.

Peggy White, science teacher and club mentor, notes that club considerations are practical and wide ranging: "We practice interviewing for jobs, filling out resumes, how to conduct yourself professionally, stress relief and diet. Plus students I've taught in the past who have gone to college and beyond ... come back to speak to the girls. I have had girls from the CDC, Peace Corp, State Department and even a model. Amazing things have been learned from each speaker."

This year's activities also included an adventure, ice skating, and an end of the year dinner.



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NVUL scholarship winners, with Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green, from left are Oshae Moore, Aaron Moorer, Abigail Darko, Matthew Ritchie, Darrell Green, Morgan Hobson, Christian Clark, Miranda Merritt, Nicholas Conklu, and Jessica Brisco.



PHOTOS BY KEL B. PICS PHOTOGRAPHY

Champion in the Community honorees from left are Darrell Green (former Washington Redskin and Pro Football Hall of Famer) - Champion of the Community, Man of the Year Award; Brigadier General Leo A. Brooks, Jr. (USA, Retired) - Leadership and Military Service Award; Mele Melton (founder of Culturified Foundation) - Emerging Leader Under 40 Award; Brigadier Gen. Leo A. Brooks, Sr. (USA, Retired) - Leadership and Military Service Award; and U.S. Rep. Robert "Bobby" C. Scott (D-3) - Congressional Leadership Award.

Urban League Honors Community Leaders

And presents \$50,000 in scholarships at its 27th Annual Awards Gala.

What do Pro Football Hall of Famer Darrell Green, Korean Commander Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Rep. Bobby Scott and the Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL) have in common? The Northern Virginia Urban League honored six champions in the community for leadership and community service and awarded \$50,000 in scholarships to local minority Northern Virginia high school seniors at its 27th Annual Community Service and Scholarship Awards Gala on Friday, April 28 at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. The theme was "Celebrating Champions in Our Community."

Those recognized as Community Champions included:

- ❖ Darrell Green (former Washington Redskin and Pro Football Hall of Famer) -

Champion of the Community, Man of the Year Award. Green spoke of his challenging upbringing and despite the success of his NFL career his life beyond #28 is devoted to God and community.

- ❖ U.S. Rep. Robert "Bobby" C. Scott (D-3) - Congressional Leadership Award. Scott spoke of the critical value of historic preservation and advocacy for affordable healthcare

- ❖ Mele Melton (founder of Culturified Foundation) - Emerging Leader Under 40 Award. The owner of 27 Taco Bells spoke of changing culture and the need for children to become "Culturefied."

- ❖ Brigadier General (Retired) Leo A. Brooks, Sr., Brigadier General (Retired) Leo A. Brooks, Jr., and General Vincent K. Brooks - Leadership and Military Service Award - African-American family with fa-

ther and two sons to attain rank of general in the U.S. Army. History making, press-averse, family with two generations of generals and three generals in the family is an unprecedented milestone. Son Vincent who commands Korea is managing the conflict for the Trump Administration.

Seniors receiving a college scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 each were:

- ❖ Yosaph Boku - Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.
- ❖ Jessica Brisco - T.C. Williams High School, Alexandria.
- ❖ Christian Clark - Washington-Lee High School, Arlington.
- ❖ Nicholas Conklu - Washington-Lee High School, Arlington.
- ❖ Abigail Darko - Heritage High School, Leesburg.
- ❖ Morgan Hobson - Fairfax High School, Fairfax.

Fairfax.

- ❖ Miranda Merritt - Thomas A. Edison High School, Alexandria.

- ❖ Oshae Moore - Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield.

- ❖ Aaron Moorer - Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria.

- ❖ Matthew Ritchie - Loudoun Academy of Science, Sterling/Broad Run High School, Ashburn.

Monies raised from the gala will benefit preservation of the Freedom House Museum, STEM Education Programs, STEM Summer Camps, STEM Technology Expositions, Mentoring Programs, Leadership Development Programs for Young Professionals, and \$50,000 in Scholarship Awards to Minority Youth. For more information about the Northern Virginia Urban League, visit www.nvul.org.



Scholarship winners with sponsors, from left are first row - Scholarship Winners - Abigail Darko, Oshae Moore, Aaron Moorer, Miranda Merritt, Morgan Hobson, Matthew Ritchie, Jessica Brisco, Nicholas Conklu, and Christian Clark; second row - Sade Oshinubi, (NVUL Young Professionals Network), Neil Robinson, Vonya Alleyne (VP of HR, Cox Virginia), Judy Robinson, Leo A. Brooks, Jr. (VP of Defense, Space, and Security, The Boeing Company), Michael E. Melton (president and CEO, TME Enterprises), and Jonathan Dinesman (SVP of Gov. Relations, CENTENE Corporation).



From left are Lavern Chatman (director Fund Development, NVUL), U.S. Rep. Robert "Bobby" C. Scott (D-3), Alexandria Mayor Allison, Diane McLaughlin (NVUL Gala co-chair), Christopher J. Lewis (Alexandria School Board member), and Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam.

Ceremony Honors 'Eco-friendly' Golf Course

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Mount Vernon Country Club celebrated the formal reopening of its "eco-friendly" golf course on May 11 with a late-afternoon ribbon cutting and reception. Local elected officials joined club President Lou Haley and General Manager Pete Van Pelt in wielding the traditional giant scissors to sever a ribbon stretched between two golf carts adjacent to the 18th green.

Attendees included Fairfax County Supervisors Dan Storck and Jeff McKay, state Sen. Scott Surovell, Del. Paul Krizek, and Earl Flanagan, Mount Vernon's representative on the county's Planning Commission.

Haley opened the ceremony by describing how the golf course will help improve the local environment in three distinct ways. First, the club dredged two irrigation ponds to capture incoming silt from upstream so it will not wash downstream into the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay; that silt can be removed periodically from the ponds. Further, the increased depth will eliminate shallow-water algae blooms and offer a healthier environment for fish and wildlife.

Second, the club completed the streambank stabilization project it started in 2004. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation recognized both the previous and recent efforts with monetary grants to help with costs. Both the improved ponds and streambanks will improve



SUNNY KING PHOTOGRAPHY

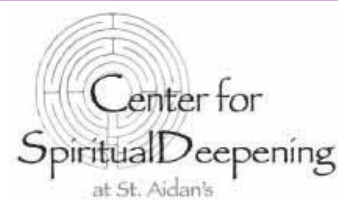
Those helping to cut the ceremonial ribbon upon the opening of Mount Vernon Country Club's eco-friendly golf course include MVCCA's Cathy Ledec (from left), club General Manager Pete Van Pelt, club President Lou Haley, Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), and Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon).

the quality of water flowing downstream from the club.

Third, the club removed the Bent grass from the fairways and planted a hybrid Bermuda grass that has been proven to be more environmentally friendly. The hybrid will need only half the water, fertilizer, insecticides, and fungicides required by the Bent grass. A United States Golf Association agronomist called the new fairway grass "a home run for Mount Vernon."

Cathy Ledec, chair of the Environment and Recreation Committee in the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association, not only spoke at the ribbon cutting but also lauded the project last year. "Mount Vernon Country Club is working very hard to be good stewards of their land, and the members recognize the importance of their greenspace."

Ledec, Storck and McKay spoke briefly before helping with the ribbon cutting. A brief reception followed on the clubhouse terrace.



