

PHOTO BY DIANA CIAMMARCO

Front row - Sammy Dorris, Bennett Zippel, Jake Gupton, Will Sharp, Kyle Pile, Garrett Quimby; second row - Nick Castrilli, Joe Humphreys, Ryan Conmy, Brody Shawn, Nathan DeWitte, Michael Lavanga, Antonio Marcucci, Drew Norton; and third row - Coaches Matthew Dorris, Chuck Gupton, Andy Norton, Bob Pile, Dale Dorris, and Tony Castrilli.

Fort Hunt's State Champions

Majors All-Star team advances to Little League Southeast Regional Championship Tournament.

The Fort Hunt Little League (FHLL) Majors All-Star team won the 2017 Virginia State Championship on Tuesday, July 26 beating Atlee Little League 5-4 at the Fuller Heights baseball complex in Triangle, Va.

This is the first time Fort Hunt Baseball, in its nearly 60-year history, has won the Majors Virginia State Championship. FHLL was 6-0 at the state tournament outscoring their opponents 94-12. Including the District 9 tournament, the team has gone 12-0 since starting All-Star play earlier this month. FHLL will next play at the Southeast

Regional Little League Championship Tournament in Warner Robins, Ga. starting on Aug. 4 in its bid to earn a spot in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. in mid-August.

"This exceptional group of players earned this opportunity through hard work and by never giving up," said Manager Chuck Gupton. "Playing at the Little League Southeast Regional Championship is a once in a life-time opportunity for these players and so exciting for our families and fans. We look forward to representing our Fort Hunt community and Virginia at the next level."

County Purchases Quander Property

For stream restoration and green space.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In July, Fairfax County acquired 2.32 acres of land located at 6318 Quander Road in the Mount Vernon District to preserve green space, allow for stream restoration for Quander Brook and act as a buffer between the existing community and the future Kings Crossing community business area at Fairview Drive. "It's an opportunity," said Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, whose office had been working on the effort for nearly a year. The Quander property is adjacent to the county-owned Fairchild property and provides access to the land from Quander Road. Both the Quander and the Fairchild properties are undergoing county-funded stream restoration, and once completed would serve to provide a green network of new public parks, green spaces and recreation facilities connected to natural resources. Storck noted a plan for a park in this area, but this is in an early development stage and has not been made official.

Fairfax County paid \$650,000 for the property, Storck said, and

it will remain undeveloped for now. Would it ever be developed? "Not what I would expect," Storck said.

This network also supports the community's efforts through the Embark planning initiative to re-envision revitalization along the Richmond Highway Corridor, with new transportation systems, and to move away from the 1950's style of road patterns and shopping centers that Storck has pointed out throughout this process. "The project aligns closely with our goals of Embark Richmond Highway, which calls for increased density around the Community Business Centers to support Bus Rapid Transit and demonstrates the Richmond Highway corridor's development pivoting to the 21st century," said Storck.

The property on Quander Road belonged to the Quander family for more than 100 years and carries with it the legacy of the Quanders as a pre-eminent family in the history of Fairfax County. The Quander family is believed to be one of the oldest documented families of African ancestry in present day America, some of whom are descendants of slaves of George Washington, such as Nancy Carter Quander who was 11 years old in 1799 and lived with her mother, Suckey Bay, a fieldworker as noted in information from George Washington's Mount Vernon.

Low-Turnout High-Stakes Special Election for School Board

Countywide at-large seat to be determined by Aug. 29 special election; early voting is underway.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Could there be a worse time to hold a special election? August is a time when people do anything they can to get out of the region, which transforms into a swampy sauna in late summer. Nevertheless, election officials are preparing for an Aug. 29 special election to fill the at-large seat vacated by School Board member Jeanette Hough in May. If Hough had waited just a few more days to

resign, voters would have been able to vote in the general election this November. But the timing of Hough's resignation will prompt a late summer special election, a phenomenon experts say helps Republicans.

"Oftentimes a lower turnout election is going to feature a wealthier and whiter electorate," said Geoff Skelley at the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "But if the political energy of the moment is particularly high, which I would say it is right now, it could potentially go a different way."

Fairfax County School Board members serve in non-partisan seats. But Democrats and Republicans endorse their preferred candidates, and Hough had been endorsed by Republicans. Traditionally, Democrats have a harder time with special elections because the electorate tends to be more conservative than the general population. So the timing is good for Republicans, although not necessarily perfect.

"The disparity would be even more pronounced early in August," said Stephen Farnsworth at

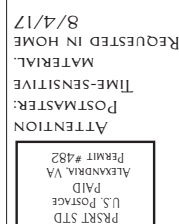
the University of Mary Washington. "By late August, people tend to be done with their vacations. If you have students going off to college, for example, you are likely dealing with that by late August, if not mid-August."

No Democrat has ever won a summertime special election in Fairfax County, which means this special election is the Republicans

to lose. Two candidates who have not been endorsed by either party will also be on the ballot.

CHRIS GRISAFE, 37, is a native of Lake Havasu City, Ariz. He was raised in California, and he's lived in Northern Virginia for 12 years. He currently lives in the Penderbrook neighborhood of the

SEE EARLY VOTING, PAGE 4



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Larkin Fisher, 3, takes the wheel of the police cruiser.



Officers William Williamson, right, and Chris Irving from the Mount Vernon station made their rounds on National Night Out.

National Night Out

Bringing police and residents together.

Residents from the Hollin Hall area turned Mount Vernon Park into a party, with music, food and friends for the National Night Out event on Tuesday, Aug. 1. A stand-up bass was a central piece of the band Mary Bowers & Company, as officers from the Mount Vernon Police Station, Supervisor Dan Storck, and families came out to enjoy the moderate temperatures.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live, according to the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). Matt Peskin, founder and executive director of NATW introduced the National Night Out program in 1984.

— MIKE SALMON

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE



Shellie Bentz and her son Jackson took in the festivities.



Dahlia Bober, left, with Robbie Morris of the Tauxemont community, hang out at the event.



Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and Darci Birmingham talk about the area during the National Night Out gathering in Fort Hunt.



Alex Zajac and Jack Carlough had the soccer ball to kick around.

Advantages Of Mixed Use

Dot coms still a threat but optimism remains.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Retail establishments in Northern Virginia have their challenges. With the high price of real estate, the dot coms breathing down their backs, and the expectation for 6-8 percent of sales to cover rent, a lot is riding on the flow of customers through the front door every day.

