

Debating Future of Airbnb in Fairfax County

Supervisors are considering updating its zoning ordinance to allow short-term rentals.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE GAZETTE

Right now, there are more than 300 rentals available in Fairfax County through Airbnb — all illegal.

Airbnb, which is a lodging reservation website, is just one company that gives its users the ability to list spare rooms, apartments or entire homes for strangers to book for an amount of time and fee of their choosing.

Referred to as short-term rentals, Airbnb and other companies, like Craigslist, HomeAway, FlipKey and more, are considered the hospitality industry's segment of the sharing economy, a model where individuals directly borrow or rent assets owned by someone else.

Comparable to ridesharing services like Uber or Lyft, which disrupted the taxi industry, short-term rentals are giving people more lodging options to consider other than booking with a hotel chain or bed and breakfast.

Residents of Fairfax County cannot legally list their property for rent on these reservation websites, but that could change by next year.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and county employees are considering updating the Zoning Ordinance of Fairfax County to allow for the operation of these rentals.

The zoning changes are being developed after Gov. Terry McAuliffe signed the Senate Bill 1578, "Short-term rental property;



John and Mary Lou McEwan, who rent a home at 9319 Ludgate Drive in Alexandria on Airbnb, are one of two operators in the county that received a violation from the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance, which has received 18 complaints of possible short-term rentals operating in the county this year.

registration of persons offering property for rental," into law on March 24, which authorized localities in the commonwealth to adopt an ordinance to require people to register annually in a short-term rental registry.

Taking effect on July 1, the bill defines short-term rental as the "provision of a room or space that is suitable or intended for occupancy for dwelling, sleeping or lodging purposes for a period of fewer than 30 consecutive days, in exchange for a charge for the occupancy."

The bill defines an operator of these rentals as "the proprietor of any dwelling, lodging or sleeping accommodations offered as a short-term rental, whether in the capacity of owner, lessee, sublessee, mortgagee in possession, licensee or any other possessory capacity."

People and entities already licensed or registered for rental or management of

property by the Department of Health, the Real Estate Board, the Virginia Real Estate Time-Share Act, or a locality would not be required to register, according to the legislation.

The state bill also authorizes localities to impose penalties not to exceed \$500 per violation to those who violate the registry ordinance.

Lawmakers Favor Local Control

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said the legislation was a win for the county and other localities.

"The county pressed the General Assembly to give us the authority to set our own rules for short-term rentals," McKay said, who is the chairman of the board's Legislative Committee and a board director of the Virginia Association of Counties.

"The Virginia Association of Counties negotiated with industry and the General Assembly a scenario that would allow counties some discretion, although not uniform discretion as to where these things go and how we can regulate them," McKay said. "My role in this really was to protect the interest of the county and allowing us to have local land-use control and not letting the state create a one-sized-fits-all solution."

"Virginia is very diverse and what might work in Arlington might not work in Rockingham," he added.

He and Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) are leading the charge for the county to analyze and recommend changes to the

SEE DEBATING, PAGE 4

Real Estate Prices and Salaries Top Non-Profit Help List

Enlisting support from businesses and community.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

With a two-bedroom apartment averaging \$1,700 a month and nearly half of the salaries in the county at \$50,000 a year or less, the non-profit community support groups in Mount Vernon need some help.

That message was reiterated more than once at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber business breakfast meeting at Belle Haven Country Club on July 13. David Levine, at Good Shepherd Hous-

ing and Family Services, highlighted his presentation with a video showing the complexities of life in poverty. One speaker lost her house in a fire, another fell behind on rent and was evicted. "I had different setbacks and wasn't able to pay my rent," the woman on the video said.

"Fair market rents are out of their reach," Levine said.

Although the Route 1 corridor in Mount Vernon has a number of low income households, this is keeping the handful of nonprofits in the area busy. John Smoot, from Habitat for Humanity Northern

Virginia, encouraged the audience to become advocates for affordable housing, shop and contribute housing items to their ReStore, and volunteer with Habitat. "We are the nation's 10th largest home builder, we build almost every-

thing with volunteers," Smoot said, pointing out that one important need of affordable housing is "political will," he said. Recently, Habitat built seven new homes in the Lockheed Boulevard area, and did one renovation on houses that are priced in the \$350,000 range,

SEE REAL ESTATE, PAGE 3



April Pinch-Keeler of MVLE holds a picture of several of MVLE's clients that are working at Chick-fil-A in Lorton as part of a work program.



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Houses that Habitat for Humanity built in the Groveton area.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Speakers at the breakfast including Jane Gandee, Chamber chairman; Alison DeCoursey, UCM; Pam Michell, New Hope Housing; April Pinch-Keeler, MVLE, Inc.; Jon Smoot, Habitat for Humanity Northern Virginia; and David Levine, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services.

Real Estate Prices and Salaries Top Non-Profit Help List

FROM PAGE 1

but through loans with no interest, the monthly payments are in the affordable range of \$950. "Housing affordability is the hot topic," Smoot said.

This was the second Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce meeting of this nature to bring the nonprofits and businesses together. "We really want our businesses to know that non-profits in the area and how to work with them," said Holly Hicks Dougherty, the chamber's executive direc-

tor. "It's a stronger community with these kind of partnerships," she said. After the first meeting, the local Salvation Army office connected with several local businesses for support, said Dougherty.

Pam Michell of New Hope Housing introduced their tagline "Time to rethink homelessness." Their clients include ex-prisoners, sex offenders and people down on their luck. "We welcome the unwelcome," she said. New Hope Housing started in a farmhouse off Lockheed Boulevard and grew from there.

The United Community Ministries (UCM) started off as a grassroots organization too, with a staff of one, but now serves 7-8,000 people.

"Today things look quite different," said Alison DeCoursey, the UCM executive director. There are more than 15,000 residents in the UCM coverage area living under poverty, and educational achievement "lower than Fairfax County as a whole," DeCoursey said. UCM has a program for early child education, but needs funding. UCM is changing to keep up with the growth

and "looks at the support of the Chamber members to support that growth," DeCoursey said.

In addition to low wages for able-bodied people, there are a section of the community with disabilities and are not able to hold a job. April Pinch-Keeler, from MCLE, Inc., works with that section of the population. They have a center in Chantilly and two in Springfield.