Music and Divine Presence

Wednesday, May 31 at 7:30 pm

John Baker & Margie Baker

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Margie taught music in the early college program at Guilford College for many years. Her father John is a priest who has led singing and chant throughout his ministry.

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At Future Leaders Forum

Twelve Walt Whitman Middle School students accompanied teacher Leslie K. Houston to a Future Leaders Forum on Saturday, May 20. At the forum they were exposed to the world of coding. They created their own video games through APP inventor. They learned leadership skills, goal setting and finance. At the end of the day, the students received a certificate of completion and a laptop to take home. The students included Khalid Williams, Mark Mejia, Robert Serrano, Kelvin Addo, Brenden Boswell, Jordan Malone, Jacob Murphy, Anderson Campos, Joseph London, Gerson Hernandez, Tyler Sembly, and Antron Campbell.

West Potomac Receives 11 Cappies Nominations

West Potomac High School received 11 Cappies Awards nominations for its production of "Billy Elliot." The 18th Annual Cappies Awards Gala will be held Sunday June 11.

The Cappies recognize and celebrate high school theatre and journalism. The 391 student critics from the 59 member schools in the National Capitol Area Cappies Chapter voted for the 2016-2017 nominations.

Emily Lyon, Lily Vita, and the WPHS Marketing Team were nominated marketing and publicity.

Logan Claussen, Ella Moore, and Will Schless were nominated for special effects and or technology.

Logan Claussen, Ella Moore, and Will Schless were nominated for

lighting.

Kaylie Kopicki, Becca Roberts, Lorna Ryan, and Valentina Selnick were nominated for costumes.

West Potomac's Refried Beans was nominated for orchestra.

Natalie Edwards was nominated for choreography.

Emily Lyon, Elaina Phalen and The Black Morphsuit Crew were nominated for stage management and stage crew.

The Miners were nominated for ensemble in a musical.

Josh Stein was nominated for male dancer.

Jonathan Barger was nominated for supporting actor in a musical.

Solidarity was nominated for song.

"Billy Elliot" was nominated for musical.

Clarification

In the May 18 story, "Residents: Airplane Noise Getting Worse," there are 4,300 flights across the D.C. Metroplex every day, including

DCA, BWI, IAD and all the area general aviation and military airports as well as transient air traffic from the north, south, east and west.



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OPINION

Reasons in Favor of Gas Merger

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



This week, I want to spotlight the application of Washington Gas (WGL), which provides our natural gas to combine its operations with AltaGas, a Canadian diversified energy infrastructure business.

What happens with Washington Gas, which interestingly was chartered by Congress in 1848 to provide gas lamp service to the U.S. Capitol, is of importance to me in my role representing my constituents, many whom are customers in one of the older portions of the company's service territory of over one million customers. This includes much of Northern Virginia, parts of the state's Northern Neck, as well as the District of Columbia and portions of Maryland.

Approval of this application by the Virginia State Corporation Commission and its counterparts in the District and Maryland will assure us that we will continue to be served by a company providing safe and reliable service. Customers will also get continuity in the strong commitment to resolving customer issues in a fair and timely manner. Also, I've seen first-

hand the dedication to being actively and positively involved in the life of the communities in which it does business, and am glad to see its intention to continue those important endeavors following the merger.

It is also reassuring that their headquarters will remain in Washington, D.C., and that their environmentally-friendly Springfield

Center will stay open to serve, with easy access, the company's Virginia customers. Other facilities, including walk-in offices, I am assured, will remain in their current locations.

WGL Energy will expand its clean and efficient energy offerings. AltaGas will establish new headquarters for its U.S. power business in WGL's service region, and combine with WGL Energy Systems leadership. Also important to recognize is its commitment to operate under current union bargaining unit agreements, and continue to offer job growth opportunities for its many dedicated employees in the region.

The new combined company is committed to maintain safe, reliable, and affordable utility service without increasing rates as a result of this transaction, serving 1.65 million customers across the U. S. and Canada. I am confident it will put customers and communities first, by providing innovative energy-related services, including natural gas, electricity, re-

newable energy, distributed generation, energy efficiency, and natural gas storage and transportation.

Another nice plus is that WGL Energy will increase its commitment to making a difference in the lives of its customers, employees, and the communities it serves. For 10 years after the close of the merger, AltaGas would make \$1.2 million in charitable contributions and traditional local community support per year in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, a 20 percent increase over the highest of any of the past five fiscal years for WGL.

Positive as well is that the company will provide \$450,000 for a study to access the development of renewable gas facilities in the Washington region. This complements a pledge to develop, or cause to be developed, 5 MW of either electric grid energy storage or Tier 1 renewable resources.

WGL's generous philanthropy is further enhanced by its decision to provide \$1.5 million of supplemental funding, over the five years following the merger, to the Washington Area Fuel Fund, to furnish emergency gas utility bill assistance to qualifying low and moderate-income customers.

For all of these good reasons, I am optimistic that the merger of Washington Gas and AltaGas is a good thing for our community, the consumers and Virginia as a whole.

Attend Local Public Safety Meeting

BY DAN STORCK
SUPERVISOR, MOUNT VERNON
DISTRICT



This past September I hosted a community meeting on the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Police Commission recommendations regarding communications, use of force, establishing an independent auditor and initiating a Police Civilian Review Panel. At the meeting, Chief of Police Ed Roessler, police leaders and officers from Fairfax County presented and engaged with community members about police issues.

Since then, I have met and heard from a number of residents who have had additional public safety questions and concerns. As a result, I am hosting another public safety community meeting on Wednesday, May 31, from 7-9 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School Lecture Hall.

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, Mount Vernon Police Station representatives and other public safety officials will be presenting and responding to questions. Meeting attendees will receive an update on implementation of the police recommendations and learn more about police and sheriff policies and pro-

cedures related to handling mental health issues, immigration and undocumented residents and a variety of information on other public safety topics in the Mount Vernon District.

The focus of the meeting will be to answer your questions. I hope you will join me for this opportunity to engage with key public officials and members from the Sheriff and Fairfax County Police Departments. If you want more information, please don't hesitate to email us at MtVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit our website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mtvernon or call us at 703-780-7518. If you are unable to attend, you will still be able to view the meeting live on my Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SupervisorDanStorck/>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protect Neighborhoods

To the Editor:

It's time for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to ban Airbnb and private functions in residential neighborhoods. Unfortunately we have a vacant home in our Mount Vernon neighborhood that is being used for

multiple transient rentals as well as rented out for large weddings and events. This was a quiet, safe neighborhood. Now we have numerous strangers coming and going, and a huge increase in traffic.

There are dozens of young children that live near this vacant home. Recently when there was a large wedding, numerous cars were witnessed speeding through the neighborhood headed to the event, with two actually running through the stop sign. And one car was actually seen by multiple residents speeding backwards. This is a safety issue for our neighborhood's children and residents and must be immediately addressed.

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and the Fairfax County staff have been professional and friendly; however, the vacant home continues to be used via

Airbnb with a nonstop parade of transient strangers coming and going through our neighborhood. It's time for our county leaders to ban Airbnb and private functions in our residential neighborhoods before a child gets hurt or worse.

Dan Berger
Alexandria

Heart-Breaking Responses

To the Editor:

Homelessness is a word that can conjure up a variety of emotions.