These points were presented to a breakfast audience at the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation's recent presentation "Is Retail Doomed?" The guest speakers were Heather Arnold and Bruce Leonard of Streetsense, a Bethesda-based organization that enhances brands and places, drives consumer demand, and fosters community. Arnold and Leonard related a lot of their discussion to situations they worked on in Bethesda, Maryland and Washington, D.C., as well as Potomac Yards and Old Town, Alexandria.

When looking at the commercial value of a mixed use sector, there are three categories that the space needs to contain: they have to market neighborhood goods and services; food and beverage availability; and "GAFO," an industry term for "general merchandise, apparel and other." "This is the sexy category everyone looks for in a mixed use space," said Leonard, but is also "getting annihilated by the dot com industry," he added.

"Not every node of Richmond Highway can be a GAFO, ground floor space needs to have flexibility," added Arnold.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck was at the presentation, and related the retail recommendations to an area on Richmond Highway just south of Penn Daw, near Fairview Drive, by Wendy's, Walmart and the Ranch House restaurant that is slated for redevelopment. The Wendy's is still selling burgers but there are a few abandoned buildings that look dated. Back from the highway, an older neighborhood of single family houses is impacted by the streetscape that is there now.

"They [surrounding community] understand that this will protect their neighborhood, fixes the blight and addresses some of the environmental problems this development brought,"

SEE ADVANTAGES, PAGE 12

Early Voting

FROM PAGE 1

Providence District. He does not have any children in the school system, but he has served on Superintendent's Business Advisory Committee, the Bonds Committee and the Adult Education Advisory Committee. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from Loyola Marymount University and a master's degree in business administration from Virginia Tech. Professionally, he is a national security specialist. In 2011, he waged an unsuccessful campaign for the Providence District seat on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He is the candidate endorsed by the Republican Party.

"I think we can be better served than we have been," said Grisafe. "It's important for us to understand how we are impacting student achievement and to prioritize investments for the classroom. I don't think we can gain that insight unless we are doing independent program evaluations."

On the issue of the budget, Grisafe would like to make government more accessible, increasing the amount of information that's available to the public while making it easy to get and understand. He said that would go a long way to help members of the Board of Supervisors understand the management of resources at Fairfax County Public Schools. It could also help School Board members when they need to make a case for increasing funding.

"The biggest critique I've heard from the county supervisors is that there's not transparency in the schools budget," he said. "For example, if you go to the annual report it shows variances on the board documents. But if you really want to understand position numbers, you have to drill down five or six clicks into a different part of the website."

On the issue of class size, Grisafe was dismissive of the idea that the average class size was a metric that means all that much. On the campaign trail, he recently met the parent of a 4th-grade student at Chesterbrook Elementary School whose student was in a class with 33 students.

"The county has a policy for elementary schools not to exceed 29 students," he said. "And there are a number of schools that are exceeding that and basically violating the policy which isn't being enforced."

On the issue of trailers, he said he doesn't know enough to have a position.

"I guess I would want to understand the impact trailers have on the quality of education," he said. "I don't think that trailers are ideal. I haven't studied the trade offs here for trailers."

On transgender bathrooms, he does not support the Obama-era policy of requiring schools to allow students to use the restrooms of the gender they identify with. Rather, he said, the potential conflicts should be handled on a case-by-case basis.

"I think the way the schools are handling the situation now where it's on a case-by-base basis with the schools is what it needs to be for right now until we answer some broader questions of what follow-on policies flow from that," he said. "I personally



Sandra Allen, Independent



Chris Grisafe, endorsed by Republicans

would like to see more unisex bathrooms."

On the issue of J.E.B. Stuart High School's controversial name, he said he doesn't have a position one way or the other on the name. But he does have a position on the way the school system handled the issue, which he described as a "quintessential example" of a process that should never be repeated because it's been so divisive.

"If you're going to make a moral case of J.E.B. Stuart, then we need to make that same moral case for the rest of the schools," he said. "Do we now, because George Washington had slaves, remove any monuments to him? I don't know. I would want to know how is this helping the community and bringing us together."

KAREN KEYS-GAMARRA, 57, is a native of St. Louis. She has lived in Fairfax County since 1990, first in Huntington and later in the Sully District. She is the parent of three boys who graduated from James Madison High School in Vienna. She has a bachelor's degree in English and communications from Tulane and a law degree from Washington University School of Law. Professionally, she is an attorney who volunteers as a court-appointed special advocate and a guardian ad litem. She ran an unsuccessful campaign for School Board in 2015, and she's currently a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. She is the candidate endorsed by the Democratic Party.

"I initially started advocating educational issues with my own children, and then it carried over into my work," said Keys-Gamarra. "It just stuck out to me how critical educational issues are to the success of kids."

On the issue of the budget, Keys-Gamarra said the relationship between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County School Board needs improvement. She said her experience on the Planning Commission gives her an insight into the inner workings of Fairfax County, especially in the Sully District which she represents.

"I really don't see the Board of Supervisors as an enemy, and I think that sometimes — at least to the public — it appears that may be the view," she said. "I don't think that's a healthy approach, and so I think that with my background I may be able to bridge the gap and bring a little more conciliation to the table."

On teacher salaries, Keys-Gamarra said she hears from teachers all the time about how difficult it is to live in Fairfax County earning the kind of money that comes with teaching in the public school system. She said Fairfax County needs salaries that are comparable to rival jurisdictions.



Karen Keys-Gamarra, endorsed by Democrats



Michael Owens, Independent

"I'm hesitating to give you a yes or a no because I don't want the impression to be given that ... we have to walk in and blow up the budget because this has to happen," she said. "It all has to be balanced against one another but that would certainly be a concern for me."

On the issue of trailers, she's particularly concerned about young children being educated in trailers that don't have bathrooms. On the campaign trail, she's been hearing from parents who are concerned that their children have to wait long periods of time before they can go to a main building to use the facilities. Keys-Gamarra points out that Fairfax County has a shortage of land, which means that schools can't always get the larger size trailers.

"It may be a reality of the resources that we have had and how we've been making decisions," she said. "Some teachers and some students may actually like having that kind of privacy that may have a bathroom in there and air conditioning."