"People with different disabilities and abilities have a right to be part of our community," she said.

HISTORY

Have Gun and Pencil, Will Cover War

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN

If indeed the pen is mightier than the sword, there was a time in American warfare history when the pencil was just as robust. That was during the Civil War, when sketch artists traveled with military units on both sides to capture the deadly movement of men and horses that the rudimentary cameras of the era could not achieve. It was dangerous work, and one of these men, Theodore Davis, described the fundamental characteristic of a war artist: "Total disregard for personal safety."

Englishman Alfred Waud (pronounced Wode) was the most prolific of what the New York newspapers called "special artists," or "specials," during the war. Soon after Confederate forces attacked Fort Sumter in South Carolina on April 12, 1861, three prominent illustrated weeklies in New York — Harper's Weekly, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper and the New York Illustrated News — sent specials to Washington D.C. Waud initially made field sketches for the Illustrated News, but shifted to Harper's in early 1862. Throughout, he used pen, pencil and charcoal, plus a zinc-oxide pigment called "Chinese white" to add highlights.

Waud arrived in Washington in early May as Union military units began staging there in anticipation of Virginia joining other Southern states that had seceded. Virginians voted to join the Confederacy on May 23, and the following



An unidentified photographer took this image of Waud on horseback at Brandy Station, Va., in February 1864.

day, the Union Army seized control of Alexandria.

During June and the first two weeks of July, Waud moved about Washington, Alexandria and on the Potomac down to Mount Vernon, all the while sketching points of interest. One was obviously Washington's estate, which was inside the area occupied by the Union Army. Groups of soldiers visited Mount Vernon, and generally followed orders from General Winfield Scott to "approach with due reverence, and leave undisturbed," not only General Washington's tomb, but also "the house, groves and walks which were so



Alfred Waud sketched the Mount Vernon mansion from a boat on the Potomac River. Likely on the same trip, he sketched Fort Washington, a bit up river and on the Maryland shore. Pencil on cream paper.

loved by the best and greatest of men."

But in mid-July, Sarah Tracy, secretary to Ann Pamela Cunningham, the founder of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, wrote to Vice Regent, Mrs. Joseph Comegys, about visiting soldiers. She described in her letter that a "large body of men came down and refused to stack their arms, but for over an hour straggling all over the place, without any order, their guns in their hands." Waud must have been there at the time, for he sketched armed soldiers on the lawn below the mansion's east side. Likely on the same excursion, he also drew a view of the home from the river that showed the mansion nestled among the adjacent trees.

Following a routine he used throughout

the war, he sent the drawing to New York. There, Illustrated News artists turned Waud's art into first a wood-block engraving and then, an electroplate used by the printing presses.

Waud covered the first Battle of Bull Run (or Manassas) on July 21, and, upon returning to Alexandria with the defeated and largely panicked Union forces,

showed his mettle in a tight spot. When a Union soldier tried to steal his mount, according to Waud biographer, Frederic Ray, the plucky Waud drew his revolver and forced the man to retreat. In a story in the Illustrated News, Waud wrote of his next step, "I rode off devilish quick."

Davis and Waud created drawings of the hostilities until the end of the war, the only two specials to do so without a respite. Many other specials joined the two men, some of whom later moved on to greater artistic endeavors — Winslow Homer and political cartoonist Thomas Nast, for example.

Waud continued to illustrate Harper publications until his 1891 death.

IMAGES FROM
THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Debating Future of Airbnb in Fairfax County

FROM PAGE 1

ordinance for the board to consider. On March 14, they directed the county to create a working group comprised of the county's Planning and Zoning, Tax Administration and Code Compliance departments, and the Office of the County Attorney to draft the new zoning regulations and to establish the registry.

The group is also supposed to include county residents who have personal experience with short-term rentals, as well as representatives from the hospitality industry and business community.

The new regulations will address several factors: Where these rentals would be allowed in the county; how often they could be rented out; what types of properties could be rented out; and occupancy levels, parking accommodations, safety standards and other concerns that would be required from any other business enterprise in the county.

"At what point in the time is it an accessory use to someone's home versus a standalone hotel in the middle of a neighborhood?" McKay asked. "We still have to distinguish those factors, but ultimately if you're going to be operating a business in Fairfax County, we have a moral obligation to make sure our ordinance respects your ability to do that, but also puts in adequate safeguards to protect the public — fundamentally from a public safety standpoint and also to protect the neighbors of these residences who live in residentially-zoned areas."

Senate Bill 1578 already standardized the consumption of alcoholic beverages for the rentals because the legislation amended the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act to classify short-term rentals as a bed and breakfast establishment for purposes of alcoholic beverage licenses.

Under this consideration, short-term rental operators would need to apply for a

specialized retail bed and breakfast alcoholic beverage license if they want to provide libations to guests on premises.

There is a nonrefundable \$65 application fee and a \$35 license fee for bed and breakfast establishments, according to the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

MATTER OF BALANCE

"It's a balancing act," McKay said.

Another challenge facing the working group is balancing the interests of those who are against the rentals being used in residential neighborhoods with the interests of those who want to take advantage of the sharing economy.

"These short-term rentals are obviously a part of this new sharing economy, a technology that didn't exist years before," McKay said.

The state legislation allows localities to determine if they want to allow the new industry to function legally or not.

"It is voluntary ... we can set up regulations if we want, we can ignore the bill if we want and do nothing," McKay said. "My thought was that if the General Assembly gives you the authority to set local controls from a county standpoint, we should do that."

There are vested interests in how the regulations are formulated.

"The hotel industry has a lot at stake here and we certainly don't want to do anything that hurts our brick and mortar hotel industry," McKay said.

The new regulations, according to McKay, would level the playing field and make sure there are certain conditions and standards for the new industry to meet.

"Home sharing has become a valuable tool for many middle-class families in need of supplemental income to help pay their mortgage, save for retirement and handle life's unexpected challenges," said Crystal Davis, Airbnb spokesperson. "Airbnb has

worked with over 250 U.S. municipalities, including the state of North Carolina and the District of Columbia, to collect and remit millions in tax revenue."

The company has collaborated with other jurisdictions around the country to establish a licensing and registration process, according to Davis.