For some it might be sympathy or contempt for those affected by it. For others it might be a fear of it possibly happening to them. The desire to find out how people felt on this subject served as the catalyst for my project team in a George Mason University communications class.

As part of the class project we had the opportunity to partner with the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. When we were informed about the current situation involving homelessness in

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Safety Concerns with Parkway

FROM PAGE 3

“While the Parkway is an important commuter roadway and serves as an integral part of the region’s transportation system, it is also a park,” LaRocca said. “It is listed as a historic property on the National Register of Historic Places as being significant for a number of reasons, including landscape and roadway design. Because the entire GWMP is included on the Register, we cannot manage the roadway in the same way states manage roads.”

On the other hand, programs to calm Parkway traffic seem within reach, at least in the minds of local residents. Cameron Curtis of Mason Hill offered her views: “Increased police presence would help, and the Park Police should randomly station a car in the turn-off between Tulane Drive and Morningside Lane.” But Curtis added that some of the onus has to be on the drivers. “If everyone would slow down and pay closer attention, accidents would happen less frequently.”

Katherine Ward, Transportation Committee chair at the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Association, agreed: “The problems on the Parkway are about people. People are rude, discourteous and in a hurry. This is a scenic roadway, not part of the Beltway.”

Waynewood resident Tony Mazzocoli suggests several traffic management options. “Assuming the Parkway will not be altered or improved to accommodate current traffic patterns, the simplest solutions could be the following: restrict left hand turns onto the Parkway at rush hour at key intersections and limit access to the Parkway at some intersections at rush hour.” Mazzocoli also urged protection for pedestrians and cyclists crossing the Parkway. Several others, including Surovell, have recognized that issue, especially people walking across the roadway to catch the northbound 11Y Metrobus in the morning.

Steve Chaconas, who lives in Stratford Landing, thinks speed cameras “are a good idea and a good start,” but scoffs at turn limits at some intersections: “If they can’t enforce the speed limit, how will they enforce restricted turns?”

Beyer, in a statement provided to the Gazette, lamented the state of the Parkway today. “Traffic volume and commuter use of the George Washington Parkway is far beyond what was originally envisioned for this picturesque road.” Additionally, he promised continuing attention to the matter. “Together with other elected officials, I have asked for updated statistics for this roadway and will continue to pursue solutions with the National Park Service.”

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine is also concerned and offered this statement: “We’ve heard from both residents and local officials in light of some recent safety incidents on the Parkway. My office has submitted a request for traffic data on the Parkway in order to get more information about safety trends and potential ways to reduce the risk in these areas.”

Surovell offered several possible fixes. “I support an increased police presence during rush hour and speed cameras,” he said. “Left turn restrictions should be studied, but I am concerned about the impact restrictions would have on remaining local roads and Fort Hunt Road congestion.”

Krizek also addressed the speeding matter: “There is only one Park Police officer on duty at any one time on the Parkway between the north end of Reagan National Airport and the Mount Vernon Estate. I have insisted the Park Police get more policemen on the Parkway.”

Krizek also said he would support a multifaceted traffic management program beyond visible police



PHOTO BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

Increased traffic volume exacerbates the current Parkway pothole plague. These two patched potholes are on the bridge spanning Little Hunting Creek; note the adjacent fracture lines.

— perhaps cameras, rush-hour restrictions and solutions to dangerous pedestrian crossings.

Ward seconded the need for increasing police presence. “The committee met with Park Police officials last year,” Ward said, “and asked for more police patrols on the Parkway, but they said they don’t have enough officers. We asked those officials to approach the Fairfax County Police and ask for help.”

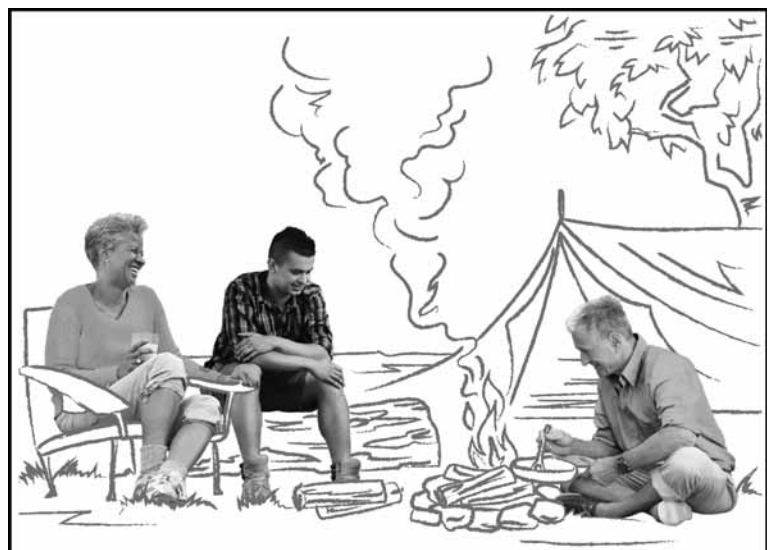
The Park Police’s Sgt. Rose, when asked about potential traffic-calming measures such as speed cameras and turn restrictions during rush hours, offered the following statement: “The USPP maintains a patrol presence along the George Washington Memorial Parkway and utilizes several methods to deter speeding and other dangerous driving activity including radar and lasers.” Rose then offered an explanation for traffic-calming challenges that is virtually identical to LaRocca’s statement regarding the deterioration of the Parkway’s road surface: “Because this is a historic roadway and a park, and is listed on the Register for Historic Places, we cannot manage the roadway in the same way states manage roads.”

Hollin Hills resident Baird Smith is a retired architect who has worked extensively on historic site renovation, both as a NPS employee and in private practice. He has a proposed solution to the unsafe Parkway conditions. “The NPS should excess its parkways to state governments to be incorporated as state highways and parks for the following reasons:

- ❖ NPS parkways are a second priority for annual funding because they are not within the core mission;
- ❖ Parkway staffs are ill-suited to highway management, maintenance and design;
- ❖ Heavy use of parkway roads requires disproportionately high maintenance funding;
- ❖ The Park Police have difficulty in providing for public safety because of the wholly linear nature of the coverage zone.”

As proven by traffic concerns that have erupted several times in the past 50 years, the future may be even worse than now. Krizek sees troubling developments on the horizon: “The Parkway problems will get worse in 2023 when a planned widening of Route 1 begins between Jeff Todd Way and Napper Road in Gum Springs. During construction, drivers will bail out onto the Parkway, a big-time concern.”

Given that prediction, Mason Hill resident Cameron Curtis suggested: “Fairfax County, the Commonwealth and Parkway management need to get together with residents and talk about traffic in the greater Route 1 corridor. We have to work together on solutions to adapt to the growing commuter needs on Route 1, Fort Hunt Road and the GW Parkway. Fixing one road won’t solve the problem.”



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“Me and My Dad”

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editors@connectionnewspapers.com

County Launches Innovation Challenge

Challenge brings together several hundred attendees who “might normally not cross paths.”

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Human Services Council thinks it's time to shake things up, to build a new strategy for identifying, addressing and funding solutions for human service needs in the community, and they've taken the first step in that direction by hosting the Innovation Challenge on May 18.

Evidence from the recent Fiscal Year 2018 Budget process and the data collected in the “Human Services Needs Assessment” published last year, show a trend where more of the county's residents require some type of assistance. In the words of Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, “Demand is outstripping resources.”