On the issue of class size, Keys-Gamarra said the average class size for Fairfax County elementary school — 22.4 students — is not necessarily a problem. On the campaign trail she's not hearing parents complain about a class size of 22 students. But she is hearing parents complain about class size of 28 or 29 students in a classroom. She said she would like to see the county do something about it, although she's doesn't have a specific proposal.

"I can't throw out a number," she said. "There are certainly concerns regarding class size, and I have those concerns as well."

On transgender bathrooms, she would not commit to agreeing with the Obama-era policy of requiring schools to allow all students to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with. Keys-Gamarra said she agrees with the current policy of handling issues as they arise on a case-by-case basis instead of having a countywide policy.

"I'm not stepping in that," she said when asked about her position. "I really hate to think of children and families being used as a political football."

On the issue of the controversial name of J.E.B. Stuart High School, she said she admires the students who are raising the issue. She agrees that the name should probably change, but she doesn't want to use the school system's limited resources to make it happen.

"I think the thing that probably sticks out to me is that he denounced his citizenship as a United States citizen," she said. "I am on record as supporting the name change. I am not on record as saying that we need to take Fairfax County's funds to pay for

that."

SANDRA ALLEN, 48, is a native of Bolivia. She's lived in the United States more than 40 years, immigrating as a child. She came to Fairfax County about 35 years ago, and currently lives in Vienna. She has two boys who attend James Madison High School, a rising 10th grade student and a rising 11th grade student. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Marymount University. She worked in budgeting and finance at the Department of Defense before leaving the workplace to become a stay-at-home mother.

"I'm concerned that there's not a voice present for the minority students," said Allen. "There's not a single person in any sort of leadership roles within the school system, ... and I've seen that a lot of the decisions that are being made without the input of the moms — the minority moms."

On the issue of the school budget, she said she would like to see better management of the finances. She acknowledges that she has not studied the budget in depth, but she said schools should focus on appropriating money to students rather than security. Budget documents show Fairfax County spends about \$5 million a year on 55 school resource officers. Allen said that's money that could be spent elsewhere.

"I think we should stop making the schools an extension of juvenile detention centers where there's police presence during cafeteria time," said Allen. "We can reappropriate that."

On teacher pay, Allen describes the \$71,000 average pay of Fairfax teachers is "doable." She said she would like to speak to more teachers before offering a definitive opinion, but she adds that teachers could be rewarded with salary increases based on performance. She said she would like to look at the benefit packages to see if some young professionals might be able to trade some of their benefits for higher pay.

"A lot of the young teachers don't need those excessive packages or excessive benefits," she said. "And they probably would do much better having higher pay, so doing a cafeteria plan could be an option."

On the issue of trailers, Allen said trailers have provided a good education for children across the county. But, she said, parents should be able to force school officials to find classroom assignments inside a brick-and-mortar building for their children.

"I don't have any issues with trailers," said Allen. "But if a parent does choose to and sees that that's not to the benefit of her or his student," schools should be required to accommodate that.

On the issue of class size, Allen said the average elementary school class size in Fairfax of 22.4 students is not a problem, although she adds that she's willing to hear from teachers if they feel that number should be lower.

"I think that number is probably about right," she said. "I support the teachers' perspective on this, and if they feel students are not getting attention we may need to change that number."

On the issue of transgender bathrooms, Allen disagrees with the directive from

Special Election for School Board

FROM PAGE 4

former President Barack Obama that students should be able to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with. Instead, she said, schools should engage in a capital campaign to build new restrooms across the county.

"We need to provide the privacy that is necessary for the child, and I think that schools should create that environment of privacy by providing a third option — a neutral bathroom," said Allen, who said she understands how much money would be involved in making that happen. "Schools work with private institutions for funding. When there is a will to change something, there is a way to find a solution."

On the issue of J.E.B. Stuart High School's controversial name, Allen agrees with the students to are pressing to have the name changed. But when asked how she would finance the change, she said she would not support spending money on it.

"I support it. I didn't say it would be something that would be doable," she said. "We have to pick and choose what our priorities are."

MICHAEL OWENS, 43, is a native of Baltimore. She's lived in Fairfax County more than 20 years, first in McLean and later in Falls Church. She has a bachelor's degree in history from Johns Hopkins University and a bachelor's degree in English from Towson University. She also has a master's degree in English from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in education from Marymount University. Professionally, she is a usability and accessibility expert working on web-based applications for the consulting firm known as Design for Context in Washington, D.C. She is a former Fairfax County teacher who currently has one daughter in the school system who is a rising fifth grader at Belvedere Elementary School. She is the president of the parent teacher association there.

"I'm concerned because we have limited resources now, and we are going to have even more limited resources in the future," she said. "And we need to make really important decisions, and we need to do so prudently."

On the issue of the budget, Owens said the school system is unlikely to get increased funding from the Board of Supervisors. So she would like to see a more efficient use of existing resources. For example, she said, the school system spends too much money on athletic programs like football that could be funded with outside money.

"I would like the athletic teams to actually raise money for the other programs within the school,"

said Owens. "The athletic teams could support the after-school chess club. Let's see the kids helping each other."

On teacher pay, Owens said she would like to see higher salaries — 10 percent to 20 percent higher. She said she understands the financial difficulties facing teachers because she was a single mother whose only income was the paycheck she got from Fairfax County Public Schools. In fact, she said, it was that economic pressure that caused her to leave the teaching and become a consultant.

"I left teaching not because I didn't enjoy the students or the parents or even the administrators. I left teaching because I couldn't afford to teach and live here. And that's pretty sad," she said. "I think it's really important that the people who are teaching your children and interacting with your children every day live in your community."

On the issue of trailers being used as classrooms, Owens said Fairfax County has too many students in portable classrooms. But she also said that there was little the School Board could realistically about it.

"I don't think anybody likes trailers," she said. "But that might not be something that we can do anything about, at least in the short term."

On the issue of class size, she said all parents would like to see a smaller student-to-teacher ratio. When asked about it, she circled back around to the question about trailers to make a point about her priorities if elected.

"I'd rather see us have more trailers and smaller classes than fewer trailers but more kids in each class," said Owens.

On the issue of transgender bathrooms, Owens is the only candidate in who supports former President Barack Obama's directive ordering schools to allow students to use the bathroom of the gender they identify with rather than the gender they were born with.

"The kid that feels comfortable going into the girls room to use the facilities, they need the right to do that," said Owens. "The kid who's going to the bathroom to cause trouble no matter what bathroom they're going into, that's a whole different issue."