"We look forward to continued conversations with Virginia representatives on fair home sharing regulations that preserve neighborhood quality of life, protect communities and give residents the ability to share extra space in their homes to make ends meet," Davis said.

The working group will be hearing more from hospitality industry lobbyists across the spectrum.

"We're going to make sure that our ordinance is fair to both [short-term rentals] and our standard brick and mortar hotels throughout the county," McKay said. "We're definitely going to get their input on this before anything goes to a vote. That's for sure."

NOT A NEW FRONTIER

Zoning ordinance regulations went into effect on Dec. 31, 2016, in neighboring Arlington County before state lawmakers acted, which defined short-term residential rentals and created standards for their use.

Under the regulation, Arlington County residents have to apply annually for what is called an "accessory homestay" permit for \$60.

Arlington County received 50 applications from Dec. 31, 2016, through Feb. 14, 2016, and issued 47 permits, according to an Arlington County Board agenda from Feb. 25, 2017.

Whether Fairfax County moves forward with changing the ordinance, or how it changes the ordinance depends on how the public reacts.

"We're trying to right-size our ordinance to allow these where reasonable, but also give our community, the neighborhoods, the confidence that there's levers of control over them so they don't become a neighborhood problem," McKay said.

The working group is looking at other municipalities in the U.S. that have regulated the industry and are talking to Arlington

County about its experience.

"We're talking to them about what's working and not working with theirs so that what gets proposed will actually allow these to happen legally, but also have some enforcement piece if we have problems," McKay said.

Trouble in Neighborhoods

"It's sort of evenly divided between people who would like to be able to use their properties for short-term rentals and then we've got people who absolutely do not want anybody in their neighborhood to be doing short-term rentals," said Supervisor Penelope "Penny" Gross (D-Mason).

She said the issue has really cropped up in the Lake Barcroft area of her district. This is because the lake is privately owned and maintained through the Lake Barcroft Association, Inc.

"They own the lake and these short-term rentals in some cases have been advertising that they have lake privileges," Gross said. "Well, not exactly."

The Lake Barcroft Association has not yet taken a position for or against allowing short-term renters to use its lake, but its members have been speaking with Gross about their concerns, she said.

Many homeowners' associations have written policies governing its members' rights to list property for rent or barring members from listing property for short-term rental in their communities altogether.

Members of the Reston Association, a homeowners' association that all Reston property owners are members of, have been vocal about curtailing short-term rental use in residential areas. The RA Board of Directors is currently considering developing policies for its members regulating or banning short-term rentals and plans on lobbying the county for its residents.

In the meantime, people continue to illegally use Airbnb and other short-term rental services throughout the county.

Over the past year, the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance received 18 complaints of possible short-term rentals operating in the county, according to Tony Castrilli, a spokesperson for the county

SEE ORDINANCE, PAGE 5

"At what point in the time is it an accessory use to someone's home versus a standalone hotel in the middle of a neighborhood?"

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)




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Re-examining Zoning Ordinance

FROM PAGE 4

government.
“DCC staff investigated these complaints and found sufficient information to corroborate two [short-term rentals], one in the Mason District and one in the Mount Vernon District, for which notices of violation were issued,” Castrilli said. “Some of the other cases were closed because there was insufficient evidence that STRs were actually operating at those addresses or that there were any other zoning violations occurring.”

The property owners who were issued notices of violation were: John and Mary Lou McEwan for their property at 9319 Ludgate Drive in Alexandria and Blake and Sara Ratcliff for their property at 3320 Grass Hill Terrace in Falls Church, according to Castrilli.

“We live in a nice, quiet, safe neighborhood and I’m very concerned about my wife and daughter’s safety,” an abutting neighbor wrote in a complaint to the DCC about the McEwan’s property in Alexandria in March, according to documents obtained by John McEwan through a Freedom of Information Act request. The identities of complainants were withheld in the documents.

On May 1, John McEwan spoke to DCC staff and told them that he had rented his property for a weekend indoor Moroccan wedding when the complaint was made. He also told the employees that he would be renting it to someone for 40 days, which is longer than what the state defines as a short-term rental, according to the FOIA documents.

On May 9, DCC employees toured the rental property, a multi-level home with five bedrooms, and advised John McEwan that short-term rentals were not allowed in the county, even if the county was looking to adopt new rules and regulations, according to the FOIA documents.

From that point on, the DCC and Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck’s office received several emails from the original complainant and others stating that the house was being rented.

Many of the emails included attachments of photos of people near the home and cars parked in the driveway as evidence, according to the FOIA documents.

On May 19, a warning letter was sent to the McEwans.

“This property has had a revolving door of transients, including a large weekend event, disrupting our quiet, peaceful neighborhood, not to mention the neighbor on neighbor conflict this has created,” an email that was written to Peggy Delean, DCC Code Compliance Supervisor, said on May 25, according to FOIA documents.

“Allowing a revolving door of strangers every couple of nights does not sit well with those of us who have children, and will not add value to our properties,” the email continued. “Calling the police for noise complaints, speeding cars, neighbor disputes, or other menacing problems created by this situation is a waste of taxpayer money and police resources. What is preventing you from shutting this operation down?”

Throughout the month, DCC staff spoke with John McEwan who admitted that he was still renting his property.

On June 19, the McEwans were ordered by the Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office to vacate short-term renters from the property within 14 days and to permanently cease the use of the dwelling for transient occupancy, unless and until they obtained Board of Supervisors’ approval of a special exception for a bed and breakfast use, according to FOIA documents.

The zoning violation carried a \$200 fine if they did not comply, with each subsequent offense carrying \$500 fines.

“The funny thing about Airbnb is everybody uses it but nobody wants it in their backyard,” McEwan said.

But he is no hypocrite when it comes to this issue because he lives right next door to the rental property with his wife and mother in law.

“I’m next door, so nothing is going to happen without me being here,” he said. “It’s my asset. It’s my property. I don’t want my house trashed. It’s my neighborhood.”

McEwan says that there is a fairly high barrier to enter the property, which requires a \$1,200 minimum fee: \$200 cleaning fee; \$500 a night with a two-night minimum; as well as a \$1,000 security deposit, according to the property’s Airbnb listing, which has four positive reviews.

McEwan considers the barrage of emails from his neighbors to county officials complaining about his

carried a \$200 fine if they did not comply, with each subsequent offense carrying \$500 fines.