During the budget proceedings, some programs and initiatives were left unfunded, or given less than requested, and other initiatives and needs were rolled forward for future consideration.

Seven months ago, Human Services Council members Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock District) and Thomas Goodwin (Providence District) “hatched an idea,” Winter told the attendees at the Innovation



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) discusses some of the issues with Human Services Council Member Thomas Goodwin (Providence District). Along with Council member Dr. Patrice Winter, Goodwin “hatched the idea” for the Challenge. Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville) also attended the event.

event. She said that the two convinced each other that a broader network of people from

a greater variety of disciplines and experiences was needed to bring a fresh perspective to the various problems. With the support of their council colleagues and from county personnel, Winter and Goodwin directed their idea into the Challenge that brought several hundred attendees together who, as Winter put it “might normally not cross paths.”

In her letter to the Innovation Challenge participants, Bulova called the community-driven program “unprecedented in that it brings together leaders of all elements of the emerging 21st century human services community: businesses, established and startup; financiers in social impact investment; social entrepreneurs; philanthropists and foundations; nonprofits, and outstanding thought leaders in academia. Fairfax County employees,” wrote Bulova, “are here primarily to listen.”

THE PRESENTERS and the attendees covered a range of varying interests and experiences. In her opening remarks, Winter acknowledged that everyone present — speakers, panelists and audience members — came to the table with their own underlying agendas, causes or points of view. She

asked that those agendas be “left in the parking lot. Models, strategy and process, not issues, are our directions this morning.”

Speaking to the attendees, Goodwin applauded the audience's presence at the event, telling them that by being there, they were participating in an experiment in community engagement. Working together produces significant results, he affirmed.

“We know that,” said Goodwin, using the example of the county's Diversion First program that seeks to direct persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues away from imprisonment to treatment when they come into contact with law enforcement for nonviolent offenses. “Five agencies work together across turf” to make Diversion First work, said Goodwin.

The Innovation Challenge, intended to be the launch for a series of events, set forth three main objectives:

- ❖ Exchange information about state-of-the-art innovations that can address health and human service challenges.

- ❖ Elicit new ideas from public and private partners to enhance services and maximize resources.

SEE INNOVATION, PAGE 21



HOME OF THE WEEK

Alexandria

Spectacular Mt. Vernon colonial with one car garage in lovely Riverside Estates neighborhood. Everything has been beautifully updated - renovated kitchen and baths, refinished hardwood floors, double pane-replacement windows. Exquisite attention to details throughout. Two fireplaces. Family Room on main level. Large, finished basement shows lovely and is nicely designed. Lush landscaping. Large backyard with patio and wood privacy fence. This home is a gem!

Riverside Estates is located close to schools, gyms, shopping, restaurants, and recreation. Close to Mt. Vernon Estate and George Washington Parkway for a scenic commute along the Potomac River. Inova Mt. Vernon Hospital, Police and Fire Station and Sherwood Regional Library are only 2.5 miles away. Mount Vernon Farmers Market is held May through November at Sherwood Regional Library. Ft. Belvoir is a 10 minute commute; Huntington Metro (with commuter parking) and Old Town Alexandria are 15 minutes, Pentagon and Regan National Airport 25 minutes along the Potomac River.

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SUMMER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Make Room for Ice Cream

BY HOPE NELSON

In no time at all, spring turns to summer and mild weather turns into a heat wave. Here are a handful of options to cool off on a hot summer's day — or any time, regardless of season.

Casa Rosada, 111 S. Payne St.

Named after the Argentine prsmesidential mansion, Casa Rosada — or “Pink House” — offers treats fit for heads of state. Situated just off of King Street in Old Town, the gelato purveyor offers up a multitude of flavors to meet every palate, from deep and creamy to a light-tasting sorbet to non-dairy options.

As with many ice cream and gelato shops around town, the menu rotates with the seasons and more frequently, so don't get too attached to any of the flavors on the daily docket. But some you should keep an eye out for: Sambayon, mint granizado, and an all-American favorite, PB&J.

The Dairy Godmother, 2310 Mount Vernon Ave.

The Dairy Godmother has had a fraught time of it since the beginning of the year. During the longtime custard

shop's annual winter break, owner Liz Davis announced on her blog that the Godmother wouldn't be reopening as usual in the spring and would instead open itself up to new buyers. While it would appear that the latter remains the case, the shop has reopened to fans for the foreseeable future.

Specializing in unique and interesting flavors, the Dairy Godmother always offers something exciting for tasters to try. What is on tap today may not be available tomorrow, or by the weekend, but with flavors running the gamut from seasonal strawberry to an Earth Day-friendly Crunchy Granola, your options will always be good ones.

Nicecream Factory, 726 King St.

The newest ice-cream shop on King Street is now open and offering up a plethora of options. Walk into the store and it's clear that the business does things a little differently: Instead of scooping out premade ice cream, employees flash-freeze treats on the spot using liquid nitrogen.

The menu rotates weekly; some of this week's flavors range from pina colada to butter toffee pecan to dark chocolate sea salt. Pop in and get some flash-frozen entertainment with your afternoon snack.

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



Situated just off of King Street, Casa Rosada offers up a multitude of gelato flavors to meet every palate.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Kiln Club Show. 7:30-10 p.m. through May 29 at the Scope Gallery, 105 N. Union Street, ground floor Studio 19. The “Better than Brunch: Mother's Day Originals” Kiln Club show. Call 703-548-6288, or visit scopegallery.org.

Levels of Abstraction Art. Through May 31, various times at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005.

Gods, Heroes, and Fools. Various times through June 4 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 21, 105 North Union St. Artist Lesa Cook sets the Greek and Roman gods into a contemporary context in “Gods, Heroes, and Fools. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

“Master Class” on Stage. Through June 11, 7 p.m. at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Music direction by Joseph Walsh, featuring Ilona Dulaski as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's valentine to “La Divina.” Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Native Plants, Herbs, and Heirloom Tomatoes. Various times through mid June at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.mvuc.org.

Flora and Fauna Artshow. Through June 25, various times at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will highlight the work of artists Jeanne Bohlen and Floris Flam. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.



“Fundred” Dollar Bills

On Thursday, May 25 creator Mel Chin presents the Fundred Dollar Bill Project, 7 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 8. Visitors will be invited to learn about the project, share their thoughts, and create their own unique Fundred, a currency of imagination. Exhibit runs through June 30. Visit torpedofactory.org.

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

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Relics. Various times through Labor Day at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn the history of the museum, the purchase and see the original woodwork. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm.
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.
Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour. Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era

Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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

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

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

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SUMMER FUN



El Galeon Ship

Tour the El Galeon Ship, May 25-29 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the City of Alexandria Marina. This is a replica of a 16th century Spanish sailing cargo vessel, 170 feet long and 125 feet tall. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12. Children five and under. Visit www.fundacionnaovictoria.org.

FROM PAGE 13

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.leeendallhouse.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 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.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

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

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it

occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

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 & 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.

MAY 31-AUG. 25

Summer Theatre Camps. Various times at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Preschool-8th graders can learn acting, musical theatre, dancing, improv, Shakespeare, film making. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

JUNE 26-28

Civil War Mini-Camp. 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

each day at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Camp participants will explore life during the Civil War through fun and educational activities such as drilling and marching, hands-on craft lessons, 19th-century games, and learning from guest reenactors. Ages 9-12. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

JULY 13-29

By the Seashore. 6-8 p.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Produced by Arts on the Horizon. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org.