On the issue of J.E.B. Stuart High School name, she understands those who want to change the name. But she was quick to add that the cost would be half a million dollars, and she said it's not appropriate for the school system to spend that kind of money when there are other budget priorities.

"This is not an emergency, and it's not a moral imperative," she said. "I understand if a student doesn't want to wear his name across their chest. But I don't want to pay to change it."

Elementary School in 2000, and remained for 17 years.

In an email to the community, Hollin Meadows Elementary School Principal Jon Gates wrote: "With her myriad of talents, she made a positive impact throughout the school. ... Linda blended her outstanding creativity with exceptional efficiency — a rare combination. Her ability to 'get things done' was remarkable."

Funeral services will take place Friday, Aug. 4, at noon at Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Reception will follow at 2 p.m. at Chadwicks restaurant in Old Town, Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations in Linda's memory be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Arrangements are under the direction of Demaine Funeral Home, Alexandria.



OBITUARY

Linda Faye Carter

Linda Faye Carter was born Nov. 5, 1953, in Buffalo, N.Y. She died with her family by her side on July 26, 2017, after battling breast cancer. She is sorely missed by her husband Alan, son Rhys, daughter Morgan, mother Mary Parkhill, brothers Jeff and Dave Parkhill, and their spouses Paulette and Kathy.

Linda grew up in Buffalo until, at the age of 26, she met her future husband, Alan. They moved to the Alexandria area in 1979. She and Alan then jet set around Europe for 7 years before settling back in Alexandria, where Linda became involved in the Fort Hunt community. She began working at Hollin Meadows



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Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$549,900
8806 Falkstone Lane
Spectacular 3 level split w/5BRs, 3BAs. So many updates: roof, windows, furnace, A/C & HWH. Remodeled kitchen w/granite & lovely eating station. Remodeled lower level bath & beautiful refinished hardwood floors throughout main & upper levels. Sit & wave to your neighbors from your charming front porch. Enjoy a large manicured backyard. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Alex, Old Town, along the GW Parkway.



Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$584,900
4601 Wood Drive
Stunning 4BR, 3BA Split w/a carport & a garage on a beautiful lot w/a spectacular custom-built screened porch-perfect for entertaining & enjoying your private time. Freshly painted interior, beautiful refinished hwd floors, updated kitchen w/granite counters. Great price. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 25 mins to Ntl Airport. This is a 10!



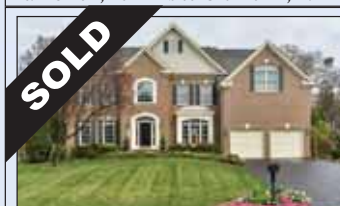
Alex/Wessynton \$625,000
8805 Anne Tucker Lane
Lovely 4BR, 3BA Ramble w/garage in Mt. Vernon's Contemporary Community of Wessynton, a stone's throw to Mt. Vernon Estate and GW Parkway. Popular River Model on a quiet cul-de-sac w/walkout lower level to a beautiful and private backyard — freshly painted interior, new carpeting on lower level and beautiful refinished hwd floors. Community amenities include boat ramp, swimming pool, tennis courts. Priced in the low \$600's, this is a bargain.



Wellington Heights Mid \$900ks
7519 Ridgecrest Dr.
Beautiful 2 level Wellington Heights home with winter views of Potomac River, in fabulous location on sought after Ridgecrest Rd. Stunning kitchen. 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 car garage, large, private .58 acre lot. Open floor plan with expansive windows overlooking the private backyard oasis with swimming pool and large patio, perfect for relaxing and entertaining. Waynewood Elementary. This house is a gem!



Alex/Riverside Estates \$587,500
8303 Cherry Valley Lane
Stunning & meticulous don't begin to describe this beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial. Everything has been upgraded & addressed: Kitchen, Baths, Dbl Pane Windows, Refinished Hardwood Floors, Paint, Carpet, etc. etc. 3 Finished levels, 2 FPLs, 1 car garage, beautifully landscaped large bkyd w/privacy fence. You have to see this house, its spectacular! 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 27 mins to Ntl Airport.



Alex/Grist Mill Woods \$928,000
5414 Grist Mill Woods Way
Spectacular 5BR, 4 1/2 BA Colonial home in Mt. Vernon on .5 acre, built 2001. 2 car garage. Gorgeous backyard w/sparkling swimming pool & beautiful landscaping. Dramatic grand foyer. Large gourmet kitchen w/cherry cabinets, stainless steel, gas cook top island. Large breakfast room. Modern serving pantry. Formal Dining & Living Rooms. 2-story Family Room w/gas fireplace. Main level library. Architectural detailing. Front & rear staircase. Tray ceilings. Luxurious owner's suite w/sitting room, walk-in closets, & deluxe Bath. Finished lower level w/huge Rec Room & bonus rooms. It is superb!



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OPINION

So Many Chances to Vote

Next up, Fairfax County School Board At-Large, Aug. 29.

Do we have election fatigue? Or are we still reeling from last November's election? Every year is an election year in Virginia, and some years offer multiple opportunities.

Either way, every voter in Virginia had a chance to choose a Gubernatorial candidate from one party or the other in the primary election on June 13.

Now in Fairfax County, a countywide special election for School Board at-large will take place on Aug. 29, with absentee in-person voting already underway. Four candidates are on the ballot, Chris S. Grisafe, Sandra D. Allen, Karen A. Keys-Gamarra and Michael H. Owens. To read our story about the candidates, see www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

Absentee voting for the special election is by mail or at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite

323, Fairfax, through Aug. 25. Times: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Then comes the General Election on Nov. 7, with every House of Delegates seat on the ballot along with the race for governor. Lieutenant governor and attorney general are also on the ballot.

To vote in the General Election on Nov. 7, the deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration, is Monday, Oct. 16. In-person absentee voting begins Sept. 22, with the last day of Nov. 4.

For Fairfax County information: Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711; Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725, Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Virginia Voter ID

You will need to show one acceptable photo identification card (photo ID) whenever you vote in person. This is Virginia law for all voters.

Photo IDs can be used to vote up to one year after the ID has expired.