SEE ZONING ORDINANCE, PAGE 4

“The funny thing about Airbnb is everybody uses it but nobody wants it in their backyard.”

— John McEwan, homeowner

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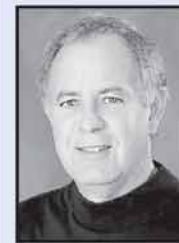
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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000

students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing (and preparedness and energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying sales tax.

Each eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. For other details see www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday

Where To Give

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since 2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County

Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. See collectforkids.org/resources.

❖ **United Community Ministries** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 4. A gift of \$40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM's main office (7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Emily Griffin at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org or by 571-255-8973 or visit www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html.

❖ **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools** www.fcpsfoundation.org/donate.html accepts online donations only – to purchase school supplies in bulk quantity

❖ **Apple Federal Credit Union** www.applefcu.org/appleweb/collectforkids accepts online donations and backpack donations at local branches.

❖ **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors** Offices will be collecting backpacks during the month of August. See website for office locations and hours of operation. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm

❖ **Fairfax County Public Schools** Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. www.fcps.edu/

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Lessons From History

To the Editor:

On July 27, 2017, the Fairfax County School Board is scheduled to take a vote on whether to change the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School. This will be a momentous decision but not a difficult one. The vote should be a resounding “no.” “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” — George Santayana (1863 - 1952). Changing the name will not change history but will move us one step closer to forgetting it. The history of slavery in the United States must never be forgotten, lest it be revisited.

J.E.B. Stuart was a graduate of West Point (1854) who served in the U.S. military before joining the Confederacy and becoming a Confederate general. General Stuart had his headquarters on Munson Hill, a site encompassing the school grounds, one of the reasons the school was named for him in 1958 (at the same meeting James

Madison High School was named).

The following U.S. Presidents owned slaves: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, James K. Polk, Zachary Taylor, Andrew Johnson, and Ulysses S. Grant. Of those Presidents, the following also served as military Generals: Washington, Jackson, Harrison, Taylor, Johnson, and Grant. In Fairfax County, at least two high schools are named after Presidential slave owners: Jefferson and Madison. Lee High School is another one named after a Confederate general, Robert E. Lee. This makes me wonder: does ascendancy to the Presidency immunize a person from having their name removed from public buildings, roads, bridges, etc. for being a slave owner? I would think not. The focus should remain on the repugnance of slavery, not the title of a person who owned slaves. Who is advocating re-naming the George Washington Memorial Parkway?

While I have heard rumblings

that Lee High School will be next on the name chopping block, I have heard no such banter concerning James Madison High School and Thomas Jefferson High School. If J.E.B. Stuart has his name removed because he was a Confederate general who supported ownership of slaves, all people regardless of their highest title in life should suffer the same fate.

In an era of tight budgets, the expense of changing the name would be unconscionable to shoulder for our county. A School Board document I read estimates the cost at close to \$700,000. Other reports cite a figure closer to \$1 million. For what? To erase the name of a person whose history can be used as a teaching moment to ensure that the sordid history of slavery is never revisited? Multiply these figures by four since renaming Stuart will set the precedent for renaming the other three.

And what about the thousands of alumni of J.E.B. Stuart High School who will have the name of the high school on their diplomas erased? I have many friends who

to this day bemoan the closure of Fort Hunt High School and the fact that they are graduates of a high school that no longer exists. It is little different for the high school to no longer exist or for it to exist under a different name. The feelings of those proud graduates must be taken into account.

In May 2016, the School Board conducted a survey within the adjacent community to determine community views on this very issue. The survey elicited an astounding 3,414 responses of which 56 percent opposed renaming the school, 35 percent supported the renaming, and 8 percent stated that they had no opinion. Frankly, that should have been the end of it.

In light of fiscal reasons, local community opposition and the principle that sordid historical aspects of the United States should not be swept under the rug in the name of political correctness, the School Board should oppose renaming J.E.B. Stuart High School.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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8707 EAGLEBROOK CT Custom Home! First time on the Market! River views Fall - Spring! Backs to Parkland/GW Pkwy hike/bike trail! Freshly painted thru-out, all hardwoods refinished and offers 4BR/4.5BA, 5,054 sf on 3 levels, finished attic, rec room/sun room and glass enclosed porch, + 2-car garage.



Pia Taylor 301.661.9974 ALEXANDRIA / Porto Vecchio \$ 1,175,000 (#411) or \$ 419,900 (#415)

Overlooking the natural splendor of the Potomac River these two lovely homes are located in sought after Porto Vecchio. Unit 411 offers 2,323 sf of living space, 3BR/3.5BA, prime for entertaining, relaxing and enjoying all the amenities of Alexandria's luxury waterfront condo. This is a unique opportunity to combine with the adjacent Unit 415, 1BR/1.5BA for a 3,445 sf home. Each unit has assigned indoor parking. Endless views from the enclosed terraces plus all the building comforts including pool, tennis, gym, 24hr concierge, and limo service. Buy one or buy both. Endless opportunity. Endless possibilities.



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7412 REBECCA DR Largest model in Hollin Hills (3,400+ sf on 2 levels). Spectacular Mid-Century Goodman home - remodeled gourmet kitchen; master suite with luxury bath + walk-in closet. 5BR/3BA, family room, 2 fireplaces, 2 decks, patio and beautiful landscaping are just a few of the many features of this home.



McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885
ALEXANDRIA / Belle Haven \$ 950,000

Understated exterior leads to beautifully updated/expanded spacious home with and flexible floorplan. ML entertainer's kitchen with breakfast room; living/dining rooms; hardwoods. 2 master bedrooms. LL in-law suite with 2nd kitchen and 2BR/1BA, family room. Deck and beautiful LL patio. 2 wood-burning fireplaces.



Norma Stratton 703.966.0756 Margaret Keagle 571.388.3608
ALEXANDRIA / Virginia Village \$ 685,000

Beautifully renovated end unit has off-street parking in North Old Town. Bright, airy chef's kitchen perfect for entertaining. Wood-burning fireplace in living room. Large fenced yard / patio. Restaurants, coffee shops, gyms, dog parks, hike/bike trails and Metro just a few blocks away. 3BR/2BA/3 finished levels.



McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885
ALEXANDRIA / Riverside Estates \$ 599,900

Serene sited Colonial backing to wooded parkland. Wood floors on main/upper levels; freshly painted thru-out, updated kitchen, new carpet on LL family room; 2 fireplaces; screened porch; storage galore; workshop; deck; and swimming pool. A private retreat just minutes from Belvoir, Quantico, Alexandria and more.



Pia Taylor 301.661.9974
ALEXANDRIA / Nethergate \$ 560,000

Charming townhome in North end of Old Town Alexandria offers convenience + easy access to shops/restaurants of both Old Town and DC. The kitchen features cherry cabinets, granite, subway tile and opens to the dining room. Hardwoods, wood-burning fireplace, floored attic, patio, assigned parking and more!



Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764
LORTON / Laurel Crest \$ 459,900 **OPEN SUN 1 - 4**

9149 SILVER SHADOW CT Sited on quiet cul-de-sac, this lovely 3BR/2.5BA townhouse has been recently updated: new Samsung SSA, faucet; granite in 2 baths; fresh paint thru-out; new light fixtures; stained deck. LL has utility room and large rec room leads to backyard. 1-car garage. Gas fireplace and more!



Martha Deal 703.622.6797 ALEXANDRIA / Oakbrooke \$ 769,900

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Summer Book Clubs for Children

Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Studies show that reading self-selected books cultivates positive attitudes towards books and reading, says librarian Julie M. Esanu.

humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages

penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading Rainbow,’ share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers,” she said. “They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club’s topic, books and activities.”

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. “With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story,” he said. “I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out.”

Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them

out. “Anything to bring the text off the page and into their direct environment,” he said.

“The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project,” said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. “Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas,” she said. “Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read.”

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. “For example, Tonya Bolden’s award-winning book, ‘How to Build a Museum’ shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian’s National Museum for American History and Culture,” she said. “This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit.”

“Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World” offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. “It’s the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children’s television series, “Bill Nye, the Science Guy”] and Gregory Malone,” she said. “This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4].”

Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a

lively discussion of the book, says Maffei.

“If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book,” she said. “Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge.”

**— Julie M. Esanu,
Lower School Librarian,
St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School**

they’d look.”

Offer an opportunity for children have a snack to talk informally, advises Esanu. “Make sure that there’s food involved and find new places for the group to meet, maybe in a park or by the pool,” said Esanu. “Mix it up.”

“Themed snacks are fun,” added Maffei. “Maybe something that gets eaten or drank in the book or something from the same time period or place.”

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Lindsay Sopko, of Alexandria, was awarded the Mary Donnalley Award, given to the Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.) student athlete with the

highest GPA. Sopko was also recognized for achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher at its annual athletics banquet.

Peyton Heyde, of Alexandria, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from Marist College (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.).

Kylie Bostick, of Alexandria, majoring in marine science, has made the president’s list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.) for the spring 2017 semester.

The Comcast Foundation recognizes **Rachel Price** of Bishop Ireton High

School and **Adele Reardon** of St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School as their 2017 recipients of the Leaders and Achievers Scholarship due to their involvement in community service, academic performance, and leadership skills. The recipients received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Khalila Karefa-Kargbo, of Alexandria, has received the Coaches’ award for the varsity cheerleading team for the 2016-17 winter sports season at Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.). Khalila is the daughter of Karefa Kargbo and Emerica Karefa-Kargbo, and is a sophomore at R-MA.

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

ONGOING

By the Seashore. Various morning hours through July 29 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.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Various times through July 30 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.

Ceramics Show. Various times through July 30 at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. The “Rough around the Edges” Kiln Club show. Call 703-548-6288 or visit scopegallery.org.

Light and Depth Exhibit. Various times through July 31 in the The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Artwork of Marine Weiss and Jennifer Brewer Stone is featured. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Adult Woodworking Class. 5-8 p.m. through August 5 at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Union St. Woodworking 101, hosted by ASF’s Middle School Math Program Manager, woodworker, and furniture designer Nicole Reidinger of Habitat Woodworks. \$250. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org or call 703-778-0977.

Artwork Inspired by Nature Exhibit. Various times through Aug. 31 at Huntley Meadows Park Nature Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Local artist-photographer Nina Tisara will share some of her mosaic work in an exhibit entitled “Inspired by Nature.” Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Oil Paintings by Patricia Uchello. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. through Aug. 31 at the River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Free. Call 703-768-6983 or visit www.patriciauchello.com.

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.

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

3 Shake Shops to Beat the Heat

BY HOPE NELSON

On days when the mercury surpasses 100 degrees, thoughts can turn to frozen treats quicker than a cracked egg can cook on the sidewalk. Here are three top spots — all burger joints, as the two seem to go hand in hand — to grab a milkshake to fulfill your cravings.

Flat Top Burger, 529 E. Howell Ave.

As you near the Monroe Avenue Bridge coming southbound on Route 1, Flat Top Burger waits to welcome you with its collection of grilled burgers (both meat and veggie), hot dogs, salads, and onion rings. But nobody would blame you if you bypassed all of the above to get to the sweet treat: Flat Top’s milkshakes.

Created with house-made custard, these milkshakes come in a variety of flavors, from old-fashioned vanilla or chocolate to mocha coffee and banana caramel. A hot (or perhaps cold) commodity year-round, they are the perfect antidote to a summer afternoon at the nearby soccer field or just a pick-me-up on the commute home from work.

Holy Cow, 2312 Mount Vernon Ave.

Sure, Holy Cow may sport one of the best burgers in the D.C. area, but their milkshakes aren’t anything to scoff at. The restaurant on Del Ray’s main drag sees a great deal of foot traffic

throughout the day, but the result is worth the crowd. (In a hurry? You can also order your shake — and any other menu item — online for pickup.)

Their made-to-order varieties range from table stakes — chocolate and vanilla — to more far-flung options. The chocolate Heath Bar Crunch and classic Oreo add some substance to the milkshake, while the salted caramel brings the sweet-salty blend that tempts so many taste buds.

Triple Craft, 1 Marina Drive

This newcomer to Daingerfield Island, taking the place of the recently departed Indigo Landing, sports a far more casual edge than its predecessor but packs a solid punch on the menu. Triple Craft offers a plethora of hearty options that could be easily washed down by a milkshake, but frankly are perfectly formidable on their own.