JULY 17-21

Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017.

JULY 24-28

Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017.

THURSDAY/MAY 25

Taste of Mount Vernon. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Call 703-360-8400.

Tour the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 517 Prince St. Enjoy an advance look at this 18th-century house, recently purchased

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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We meet on the last Wednesday of every month from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Join us for lunch and hear from medical professionals and community members to help you stay energetic and active!

Our May program is about traveling. Summer is coming, and this is a time when many of us like to get out of town. Our speaker, Mary Peters, president of Friendly Travel, will share great ideas about things to do and places to go, and how to make your summer travel fun and filled with healthy activities. Join us for fun, food and fellowship and start planning your summer travel!

**Wednesday, May 31, 2017
12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.**

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Space is limited to the first 50 respondents; call 1-877-926-8300.

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SUMMER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

Join This 'Master Class'

Story centers on opera diva Maria Callas teaching at Juilliard School.

By STEVE HIBBARD

"Master Class," presented by MetroStage in Alexandria now through June 11, features soaring music, dramatic arias, emotional outbursts and an insight into the psyche of diva Maria Callas. Playwright Terrence McNally puts "La Divina" center stage as she inspires, prods and terrorizes her students into giving the performance of their lives, all the while revealing her own life on the stage with memories from "La Scala," her marriages and her art. The play directed by Nick Olcott was inspired by a series of master classes that Callas conducted at the Juilliard School at the end of her career.

According to Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director of MetroStage: "For theatre lovers, plays about theatre or the arts or the artists are always crowd pleasers and audience favorites. And when the artist is a diva like Maria Callas with such an extraordinary story to tell both personally and professionally, the audience is riveted by the unfolding drama."

She added: "So choosing a play like 'Master Class' by a renowned playwright like Terrence McNally, famous for everything from 'Lisbon Traviata' to 'Ragtime,' it seems almost inevitable. It is great to finally have the beloved Washington actor Ilona Dulaski debuting on our stage as 'La Divina.' Having two well-known opera professors, Nick Olcott and Joseph Walsh, direct and music direct, and casting opera students or recent grads in the student roles made the whole experience feel very real and authentic. And to have our set design modeled after the recital hall at the University of Maryland completed the picture."

Playing the title character of Maria Callas, who died of a heart attack at age 53, is Dulaski. She said Callas's mother heard her sing when she was very young and decided to make her an opera star and thought Greece was the place to be.

Commenting about her character, she said: "This play 'Master Class' is my journey from a fat young, ugly girl who had no friends, all the way up to when I became a star, when I became very, very thin — Audrey Hepburn thin — and I met Aristotle Onassis on board his yacht, the Christina, while I was married to Battista Meneghini."

She said Callas and Onassis had a lifelong, passionate affair while he was the richest ship magnate in Greece and she was the most famous opera singer in that country. "This play is primarily about one of the master classes I taught after Ari died, after he had married Jackie Kennedy when his own wife died, and left me," she said. "I ruined my career because of him; I gave him everything, everything."

The challenge was being true to the script, but also true to Callas, whom she calls an absolutely breathtaking human being, singer and artist, she said. "Her artistry and deep emotion to 'finding the truth to the situation' in all of her performances in her many operas, was a perfection and emotional exploration of content that was unsurpassed by any other singer of the time, possibly ever," she said. "The



PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

Ayana Reed and Ilona Dulaski star in "Master Class" at MetroStage in

challenge in 'Master Class' was being true to that insight of artistry and not come across as pedantic or a bullying Diva."

Music director and actor Joseph Walsh is playing the role of Manny, the piano accompanist for the master classes. "He is likely on the faculty at The Juilliard School and works regularly as a coach for the singers," he said. A coach in the opera world helps singers with musicality, languages, diction and breathing, and playing the orchestra part for them.

"This is what I do in life so the part is easy for me to relate to. Manny is supportive of the singers and at the same time very enthusiastic that a legend like Maria Callas is in his midst," he added.

He said while he is trained as a pianist and coach, he is not trained as an actor, "so it was quite a challenge knowing that I was on stage throughout the entire play and had to interact and react at each moment," he said. "Manny is often a comic relief to the intensity of Callas. It has truly been an honor and thrill for me to watch Ilona and the talented young singers develop and display their characters."

Emily Honzel is playing the first soprano role of Sophie as a younger version of herself. "She is eager to please and has a lot to learn," she said. "Her excitement at working with Maria Callas, as well as the honor of being chosen to perform in a prestigious Master Class, are both chipped away slowly throughout the course of the session. But by the time she leaves the stage, she's learned a thing or two about respect for Maria Callas and, most importantly, the music."

She said her biggest challenge was reciting the line, "This is hard," she said. Sophie says it as a response to Maria Callas explaining the English translations of Sophie's Italian aria, she said. "The line seems so obviously a faux pas in the land of opera singers that it hurts a little every night to say it," she said. "I had to work to understand Sophie's motivation behind the line — rooted in her desire to garner sympathy from the audience, which she regards as her support, her defensiveness over her lack of preparation, and her attempt to elicit compassion from the opera diva who she idolizes."

MetroStage is presenting "Master Class" now through June 11, 2017. Performances are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 to \$60 with student and active military and group discounts available. The venue is located at 1201 North Royal St. in North Old Town, Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

and now owned and operated by the City of Alexandria as the final event of Alexandria's Preservation Month. \$10 donation suggested. Visit Shop.Alexandriava.gov.

Fundred Dollar Bill Project Reception. 7 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 8. Visitors will be invited to learn about the project, share their thoughts, and create their own unique Fundred, a currency of imagination. Exhibit runs through June 30. Visit torpedofactory.org.

MAY 25-29

El Galeon Ship Tours. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at the City of Alexandria Marina. Tour a replica of a 16th century Spanish sailing cargo vessel, 170 feet long and 125 feet tall. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-12. Visit www.fundacionnaovictoria.org.

DEADLINE MAY 26

Alexandria Beautification Awards. The City of Alexandria's Beautification Commission is accepting nominations for the 2017 Alexandria Beautification Awards. Nomination forms are available by visiting www.alexandriava.gov/Beautification.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 26-27

Middle East Food Festival and Bazaar. Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday at 10 a.m. at St. Aphraim Syriac Orthodox Church, 6200 Indian Run Parkway. Freshly cooked with chicken and beef shwarma, kabobs, falafel, manaesh, fataayer, sweets, and more. Call 703-785-8457.

SATURDAY/MAY 27

Stratford Pool Reopening. 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. at Stratford Recreation Association, 2300 Brinitzer Way. Grand reopening of the new, expansive facilities at SRA pool, open to the public. Live music at 3 p.m. Free. Email social@stratfordrec.org.
Vacation for Less Lecture. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Bernadette Champion will discuss how to maximize spending power, support Black owned businesses, and look beyond traditional itineraries to include: African and African American related history, internet deals, restrictions, exceptions, and the fine print. Call 703-746-4356.

MONDAY/MAY 29

Vietnam War Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 2701 Commonwealth Ave. "Friends of Captain Rocky Versace" invite the public to honor the 67 Alexandrians who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War featuring a performance by The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps. Visit www.virginia.org.
Memorial Day Jazz Festival. 1 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Entertainment features U. S. Army Blues, The Seth Kibel Quartet, The Tom Cunningham Orchestra, Al Williams, and The Blue Crescent Syncopators. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com/events.