Acceptable forms of valid identification:

- ❖ Virginia driver's license
- ❖ Virginia DMV-issued photo ID
- ❖ United States passport
- ❖ Employer-issued photo ID

Details

To see what's on your ballot: www.elections.virginia.gov/voter-outreach/whats-ballot.html

To check that you are registered to vote at your current address: vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup

To find a registration office where you can obtain photo ID, even on the day of an election, visit: vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup

To read about candidates for the Aug. 29 special election for Fairfax County School Board: www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jul/31/low-turnout-high-stakes-special-election-school-bo/

- ❖ Student photo ID issued by a school, college, or university located in Virginia
- ❖ Other U.S. or Virginia government-issued photo ID
- ❖ Tribal enrollment or other tribal photo ID
- ❖ Virginia Voter Photo ID card

If you don't have an ID, go to a voter registration office to get a free Voter Photo ID, even on Election Day. You will be required to complete a photo ID application, have your photo taken and to sign a digital signature pad.

If you get to your polling place without acceptable photo ID, ask to vote a provisional ballot. You will be given instructions on what to do so your vote can count.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

U.S. 1 Widening Yields Many Benefits

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

On Aug. 2, the Federal Highway Administration is hosting a ribbon cutting to commemorate the widening of U.S. 1 through Fort Belvoir. The project's completion is an important milestone for our community and has broad ramifications.

When I first ran for office in 2009, I stated that improving U.S. 1 was my number one priority. U.S. 1 is the spine of Mount Vernon, Lorton, Woodbridge, Dumfries/Triangle and

Eastern Stafford's central nervous system and a critical driver of not just transportation, but also access to employment, recreation, retail businesses and restaurants. U.S. 1's fate can mean revitalizing area schools and housing and can enhance our overall quality of life from Stafford County to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

When the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) transfers to Fort Belvoir were announced, many people justifiably had concerns about the impact of adding 15,000 new jobs and a billion dollar hospital to a densely-populated and congested area. Widening U.S. 1 through Fort Belvoir happened because of a decade of work by former Fairfax County Supervisor Gerry Hyland and, my old boss, Congressman Jim Moran, who has said that this was the last earmark Congress ever approved. In some circles, earmarks are disparaged, but we would not have this improvement or an expanded Woodrow Wilson Bridge without

earmarks.

The Federal Highway Administration delivered this project on time and under budget and not without difficulty. Resolving the road alignment through Woodlawn was fraught with legal questions and community concerns because of the legal requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and the community's love for Woodlawn Stables. While not everyone was happy with the final decision, a decision was made after an open, transparent and very public process.

More Improvements Ahead

This project gives Northern Virginia a taste of what's to come on U.S. 1. This six-lane, multimodal facility, complete with bike lanes, a multi-use path and space for bus rapid transit, is a first-class infrastructure project. The only thing missing is underground utilities. I have already ridden the bike lanes and expect thousands of other cyclists to enjoy this new much safer transit between Mount Vernon and the Lorton part of Fairfax County.

When I first ran for the House of Delegates in 2009, I noted that in my lifetime, people between Fort Belvoir, Huntley Meadows Park and the Potomac River had seen few significant infrastructure improvements while the rest of Northern Virginia had had billions in infrastructure investment.

With the U.S. 1 widening and other projects occurring in Prince William County, people along U.S. 1 can see improved infrastructure coming. Jeff Todd Way has transformed life for people living in Mount Vernon and Lee Dis-

trict of Fairfax County and this project will do the same. As we move into finalizing the EMBARK Route 1 process, this U.S. 1 project allows us to actually see, touch, drive, walk and cycle what is coming on U.S. 1 from Huntington to Woodlawn.

A final important note: By improving access to one of Northern Virginia's largest job centers — Fort Belvoir — this project will improve the quality of life for thousands of people who commute from the Woodbridge, Dumfries/Triangle and Stafford areas. When I visited families in 2015, I heard dozens of complaints about I-95 traffic, and from people just trying to get on base to work. Thanks to Congressman Moran, thousands of people will have more time to spend with their families instead of spewing carbon dioxide and other pollutants on U.S. 1.

Thank you again to everyone involved in this project. It is an honor to serve as your state senator. You can reach me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any feedback.

LETTERS

County's Unfunded Pension Liability

To the Editor:

First, I offer my sincere thanks to Jay Spiegel, a faithful writer on these pages. Much beneficial attention is brought to matters of commu-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

nity importance as a result of Jay's insight and focus.

In the July 6 Gazette, Jay provided a thoughtful discussion of the first 18 months in office for Dan Storck, our Mount Vernon District Supervisor. Jay could have included the very concerning reports that Fairfax County has an unfunded pension liability of over \$2 billion and growing. In fact, Supervisor Pat Herrity of a neighboring district has been working to get public attention directed to this major issue. To my knowledge Supervisor Storck has been silent on this matter.

Jay suggests that our supervisor is distracted by his business interests, although supervisors are paid \$95,000 per year to pay attention to county matters. Perhaps Supervisor Storck is planning to fix the pension problem with another tax increase proposal such as the recent and ill-advised meals tax. If so, I hope Supervisor Storck will redirect his efforts to a more responsible approach to financial management. We can't afford the path we're on now.

Wayne Meeks
Alexandria

Irreconcilable Differences

To the Editor:

Last Thursday, the Fairfax County School Board (FCSB) voted to change the name of J.E.B. Stuart High School to another as yet undetermined name. Mason District Rep. Sandra Evans made the motion to change the name, then Braddock District Rep. Kaufax made a substitute motion that the decision be postponed until the FCSB completed the procedures set forth in their own regulation no. 8170.7 Part IV, as they had not done. The superintendent had not yet conveyed to the FCSB the required report and terms essential in the determination had not been defined, such as "community support," "sufficient support" and "compelling need." A survey of the adjacent community found that 35 percent of over 3,400 respondents supported the name change (56 percent opposed the name change). A survey of current students was only responded to by 10 percent of them, confirming that changing the name is not an important topic to them. Of the 10 percent, only one-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

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Apple iPhone 6s 64GB UNLOCKED	\$500
Apple iPhone 6s 16GB UNLOCKED	\$450
Apple iPhone 6 plus 128GB UNLOCKED	\$500
Apple iPhone 6 Plus 64GB UNLOCKED	\$450
Apple iPhone 6 Plus 16GB UNLOCKED	\$400
Apple iPhone 6 128GB UNLOCKED	\$450
Apple iPhone 6 64GB UNLOCKED	\$400
Apple iPhone 6 16GB UNLOCKED	\$350
Apple iPhone 5s 64GB UNLOCKED	\$250
Apple iPhone 5s 32GB UNLOCKED	\$220
Apple iPhone 5s 16GB UNLOCKED	\$200

SAMSUNG PHONES:

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Samsung Galaxy S7 cost	\$500

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

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 for more.