Adherents to the newly popular “Freakshake” movement, Triple Craft does not skimp when it comes to toppings. Cookies, candy, cake frosting, and whipped cream all do their duty as part of the shake, helping diners meet all their caloric needs at one time. (Feeling extra decadent? Ask for a splash of Kahlua, bourbon, or white rum to top things off.) Classic-style shakes are also on the menu if you’re looking for a more pared-down approach.

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

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.

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

Washington’s defenders. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org.

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

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

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

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

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.

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

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday’s near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Summer Theatre Camps. Through Aug. 25, 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.

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.

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/JULY 20

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the demonstration gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will narrate with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JULY 22

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery,



“Anne and Emmett” on stage July 28-30 at Metrostage, 1201 North Royal St. Janet Langhart Cohen’s play based on an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, both teenage victims of racial intolerance and hatred. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

books, photographs, lighting, tools, comic books, vinyl records, novelties clothing & sewing, toys, jewelry, collectibles, and homemade items. Refreshments will also be on sale. Free. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more info.

The General's Tour. 10 a.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Highlight locations and stories associated with the Confederate general Robert E. Lee's life in Alexandria. \$10 through the museum's website, or for \$15 at the door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org, or by calling (703) 548-1789.

Handmade Ice Cream. 1-2 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Make and taste hand-cranked ice cream as Huntley's Harris family may have done. call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Del Ray Music Festival. 3-8 p.m. between Uhler and Custis avenues, Del Ray. Local musicians will perform on two stages in the heart of Del Ray, while seven of Del Ray's top restaurants will host pop-up beer gardens. Visit www.delraymusicfestival.com.

Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free old-time musical performance by the Sheets Family. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances or call 703-780-7518.

Russian Folk Music. 7:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 625 First St. Festival concert of more than 100 musicians from all over the world marks the end of the International Music Convention of Russian Folk Instruments. Visit www.bdaa.com.

Washington Balalaika Society Concert. 7:30 p.m. in the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher

Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. The Washington Balalaika Society Joins the Balalaika and Domra Association of America in a Special Festival Concert. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

Huntley Meadows Lecture. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 6901 S. Kings Highway. Former intern Max Ferlauto will focus on identifying the grasses and sedges of wetlands and meadows. Email vnps.pot@gmail.com.

Children's Art Workshop. 2-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists Joan Dreyer, Ginny Smith, and Lesly-Claire Greenberg for a hands-on art workshop recommended for children ages 5 to 12 who must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Patagonia Winds quintet present music by Bach, Mozart, Stravinsky, Wagner, and Joplin. Free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

The Nighthawks Concert. 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Leonadus K. Plenty Amphitheater at Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road. Playing music from their new CD, "All You Gotta Do," on EllerSoul Records. Visit www.markpuccimedia.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

Belvoir Square Grand Opening. 4-7 p.m. Belvoir Square Apartments,



Circle Vases by Klaudia Levin

Ceramics

Ceramics Exhibition July 31-Sept. 3 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit called "Flexibility in Clay: Gymnastics and Gyration." Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

9142 Richmond Highway, Fort Belvoir. Tour the building and enjoy complimentary food and beverage. Presented by Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. Call 703-360-5008 or email info@sfdc.org.

40 Under 40 Celebration. 6-9 p.m. at United Way Worldwide, 701 N. Fairfax St. The 40 under 40 program was established in 2016 by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce to recognize top men and women, age 40 and under, engaged in a variety of fields including business, technology, nonprofit management, civic life, public service, education, and the

arts. \$89. Visit alexandriavacoc.

JULY 28-30

Bacon Brothers Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Kevin and Michael Bacon's band, find out if the six degrees of Kevin Bacon separation are true. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Anne and Emmett on stage. various times at Metrostage, 1201 North Royal St. Janet Langhart Cohen's play based on an imaginary conversation between Anne Frank and Emmett Till, both teenage victims of racial

intolerance and hatred. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series. 6 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Free musical performance by Jarekus Singleton. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances or call 703-780-7518.

JULY 31-SEPTEMBER 3

Ceramics Exhibition. Various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit called "Flexibility in Clay: Gymnastics and Gyration." Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

English Garden Floral Design Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create the look of a summer English garden for the home using an assortment of cut flowers, greens and garden materials. Ages 16+. \$38 for the program plus \$25 supply fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakesusing code 2903883301 or call 703-642-5173.

Meet the Artist. 3-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312. New Photographs by Sarah Hood Salomon exhibition runs July 31-Sept. 3. Call 703-683-2205.

Meet the Artists. 5-8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Foundry Gallery. The artists Fierce Sonia of the Torpedo Factory and Ric Garcia will be opening their

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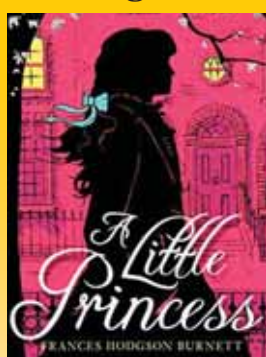


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ENTERTAINMENT

show Dynamic Duo. Exhibition will run Aug. 2-27. Visit torpedofactory.org.
Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 8:14 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Caddyshack is the second of this series. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

SUNDAY/AUG. 6

Afternoon Teas with a Difference. 3-4:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Celebrate Britain's National Afternoon Tea Week with a "Royale Tea," offering your choice of a glass of champagne at the beginning or sherry at the end of afternoon tea. \$42. Adults 21 yrs. +. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

TUESDAY/AUG. 8

Simpson Gardens Stroll. 11 a.m. at Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stop by and chat with the VCE Master Gardeners who maintain the Simpson Park Demonstration Gardens and see what is in bloom. Have all your gardening questions answered too! No registration necessary. Visit mgvnv.org/events/mgnv-events/.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Summer Reading Puppet Show. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Young story lovers are entertained by a puppet show presented by Carousel Puppets. Ages 3+. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/AUG. 12



Sidewalk Sale

8th Annual Alexandria Summer Sidewalk Sale, Aug. 12-13, various times, participating stores throughout Old Town and Del Ray. Visit VisitAlexVA.com/SidewalkSale for more.