TUESDAY/MAY 30

Spanish Wine Dinner. 7 p.m. at the Del Ray Cafe 205 E Howell Ave. Marqués de Cáceres Spanish Wine Dinner with special guest Export Director Luis Burgueno. Visit www.delraycafe.com/.

MAY 30-JULY 1

Ceramic Show. various times at Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The "Classic Wedding Whites" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 31

Music and Divine Presence. 7-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Experience the connection between music and the spirit, music and our hearts, music and our souls. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Athenaeum Yard Sale. 8:30-11:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. For sale, art and historical artifacts covering their 52-year history as an organization and 150-year historic building. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Clean the Bay. 9 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. The Fairfax County Park Authority is partnering with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to pick up litter and debris in Fairfax County waterways. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park.

City and Museum Tour. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. The Alexandria Commission for Women and Historic Alexandria presenting the 2017 Alexandria Women's History Guided Tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum and Alexandria City. Email Alexandriawomen@gmail.com or call 703-566-0856.

Wine on the Water. 6-8 p.m. at Alexandria's Waterfront, 211 N. Union St. Come out to the Alexandria's waterfront for an evening of wine/charcuterie, music, silent/live auctions, wooden boats and camaraderie. \$85 advance, \$100 at door. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

Evening Tour with Martha Washington. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Greet Lady Washington while enjoying refreshments and live music. \$28. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

"Thanks For All The Fish" Exhibit. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Exhibit showcases the artwork of members who have made exceptional volunteer contributions to support Del Ray Artisans. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

APPLY BY JUNE 4

Call for Artists. The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts invites artists and artist teams living and working in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia to submit their qualifications for a temporary public art project for the Duke Street Pedestrian Concourse. Contact Jimena Larson, Office of the Arts, at 703-746-5503 or e-mail jimena.larson@alexandriava.gov.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Tiny Dancers. 11:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Nearly 300 young dancers will do a choreographed performance of Cinderella, which includes ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater. Call 703-739-0900 or visit www.tinydancers.com.

Harrow Fair Concert. 7:30 p.m. at

SUMMER FUN

the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. To open for Tab Benoit. Visit www.Birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/JUNE 6

"Red, White & Tuna." 7-10 p.m. at Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Friends of United Community Ministries special showing of "Red, White & Tuna" where two actors create the population of Tuna, Texas. \$30. Visit www.ucmagency.org/events.

THURSDAY/JUNE 8

Meet the Author. 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Meet Vivian Thomson, former state air board member during the Alexandria, Wise and Roda issues, as she presents her new book, "Climate of Capitulation," which narrates both scientifically and politically these three cases. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

FRIDAY/JUNE 9

Art on the Vine. 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Art auction and wine tasting party. \$55. Must be 21+ to attend. Call 703-683-1780.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Civil War Camp Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. This annual living history event features military and civilian reenactors in camp settings. Suggested donation is \$2 per person or \$5 per family. The program is weather dependent. Call 703-746-4848, or visit www.fortward.org.

Old Town Arts and Crafts Festival. 10-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Food, beverages and snacks provided by Bunny & the Bear Food Festival; Rockland's BBQ and Grilling; Red Hook Lobster Pound; and Talk Of Di Town II. Email mbrunken@volunteeralexandria.org or call 703-836-2176.

Artists Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. The Light of Day exhibit featuring Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, Rajendra KC. Exhibit will

run through July 15. Visit torpedofactory.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 11

Vaughn Ambrose Quartet. 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Part of the Jazz at Meade series of concerts. \$20 donation, free street parking, free intermission buffet. Call 703-549-1334.

JULY 13-29

By the Seashore. 6-8 p.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Produced by Arts on the Horizon. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org.

JUNE 27-JULY 30

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, ground floor Studio 29. Show is called "Under the Big Top," highlighting the work of three featured artists: Janet Barnard, Paige Garber, and Anne-Sanderoff Walker. Call 703-548-0935, or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 30-JULY 1

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Event includes a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military reenactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all guests. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$18; children ages 6-11, \$9; and children under 5. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme.

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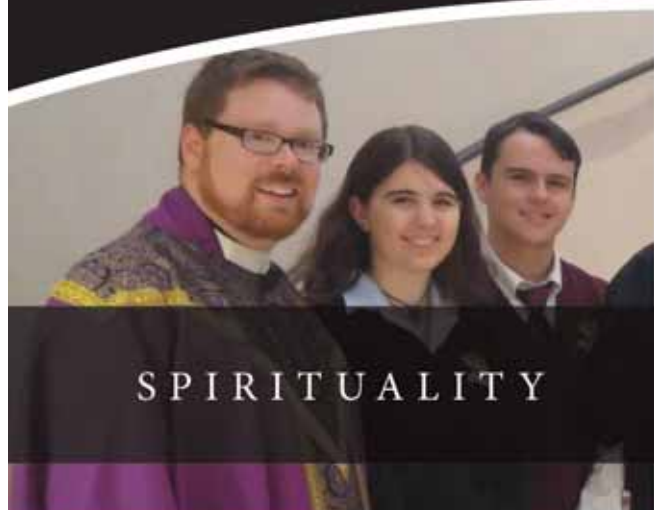


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SPORTS

West Potomac Softball Enters Region Quarterfinals

West Potomac Softball beat Osbourn High School in the first round of regional play 10-1 at West Potomac on Tuesday, May 23. The region quarterfinal game will be played at West Potomac on Thursday, May 25 against McLean High School. Start time is 6:30 p.m.

On Friday, May 19, West Potomac defeated West Springfield 5-0 to capture the Patriot Conference title for the first time since 2005. The last time West Potomac played for the title was 2011 and lost to South County in 11 innings.

The road to the championship was hard fought. West Potomac finished the regular season tied for third with West Springfield with a 14-6 record. West Potomac defeated Mount Vernon in round 1 of the conference tournament by a score of 8-1. Then West Potomac defeated Lake Braddock in 10 innings in the semifinal game 5-4. West Potomac captured the title by defeating West Springfield at West Springfield 5-0.

The All Patriot Tournament Team was announced at the conclusion of the May 19 game and the West Potomac players were:



From left are Allison Thompson, Grace Moery, Jennavieve Miller, back left: Assistant Coach Kara Davis, Claire Davidson, Hailey Baldwin, Madison Kimberlin, Assistant Coach Lee Harrington, Charlotte Krell, Natalie Lerner, Avery O'Connor, Micaela Neulight, Kayla Congleton, Caroline Bowman, Head Coach Craig Maniglia, Farrin McMaster, and Assistant Coach Hannah O'Neil.

Senior Grace Moery (center-field), Senior Micaela Neulight (right-field), Sophomore Jennavieve Miller (third-base), and the

tournament MVP was Freshman Claire Davidson (pitcher). Davidson allowed 1 hit and struck out 14 batters in the Champion-

ship game.

The semi-finals are on May 30 followed by Region final on June 2.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

The Gum Springs Senior Program is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. An **Urdu-speaking Grocery Shopper** is needed in Alexandria to assist an older adult male.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults needs Instructors for the following classes: Art, Line Dance, Hula Hoop Class and African Style Dance.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center needs front desk volunteers, an Art Instructor to teach water colors and acrylics and Social Companions.