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 for more.

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 Aug. 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 for more.

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 for more.

Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit 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 for more.

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 for more.

Student Art Exhibit. Various times through Sept. 15 at the National Art Education Association (NAEA) gallery, 901 Prince St. NAEA is exhibiting artwork from across the country created by students who are members of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS/high school students) and the National Junior Art Honor Society (NJAHS/middle school students). Call 800-299-8321 or 703-860-8000 or email info@arteducators.org for more.



Carlyle Fun

Wake Up Wednesdays are happening every Wednesday through September from 7-9:30 a.m. at the Duke Street Tunnel Connecting Carlyle to King Street Metro. Free coffee with a purchase of a donut, entertainment from local performers. www.alexandriava.gov/CarlyleFun

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 31-SEPT. 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 for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 4

Free Fitness Classes. Fridays, noon-1 p.m. and Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. through the month of August in John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Local studio fitness instructors including Xtend Barre, Pure Barre, Mind the Mat, Pilates Pro

Works, and USPTO Fitness Center. The series will include a range of classes including yoga, tai chi, Zumba, barre and kickboxing. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/CarlyleFun for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 5

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the 100 block of South Alfred Street between Prince and King streets. The Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association will hold its annual Friendship Firehouse Festival. Call 703-746-3891 for more.

Tree Fest at River Farm. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive. The American Horticultural Society and TREE Fund present a morning celebrating trees. Call 703-768-5700 for more.

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.

Tavern Open House. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Features the site-specific public art installation “Centennial of the Everyday,” public-art exhibition. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Historian Lecture. 1:30-3:30 p.m. in the Watson Reading Room at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. WWII B-I US Navy Band 75th Anniversary round table discussion and presentation. E-mail black.history@alexandriava.gov, or call 703-746-4356.

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 for more.

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 show Dynamic Duo. Exhibition will run Aug. 2-27. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Country-Western Dance. 6-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association dance, couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. See www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

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 for more.

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.

Chamber Music Concert. 3 p.m. in The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Shane Iler presents an afternoon of music by Brahms on the horn, the violin, and the piano. Free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org for more.

Frank Sinatra Tribute. 7:30 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Tony Sands is Frank Sinatra in “It was a Very Good Year.” \$25. Call 703-548-8899 for more.

MONDAY/AUG. 7

Purple Heart Day. 10:30 a.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Medal of Honor recipient Capt. Florent Groberg of the United States Army will give the keynote address. Music for the ceremony is provided by the U.S. Marine Corps Band Brass Quintet. A wreath will be on view at the Purple Heart Memorial, located outside of the entrance to the estate. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. An Evening with KaNikki Jakarta: Books and Poetry. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

TUESDAY/AUG. 8

Simpson Gardens Stroll. 11 a.m. at



Carlyle Fitness

Free fitness classes on Fridays from noon-1 p.m. and Sundays 9:30-10:30 a.m. through the month of August in John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Local studio fitness instructors including Xtend Barre, Pure Barre, Mind the Mat, Pilates Pro Works, and USPTO Fitness Center. The series will include a range of classes including yoga, tai chi, Zumba, barre and kickboxing. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/CarlyleFun for more.

4 Foodie Dates to Circle in August

BY HOPE NELSON

Even in the dog days of summer, no moss is growing under the restaurants in town. From beer pairings to drag brunches, here are several options to keep your August interesting.

Rustico's Near & Far Beer Series, Aug. 7

During the dog days of summer, what could be better than sipping some cool Scandinavian beers and daydreaming of colder climes? Next Monday, Rustico pairs just such beverages with a five-course menu to bring the Nordic vibe to Alexandria. While the food menu is as-yet unannounced, the beer list is intriguing indeed. From the Evil Twin Classique Imperiale — a saison that comes by way of Denmark via New York — to Denmark's Mikkeller Black Hole, an imperial stout that might perhaps drink more like a dessert than a beer, brew lovers will be sure to have something new to try. Tickets are \$55; reservations are required. 827 Slaters Lane.

Larry's Crawfish Boil at Society Fair, Aug. 12

Society Fair is back with another rendition of their crawfish boil. With all-you-can-eat crawdads and all the fixin's — boiled potatoes, corn on the cob, and Andouille sausage, just to name a few — the restaurant's bistro will be hopping with down-home Louisiana-style flavors. Tickets are \$35 each; diners can choose from several seatings, ranging

in time from noon to 8 p.m. 277 S. Washington St.

Summer Restaurant Week, Aug. 18-27

If it's August, it's time for Alexandria's Summer Restaurant Week. More than 60 restaurants will take part in this year's summertime event, and the tasting menus and special deals abound. From higher-end mainstays such as Jackson 20 and Vermilion to the more grab-and-go bites of Haute Dog and Meggrolls, the slate of participants is expansive and bound to appeal to every palate. Bonus: Hummingbird, the new restaurant from Cathal and Meshelle Armstrong, is offering prix fixe specials as part of the week — a perfect time to get a sneak peek into one of Old Town's newest spots. www.visitalexandriava.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/

Sparkle Saturdays Drag Brunch at Hank's Pasta Bar, Aug. 19

On the third Saturday of the month, Hank's Pasta Bar takes weekend dining to a new level with its drag brunch. Blending a hearty meal with a performance — this month hosted by Summer Knight and featuring Whitney Guccigoo and Gadfrie Arbulu — Hank's gets the weekend started in style. Tickets are \$25 apiece and include an array of options from the brunch menu; reservations are required. 600 Montgomery St.

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

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 mgmv.org/events/mgmv-events/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 9

Wake Up Wednesday. 7-9:30 a.m. at the Duke Street Tunnel Connecting Carlyle to King Street Metro. Free coffee with a purchase of a donut, entertainment from local performers. Every Wednesday through September. www.alexandriava.gov/CarlyleFun.

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

Garden Stroll and Ice Cream Social. 10 a.m.-11:30 at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. 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/.

Art of History. 10 a.m.-noon at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Art-focused tour of the "Centennial of the Everyday," that views history through the lens of contemporary art. \$15. Call 703-746-

4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

AUG. 12-13

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

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.