Garden Stroll and Ice Cream

Social. 10 a.m.-11:30 at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Rd. Stroll the summer gardens with a Master Gardener docent, then cool down at an ice cream social in the 1784 Historic House. \$12. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

AUG. 12-13

8th Annual Alexandria Summer

Sidewalk Sale. Various times, participating stores throughout Old Town and Del Ray. Visit VisitAlexVA.com/SidewalkSale.

SUNDAY/AUG. 13

An Outlandish Geek Tour. noon-1 p.m. at the Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series of novels, from cascara to dauco seeds. Tour recommended for adults only. \$15. Visit

www.alexandriava.gov/Apothecary or call 703-746-3852.

Documentary Film Tour. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Alexandria. Hosted by Calek and SIR NOFACE Producer Justin Holstein, the "SIR NOFACE LIVES" tour offers attendees the chance to be among the first to see Calek's mind-bending SIR NOFACE documentary, which chronicles the Australian Government-sanctioned paranormal investigation of Cockatoo Island. Visit sirnoface.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 17

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the glorious gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will lecture about Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

AUG. 17-SEPT. 17

Wizard of Hip. Various times at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Featuring Thomas W Jones II as he journeys from adolescence to adulthood as Afro Jo with original music by William Knowles and two back-up singers. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

AUG. 18-27

Alexandria Summer Restaurant Week. Area restaurants offer \$35 for a three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20/person. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com or call 703-746-3301.

SATURDAY/AUG. 19

Casting Leaves in Concrete Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring staff demonstrates casting and painting techniques and assists participants in making one to take home. \$40 for the program plus \$25 supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

SUNDAY/AUG. 20

Tea and Princess Diana Lecture. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Explore the many faces of Diana: fairytale princess, style icon, humanitarian and mother. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Call 703-941-7987 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

MONDAY/AUG. 21

Alexandria Chamber Golf Tournament. 1 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Hot dogs and brats, beverages, reception, dinner, prizes. Sponsorships available, contact Maria Ciarrocchi at micarrocchi@alexchamber.com.

Great American Eclipse. All day at Historic Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn the science behind eclipses and how to view them safely, solar eclipse glasses will be provided to attendees at all the programs. \$7 to \$12 per person. Visit go.usa.gov/xNvvb.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 2

Celebrate Honeybee Day. 10 a.m.-

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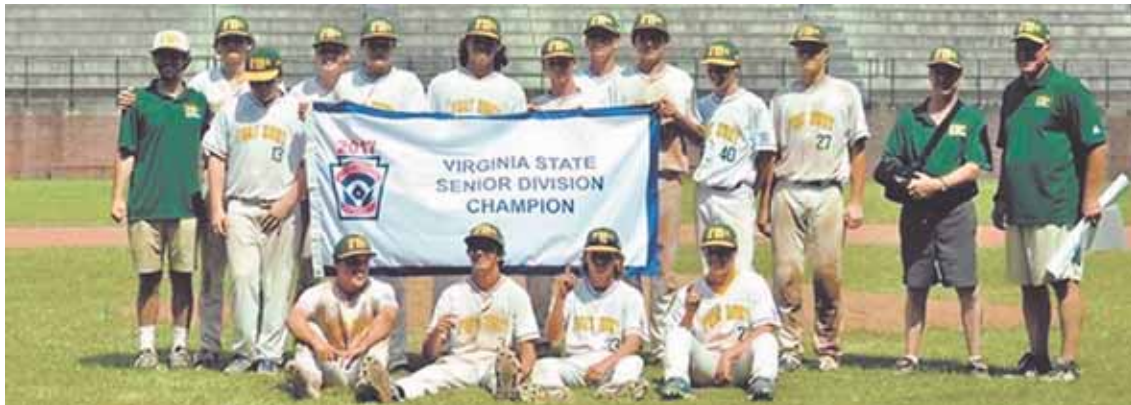
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SPORTS



2017 Seniors State Champs

Senior All Stars: State Champions

Fort Hunt Little League Senior All Stars are Virginia State Champions.

The FHLL Senior All Star team had to beat Bristol LL Seniors twice to claim the State Championship and they did so last week in a double-header by scores of 7-4 and 9-4. This is the second State Championship won by Fort Hunt Little League in any division in its 62 years of Little League baseball. The only other State Championship was won by a FHLL 2005 11U All Star team.

This week's Virginia State Championship was a team win in all aspects with contributions made by every player on the 15-man roster. Fort Hunt Seniors

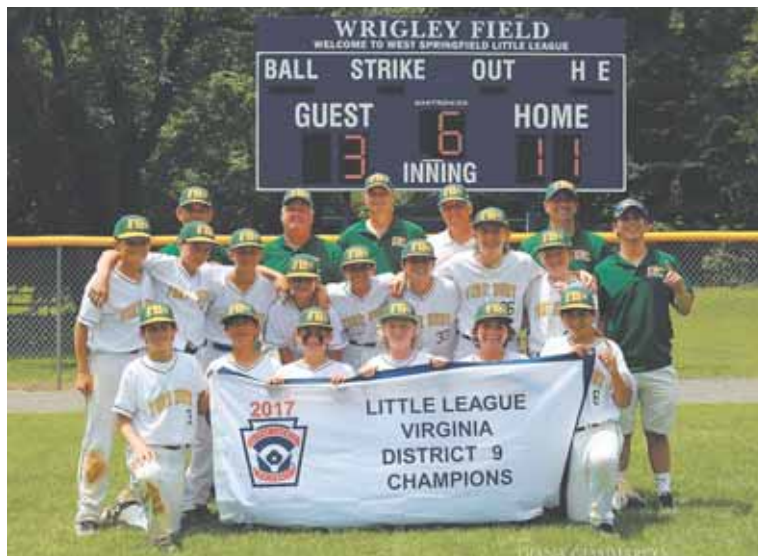
won behind great pitching, near-flawless play in the field and a solid performance at the plate.

The Championship game came down to the 6th inning when Fort Hunt, trailing Bristol, took back the lead for good and stretched a one-run lead in the 5th to a five run lead in the 6th and held that through the 7th.

The team included: Fort Hunt Little League Manager Joe English and coaches Matt Hagan and David Wagner and players Justin Bassett, Wesley Duffy, Joey English, Adam Fischer, Alex Grove, Dominic Holmes, Gavin Luscombe, Declan McPherson, CJ Promen, Aidan Sanderson, Nick Sanderson, Ryan Smith, Thomas Sowell, and Jacob Trumbo.