The Lincolnia Senior Center in Alexandria is looking for Instructors for the following classes: Jewelry Making, Knitting/Crochet, Zumba, Yoga/Matwork, Aerobics and needs Front Desk Assistance.

THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Mobile DMV. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sherwood Hall Library. Two programs, DMV Connect and DMV 2 GO, will provide full DMV service to the Route 1 area. At the Sherwood Hall service centers, customers can apply or renew their ID cards, drivers licenses, take road and knowledge tests, apply for special ID cards, get copies of their driving records, obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals and transcripts, order disabled parking placards or plates, purchase an EZ-Pass transponder and more. A full list of services is available at www.dmv.virginia.gov.

SATURDAY/MAY 27

Car 'Boot' Sale. 8 a.m.-noon at St.

Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Similar to a yard sale, but items are sold from the trunk or "boot" of a car. Call 703-780-9418 for more.

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, and books. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaldrea@aol.com.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs **volunteers to drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Program** in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs

Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

and click on Volunteer Solutions. The **Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center** for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

United Community Ministries seeks volunteers to act as food pantry assistants, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office admin/data entry, community outreach, ESL teachers and co-teachers, and teacher aides. Visit www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html.

Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to

SEE BULLETIN. PAGE 22

King Honored for Sportsmanship

Joe King, a Mount Vernon native and long-time Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association athlete, was named to the Ray Rostan Men's Lacrosse Sportsmanship Team when the Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) awards were announced on May 11.

King, a senior defensive midfielder for the Roanoke College Maroons Men's Lacrosse Team played in 11 games and caused three turnovers, collected eight ground balls, and scored one goal, but it was his leadership, team work, and sportsmanship on and off the field that earned him the honor.

King graduated Roanoke College



Joe King

on May 6 with a Business Degree in Finance and Marketing, and he will pursue a business career in Northern Virginia beginning this summer.

Innovation Challenge

FROM PAGE 12

❖ Set the stage for specific recommendations about service enhancements and resources required to present to relevant stakeholders in the future.

The first section of the program offered presentations from persons working directly in Human Services in neighboring Montgomery County, Md. When questioned on seeking funds from the business community or other non-governmental sources, Sharon Friedman, project director of Montgomery Moving Forward, advised that the key is to develop partnerships early.

"We don't show up afterwards and ask for money," said Friedman. Instead, possible collaborators are asked to be at the table from the start, "when the needs and the challenges are explained and discussed."

Speaker Dr. Sallie Keller, professor of Statistics and director of the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory of the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech ("Yes, what a mouthful!" agreed Keller) offered insights on "designed data collection" in the Human Services arena and work being done to better measure outcomes. "The goal is to democratize data ... and to provide new language for communication ... that can become a unifying thing around different disciplines."

After a section devoted to "Progressive Funding Opportunities," the organizers set the "social experiment" in motion with a series of "Reverse Pitches" to drive home the collaborative approach that Winter, Goodwin and colleagues hope to see develop from this first Innovation Challenge.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 8700 block of Richmond Highway (Club One), May 19, around 11:18 p.m. Officers responded to a report of the sound of several gun shots. An investigation determined several rounds were fired in or near a parking lot. At least eight parked cars were struck. An 18-year-old woman was sitting inside one of the vehicles and was struck in the hand. She was treated at the hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. No one else reported any injury. The investigation continues but it appears the incident stemmed from an argument.

BURGLARY: 2900 block of Southgate Drive (Jiffy Lube), May 20, around 12:45 a.m. An investigation determined a man forced entry through a door and took money.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING/ASSAULT/ARREST: 7200 block of Fordson Road, May 17, around 6:44 p.m. A 31-year-old man was approached

THE IDEA is to "pitch" community issues and have businesses consider them and offer their suggestions and potential solutions, instead of the traditional "company pitches a product model." For the Innovation Challenge, real problems were shared, and real companies, who had been paired with the problem-presenters in advance for the sake of demonstration, came back with possible innovations, services, technologies, or skills sets that might be applied to solving the problem.

The topics chosen were familiar challenges for many in the audience. Heads nodded in acknowledgement when "Care-giver Support Services," "Transportation Options for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities," and "Skills Training for Today's Employment" were presented to the partnered businesses.

Fairfax County, like many jurisdictions across the country, is facing the challenge of widening gaps between the human services needs of its residents and the county's ability to deliver those needs within its budget constraints.

With the kick-off of the Innovation Challenge, the Fairfax County Human Services Council is seeking to perform what they call a "much needed facelift" on the traditional methods of addressing those challenges.

The public is encouraged to learn about the council at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, search Human Services Council and to review the "Human Services Needs Assessment" which is also available on the county's website.

For details on area parks, services, and communities, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov. Search for tax bills, property transfers, and employment opportunities.

by another man at a gas station. The suspect yelled at him, then chased and assaulted him with a belt. A 42-year-old man from Alexandria was arrested and taken to the Adult Detention Center. He was charged with malicious wounding, assault and battery, and drunk in public. The victim was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

MAY 22 — LARCENIES

2500 block of Oberlin Drive, tools from residence

6000 block of Pike Branch Drive, wallet from vehicle

2900 block of Popkins Lane, cash from business

7600 block of Richmond Highway, license plate from vehicle

8000 block of Richmond Highway, headphones from vehicle

STOLEN VEHICLES

7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, 1997 Honda Accord

MAY 19 LARCENIES

7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

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Obituary



Howard Carl Deiderich "Deitz", 88, of Virginia Beach passed away on Monday, May 15th after a lengthy illness. Howard was born November 25, 1928 in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. He attended Toronto High School in Toronto, Ohio where he was in the band and a star football player. While attending high school, he worked at a local grocery store and on the railroads. He received a football scholarship to George Washington University in Washington, DC. He played as an offensive guard on the GW football team for two years. On August 26, 1950 he married the former Rosamond Lindsey of Alexandria, Virginia. His career spanned fifty years as a salesman for Lindsey-Nicholson, and a purchasing agent for Aitcheson Plumbing. He was the President of the Lindsey-Nicholson Corporation, a role he enjoyed for fifteen years. Howard was a dedicated family man spending his time involved with his four children in sports, camping, fishing, hunting and flying his plane. Howard and Rosamond resided in Alexandria, Virginia for more than sixty years raising their family. Howard is survived by his wife, Rosamond; daughter, Lisa D. Moran and her husband James of Virginia Beach; and three sons, Howard L. and his wife Sandra of Alexandria; Donald of Virginia Beach and Carl of Occoquan; two grandsons, Eric and Kevin of Occoquan. He leaves four brothers Arthur, Fred, Harry, and Andrew; and three sisters, Gerry Balkun, Barbara Sabol, and Connie VanDyke; along with several nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents, Nathaniel and Constance Deiderich and brother, George. Funeral service will be private and for immediate family only. Please visit www.AltmeyerFH.com to offer a note of condolence to the family.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

Woe Is Not Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When I think about being diagnosed with lung cancer, I don't think, why me. I might think, why not me, but I definitely think, now what. The idea/strategy being: moving forward, not recriminating or regretting backward. As Popeye the Sailor man so often said: "I y'am what I y'am." Although I doubt he was talking about having lung cancer. How could he? He ate all that spinach, canned though it was. Besides, he's a cartoon character.