Summer Chamber Music Series. 3 p.m. Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Join trombonist Tyler Castrucci, along with violist William Neri, and cellist Molly Jones for an afternoon of chamber music. Free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org for more.

Medical Music Group. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. "Music You Can't Refuse," concert. \$20-50, veterans and students free. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ or vanmmg@hotmail.com.

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 sirniface.com for more information.

TUESDAY/AUG. 15

Genealogy Talk. 1-3 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn how to use various record groups to find your pre- and post-Civil War Virginia ancestors and their plantation from genealogist Char McCargo Bah. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 16

Wake Up Wednesday. 7-9:30 a.m. at the Duke Street Tunnel Connecting Carlyle to King Street Metro. Free coffee with a purchase of a donut, entertainment from local performers. Every Wednesday through September. www.alexandriava.gov/CarlyleFun.

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/ for more.

Sierra Hull in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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 for more.

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 for more.

Gardening Author Talk. 3-4:30 p.m. at the Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Nancy Lawson, a naturalist and columnist for All Animals magazine, will talk about her recent book, "The Humane Gardener: Nurturing a Backyard Habitat for Wildlife." Visit alexlibraryva.org.

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 for more.

DEADLINE AUG. 20

Open Invitation for Chorus. Rehearsals begin at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at the Northern Virginia Community College Alexandria campus, 5000 Dawes Ave. Email leckstein@nvcc.edu or call 703-845-6252.

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 for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 23

Wake Up Wednesday. 7-9:30 a.m. at the Duke Street Tunnel Connecting Carlyle to King Street Metro. Free coffee with a purchase of a donut, entertainment from local performers. Every Wednesday through September. www.alexandriava.gov/CarlyleFun.

THURSDAY/AUG. 24

Historian Lecture. 7 p.m. at The



'Flexibility In Clay'

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.

BOTTLES BY
POLINA MILLER

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meredith Barber is a local historian and student at William and Mary. Through research at the National Archives, she discovered previously unknown Athenaeum history during the Civil War including its employment as a logistics center by the Union Army. \$5, free for NVFAA members. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

SATURDAY/AUG. 26

Garden Terrarium Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Begonia enthusiast Johanna Zinn provides information on this genus and teaches techniques for creating a terrarium. \$38 plus supplies. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 26-27

Begonia Show and Sale. 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Show sponsored by the Potomac branch of the American Begonia Society. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring for more.

SUNDAY/AUG. 27

Sister Musicians Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Artists and sisters Shelby Lynne and Allison Moorer will perform in support of their upcoming release "Not Dark Yet." Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

MONDAY/AUG. 28

7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. 8 a.m. at Fort Belvoir Golf Club 8450 Beulah St., Fort Belvoir. Benefit for America's "Adopt A Soldier," an established nonprofit organization who has through grassroots volunteerism, donations, and partnerships; provides a positive impact to our nation's wounded, deployed service members, hospitalized military children, homeless veterans, veterans and their families. Email golftournament@americasadoptsoldier.org for more.

MONDAY/AUG. 28

Fall Vegetable Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn inexpensive techniques to extend the harvest and even enjoy some of the crops in the dead of winter. Visit mgvnv.org or call 703-228-6414 for more.



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Saving Your Skin

How to prevent sun damage while enjoying summer vacation.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

August approaches and many head out for sun drenched vacations with a skin-baring wardrobe. This much anticipated time of year doesn't come without danger, primarily in the form of sunburn which can lead to skin damage, skin cancer, wrinkles and dark spots. Skincare gurus offer suggestions for protecting skin without sacrificing time outside.

"Sunscreen is the best protection from the sun," said Cheryl A. Oetjen, DNP, FNP-BC, assistant professor of nursing at George Mason University. "This can be from lotions that are SPF 30 or higher or from skin-protective clothing. Wearing a hat can also protect your face to some degree. Sunglasses should also be worn."

To maximize the effectiveness of sun-

screen, Oetjen advises being aware of some of the most commonly made application mistakes. "Ideally sunscreen should be applied 30 minutes prior to sun exposure," she said. "This gives it time to soak into the skin. Avoiding the water for this time is also important."

Avoid the sun between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. when it's most intense and use at least one ounce of sunscreen per application, says Oetjen. "The important part of applying sunscreen is ensuring that you are using enough," she said. "Fair complexions, red hair and blonde hair often are indicators of a higher risk of sunburn, so it's important to reapply often."

— Cheryl A. Oetjen,
George Mason University

Make sunscreen part of one's daily skincare regimen, advises Colleen Sanders, RN, FNP, Marymount University in Arlington. "The recommendation is that you wear sunscreen



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Wearing sunscreen offers the best protection from sun damage.

every day if you're going to be outside even for a short period of time," she said. "It should be part of your everyday routine."

Relying solely on the SPF found in some cosmetics like foundation or powder is unwise, says dermatologist Dr. Lisa Bronstein. "Makeup doesn't necessarily provide the protection that it claims to provide," she said. "There are a lot of tinted sunscreens out now that match a variety of skin tones and also give amazing protection from sun damage."

"Wearing sunglasses with UVA and UVB protection as well as a hat will help prevent damage, says Sanders. "Common areas that people often forget to cover, and where we often find skin cancer, are the tops

of ears and the backs of their hands," she said. "These are places where people forget to put sunscreen."

"Make sure the most sensitive areas are covered ... these areas include the top of the ears, lips [and] the nose, added Oetjen. "Zinc oxide can be applied to sensitive areas."

Infants who are younger than six months old should have limited exposure to the sun, says Oetjen.

"The FDA has not approved a sunscreen for infants under 6 months so it is best for them to stay in the shade and wear sun protective clothing and hat," she said. "The skin of infants is thinner and more sensitive to the sun and sunscreen."

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NEWS

Advantages of Mixed Use

FROM PAGE 3

Storck said.

On Tuesday, July 25, Storck's mixed use, redevelopment plan was presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who accepted the proposal with Novice Properties, which will incorporate a mixed use development. According to information released by Storck's office, the board approved RZ 2016-MV-002 and FDP 2017-MV-002, commonly referred to as NOVUS Kings Crossing, which proposes to redevelop a 5.3 acre site in the Penn Daw Community Business Center to allow for the construction of a mixed use multi-family building with approximately 350 units.