Front Row: Sammy Dorris, Garrett Quimby, Jake Gupton, Bennett Zipple, Kyle Pilc, and Antonio Marcucci.
Second Row: Drew Norton, Joe Humphreys, Nathan DeWitte, Michael Lavanga, Brody Shawn, Nick Castrilli, Ryan Conmy, and Will Sharp.
Third Row: Coaches Dale Dorris, Manager Chuck Gupton, Andy Norton, Bob Pilc, Tony Castrilli, and Matthew Dorris.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
DIANA GIAMMARCO



FHLL Team Wins District Championship

The Fort Hunt Little League (FHLL) Majors All-Star team won the 2017 District 9 Championship on Saturday, July 15, 11-3 over West Springfield National and will next play Friday in the Virginia State Championship Tournament in Triangle, Va. The team went 6-0, hit 28 home runs and held their opponents to just 8 runs over the six games. This is the first time since 2006 a FHLL Majors team won the district and advanced to the state championship tournament. The team consists of 12-year-olds from area. The VA District 9 Little League consists of 10 local little leagues.

"This team was successful due to their character, hard work and contributions from everyone. We are excited to represent our league and community at the state tournament," said coach Tony Castrilli.

Also for the first time ever FHLL had four out of six All-Star teams win their District 9 tournament and play in the state tournaments. The 8/9/10, Majors, Intermediate and Seniors All-Star teams all ad-

vanced. The FHLL Seniors won the Virginia State Tournament and will next play in the regionals near Tampa, Fla. starting on Saturday, July 22. The 8/9/10 team advanced to Championship round of eight losing in 10 innings to the eventual state championship team.

FHLL President Barry Muse said, "This is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of thousands of volunteers over many years who have made Fort Hunt Little League what it is today. We're very proud of all our coaches and salute our exceptional kids for their hard work, determination and for being great teammates everyday – the very essence of life and sport. Thanks to everyone in Fort Hunt for their generous and unwavering support for Fort Hunt Little League over the past 60 years – you made it possible."

The Fort Hunt Majors All-Star team next plays in the state tournament on Friday, July 21 vs. Coeburn Little League at Fuller Heights Park, 7:30 p.m. in Triangle.

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And So It Begins

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far – and it's not very far – so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

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

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News

Zoning Ordinance

FROM PAGE 5

short-term Airbnb tenants to be more racially motivated than anything else, since his renters have all been culturally diverse and often different from the majority of the neighborhood's residents.

John McEwan said he would be appealing the violation at the cost of \$600 because he was told by various county employees that no citations would be given while the county considers changes to the zoning laws.

McKay could not speak to the individual cases being investigated, but he said it wouldn't be unusual if the county waited to enforce open cases until the discussion about changing the ordinance was complete.

"A lot of times, when you have open cases on something like this where you know that you're going to be changing the ordinance to address the issue, as long as there's not an imminent life-safety issue, we're many times in the position of not doing full-blown enforcement because we know we're working on a remedy," he said.

A majority of the cases remain under investigation, according to Castrilli.

COLLECTING FEEDBACK

The county short-term rental working group is collecting public feedback through an online survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals. Residents can take the online survey and email comments or concerns to ordadmin@fairfaxcounty.gov by Aug. 31.

The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning is also hosting an open house next Wednesday, July 26, at 7 p.m. in rooms 106 and 107 of the Herrity Building on Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

"There is no proposed ordinance language at this point," McKay said. "They're just fact-finding and sharing scenarios and experiences in the field and looking at best practices."

The open house will include presentations about proposed changes to the county's zoning ordinance with time for the public to ask questions about short-term rentals, rear yard coverage, restaurants, signs, agricultural districts and uses, continuing care communities and other zoning rules the county is considering changing.

The public will also be able testify at future public hearings about the new short-term rental zoning rules if such hearings are authorized and scheduled.

A Planning Commission hearing is expected in the fall with a Board of Supervisors public hearing and vote in December or January 2018, according to a memo about short-term rentals that was written to the Board of Supervisors by Deputy County Executive Robert Stalzer.

7

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OPEN SUNDAY

**9309 Maybrook Pl
\$549,500
Great Value!**

Super Value! Spacious 5 bedroom home in prime Mt. Vernon location at

remarkably reasonable price! Home in absolutely pristine condition with numerous features including: 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, open floor plan, hardwood floors, thermal windows, gas cooking/heat/hot water, sun room and garage. Fabulous opportunity!



NEW HOME!

**4403 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy.
\$899,000**



3 new luxury homes by Wakefield Homes! This Radford Model provides all the new home bells & whistles at a remarkably reasonable price! Open floor plan enhanced by high ceilings and large windows. Great setting just down the road from Mt. Vernon Estate. FREE finished basement rec room w/ bath & \$10,000 seller credit* for limited time! Visit our website for more info on this build & project! www.mtvernonpark2.com



OPEN SUNDAY

POOL!

**2303 Cavendish Dr.
\$569,000
HUGE POTENTIAL!**

Spectacular oasis in Stratford Landing. Private rear grounds host a resort setting unrivaled at this price

range. Recent updates include: roof, windows, Furnace/AC, interior painting, fence, doors, custom trim/molding, the list goes on. 2 Kitchens allows for multiple uses! Here is your chance for a rare opportunity!



OPEN SUNDAY

POOL!

**8307 Crown Court Rd.
\$729,900
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 hardscaping. Vacation at home in setting that resembles luxury upscale resort!



NEW PRICE!

**9210 Cherrytree Dr.
\$625,000**

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 inc 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.



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**8306 Centerbrook Pl.
\$845,000**

**4008 Adrienne Dr.
\$515,000**



CONTRACT



NEW PRICE!

**9424 Mt. Vernon Circle.
\$675,000**

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**1205 Falster Rd.
\$649,500**

**5420 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$879,000**



SOLD



SOLD

**9504 Lynnhall Pl.
\$1,099,000**

**3711 Great Neck Ct.
\$639,900**



SOLD



SOLD

**1127 Gladstone Pl.
\$795,000**

**4220 Adrienne Dr.
\$499,500**



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