And as much and as often as he ate it — and it always helped him overcome whatever predicament Brutus had put him in, is as little and infrequent as I ate it. Perhaps that was because my mother cooked vegetables in a pressure cooker so by the time I saw them on my plate, they no longer resembled a vegetable nor were they the least bit appetizing. To say the vegetables were limp and lifeless does a disservice to all things characterized as 'limp and lifeless.' In fact, I can still remember the first time I ate a vegetable that was not d.o.a. It was at my mother-in-law's house; she was a wonderful cook. She made asparagus for this memorable meal and served it in a beautiful antique china serving dish. When the dish came my way, I stuck my fork in the asparagus to serve myself and heard a sound, a poof. I was taken aback, sort of. It was a sound I had never heard before — from a vegetable. As I learned that night, it was the sound of a vegetable that had not been cooked beyond its edible life.

That's not to imply that avoiding vegetables contributed to my diagnosis. Hardly. It simply says that vegetables were not a part of my childhood. Meat and potatoes were, as was my standard go-to meal: cream cheese and American cheese on bread. It was the sandwich of my youth and it has remained very much a part of my adulthood as well. It may not sound appetizing to you; to me, it represents all the comforts of home — heaven on Earth between two slices of bread or open-faced on a bagel or English muffin. Simple but oh so effective — and delicious.

Not to be totally oblivious to my underlying medical condition, I do realize that modifying my eating habits is a prudent and sensible consideration. However, I rationalize that need-to-feed with the explanation that, as a cancer patient (and anyone else, really), if I am to continue to attempt to thrive while I survive, I need to be happy, positive and relatively stress free. After all, this cancer business: characterized as "terminal" by my oncologist; chemotherapy (and its well-known side effects) every five weeks, C.T. Scans quarterly, M.R.I.s every six months, P.E.T. and Bone scans every so often, face-to-face quarterly appointments with my oncologist and all the associated fears and anxiety surrounding this rather unpleasant experience, and you can imagine, even agree perhaps, that living in the trenches as us cancer patients do, we need help — in any number of ways; personal and professional.

And though I am mindful of what I eat, I don't want to abuse the privilege of survival I've been given. I never want to take it for granted, especially considering my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis. By the same token, life is for living. As Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red" (Morgan Freeman) in the movie "Shawshank Redemption:" "Get busy living or get busy dying." Since I'm in no hurry to die, I need to find a balance in how I live. Being miserable because of what I can't eat won't work for me. I'm just not flexible/mature enough in my eating choices; never have been. I still eat like a child, but now I have a man-sized problem.

I imagine the longer I live with cancer, the more vigilant I have to be. Then again, if it ain't broke, is there any reason to fix it? Do I leave well enough alone or do I try to grow up and eat my age, not my shoe size? I mean, I am eligible for Social Security.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

the county, I was shocked. We were told that back in 2008, approximately 1,800 people were found to be homeless in the county. Although there has been an almost 50 percent reduction in homelessness since then, it had never occurred to me that a significant number of people in the area were going through this problem.

We wanted to know more about what others thought about homelessness in the county. We decided to do a survey of county residents about their thoughts on homelessness and report on what we found out. We sent the survey out on March 23 and promoted it through social media and email. After two weeks, we got the results and I think what we learned surprised all of us.

Almost 1,600 people filled out the survey. One of the responses revealed that 65 percent of those who responded believe homelessness affects them personally. Some people said they often saw people who were homeless, while others said they have never seen a person who is homeless in the county. Yet, what broke my heart were the comments that read "They are like pigeons, you feed one with money and more will flock in" and "You don't want homeless people in your neighborhood because they create trash." It seemed that many people were more hung up on the negative image they feel homeless individuals create for the county instead of their plight. Some of the comments were difficult for us to read, while others were heartfelt and inspiring.

My classmates and I learned a lot through our project on homelessness, but mostly I think it is that we (even college students) all have the ability to assist those in need.

Giovonny Bland

Communications/Public Relations
George Mason University

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 20

medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores, home technology and more. No minimum number of volunteer hours required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org or visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/, or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

Hollin Hall Senior Center is looking for a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center is looking for social companions for participants on Fridays from 3-5 p.m. and front desk volunteers on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-noon and 3:30-4:30 p.m. Located at 8350 Richmond Highway. For these and other volunteer opportunities call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

ONGOING

Art Making as Meditation. 7-8:30 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Art making as meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/.

5

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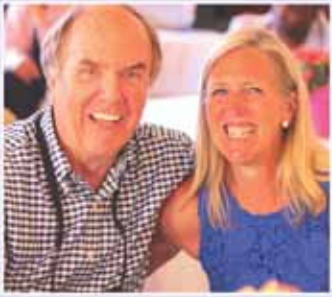
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9210 Cherrytree Dr.
\$635,000

Fabulous home in premier Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Exceptionally spacious 5 BR, 3 BA home with bright, open floor plan. Major

updates include: roof, windows, HVAC, Kitchen & more. Features include Chef's kitchen w/ gas cooking, beautiful stained hardwood floors, upgraded trim including custom wood handrail, sunroom, and custom deck overlooking grounds adjoining wooded area.



3711 Great Neck Ct.
\$639,900
Just listed!

Enjoy the same views George Washington relished from the Mt. Vernon Estate. Truly

unique property on large lot overlooking the gorgeous Mt. Vernon Estate grounds. 6 Bedrooms, 3 Baths with many upgrades including expanded kitchen and spectacular sun room. Other features include: fenced rear yard, direct outside entrance to lower level. Excellent in law suite potential. Great Value!



8307 Crown Court Rd.
\$749,900
Amazing Pool!

Spectacular 5 Bedroom, 5 Bath home featuring large room sizes, soaring cathedral

ceilings, and oversize two car garage. Large deck overlooks truly stunning backyard scene with custom pool, spa and extensive landscaping. Vacation at home in setting that resembles luxury upscale resort!



9305 Forest Haven Dr.
Walk to Potomac!

Character abounds! Classic cape incorporates dramatic light filled interior with charm & character of original home. Spacious glass sun room,

gorgeous hrdwd flrs, skylights, updated base, replacement windows, & garden room with hot tub accessed from master by spiral staircase. Prime location on gorgeous .5 acre lot with access to Mount Vernon Yacht Club and Potomac River.



8717 Plymouth Rd.
\$1,399,000
On the move!

Things are moving in Plymouth Haven! Take advantage of the last opportunity for the best new home price in neighborhood. Pre-construction sale provides maximum opportunity to personalize. Special offer includes free finished lower level rec room and bath plus \$10k closing cost allowance with use of approved lender. Save hundreds of thousands of dollars compared to other new builds in neighborhood!



1604 Baltimore Rd.
\$879,000

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

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



9515 Mt. Vernon Landing.
\$850,000

5420 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$879,000



9504 Lynnhall Pl.
\$1,099,000

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

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



1127 Gladstone Pl.
\$795,000

4220 Adrienne Dr.
\$499,500



9419 Mt. Vernon Cir
\$998,500

4301 Adrienne Dr.
\$609,900



9027 McNair Dr.
\$585,000

4325 Adrienne Dr.
\$615,000



8516 Wagon Wheel
\$529,000

9321 Allwood Dr.
\$659,000



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