Located in the Richmond Highway Revitalization District, the proposed site is currently home to a Wendy's, a martial arts academy and two vacant buildings.

This new development with Cafritz Enterprises and Novus Residences is part of the revitalization on Richmond Highway that Storck looks at as an "economic investment in our community."

Across Richmond Highway from this area, there is already a project in the works to redevelop the Penn Daw Shopping Center, which is in Lee District under Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

"It's representative of what we're doing on the highway," Storck said.

MIXED USE was used by Leonard and Arnold more than once to describe a successful retail set up as well.

When selecting a site, retail criteria needs 35,000 people located within a three-mile radius, and then they look at the education level and the average household income.

"Retailers are very data driven," said Leonard. "Place" and "authenticity" are important factors, and this works with a mix of national and local tenants, and trees. Big parking lots with no greenery could be trouble. "Getting these components together is really important," Leonard said.

Big box stores aren't as attractive as they used to be, and instead of storing goods on site, retail products are now ordered in the store and delivered at a later date. Best Buy and Home Depot use this tactic frequently. "Stores that used to require 1,800 square feet now require 400 square feet," said Arnold.

Price per square foot has become an issue on King Street in Old



Bruce Leonard of Streetsense addresses the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/GAZETTE



Along Richmond Highway, Supervisor Dan Storck wants out with the old, in with the new.



The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved Mount Vernon District Dan Storck's idea on July 25.

Town, Alexandria too. With expensive real estate like that, the 8 percent of sales going to rent can be up to 10 or 12 percent in areas like that. "There's always this discon-

nect between rent and sales per square foot," said Leonard. "On one level, let the market take its course and rents will come down," he said.

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Obituary



Frances Smith Armstrong, 70, of Alexandria, Virginia – beloved mother, grandmother, and educator – passed away peacefully in her home on the morning of July 24, 2017. Fran, daughter of Nelle and Dixon Smith, Jr., was born in Columbus, GA on June 13, 1947. She grew up in Richmond, Virginia, attended Thomas Jefferson High School, and graduated from Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia in 1969. After college, Fran served as an elementary school teacher in Fairfax County and Germany before having her daughter Brannan in 1976. Fran settled in Alexandria, Virginia in 1979, where she continued to teach in the Fairfax County Public School System. She taught at multiple elementary schools, spending 25 years at Hollin Meadows, retiring in 2010. In 1998, Fran earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching from George Mason University. After graduation, she hosted, instructed, and mentored interns from the University in the Professional Development Program as a Clinical Faculty Member. Fran's teaching accomplishments were recognized on multiple occasions by Fairfax County Public Schools. Her wonderful spirit, witty humor, intelligence, and gentle guidance as a teacher made her an endearing mentor to hundreds of students whose lives she touched.

Lovingly referred to as "Franma" by her grandchildren, great nieces, great nephews, and extended family, Fran found her deepest happiness in sharing cards and gifts with her family, spending time with her two granddaughters, and cheering on the Washington Redskins. Fran was a long-time member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, where her remains will be interred at the Columbarium. Fran was preceded in death by her parents, Nelle David Smith and Houston Dixon Smith, Jr., and sisters, Ellen Boyce Smith and Betsy Smith Edmunds. She is survived by her daughter, B. Brannan Armstrong Villee and husband Mark; two granddaughters, Virginia Jordan and Caroline Elizabeth Villee; her nephew, Cas Edmunds and his family; her niece, Emily Edmunds Roland and her family; great nieces, great nephews, and countless family members who were blessed to know and love her.

A celebration of Fran's life will take place on Saturday, August 12 at 10:00 a.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church (1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, Virginia). In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Aldersgate United Methodist Church. DEMAIN FUNERAL HOME, Alexandria is handling the arrangements. www.demainefuneralhomes.com

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH AUG. 25

Summer Lunches. The Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Food and Nutrition Services will be hosting the FEEDS (Food for Every Child to Eat During Summer) BBQ program, a USDA-funded program is free to all children 18 years and under and \$2 for adults. There is no registration involved, and open to everyone. Meal service will be provided at the following sites Monday-Friday, 11:30-1 p.m. No service on July 3 and 4. In the Mount Vernon area, FEEDS is offered at these schools:

- ❖ Bren Mar Park Elementary, 6344 Beryl Road
- ❖ Hybla Valley Elementary, 3415 Lockheed Blvd.
- ❖ Mount Vernon Woods Elementary, 4015 Fielding St.
- ❖ Riverside Elementary, 8410 Old Mount Vernon Road

TUESDAY/AUG. 8

Fairfax Connector Bus Changes. 6-8 p.m. (7 p.m. presentation) at Edison High School Cafeteria, 5801

Franconia Road. Fairfax Connector proposes service adjustments for implementation in September 2017 to improve the customer experience through increased on-time performance, improved service reliability and reduced crowding. In order to serve the greatest number of riders as effectively as possible, improvements target high-ridership corridors and partially address the elimination of Metrobus 2T. Routes in the proposal include: 171, 231, 232, 321, 322, 333, 334, 335, 395, 462, 463, and 551. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news.

FRIDAY/AUG. 11

Resource Fair. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria Campus will host a resource fair for skilled immigrants called "Rebuild Your Professional Career in the U.S." to provide a forum for community members and professionals to share their experience and learn about strategies for job searching, credentials and training. Free and open to the public. Registration is required; visit www.eventbrite.com and search workforce conference. Call 703-324-7280, TTY 711 or email WDC@alexandriava.gov for more.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

third of them supported changing the name, meaning barely 3 percent of the students supported the name change. Mrs. Evans decided to define the above-identified terms such that 35 percent of

the community and 3 percent of the students demonstrate a "compelling need" and "sufficient support" for the change.

The substitute motion was considered first and Mount Vernon Rep. Karen Corbett Sanders ex

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 14

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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

Obituary

Linda Faye Carter

was born November 5th, 1953, in Buffalo, New York. She passed away with her family by her side on July 26th, 2017, after battling breast cancer. She is sorely missed by her husband Alan, son Rhys, daughter Morgan, mother Mary Parkhill, brothers Jeff and Dave Parkhill, and their spouses Paulette and Kathy. Linda grew up in Buffalo until, at the age of 26, she met her future husband, Alan. They moved to the Alexandria area (Vernon View Drive) in 1979. She and Alan then jet set around Europe for 7 years before settling back in Alexandria, where Linda became a prominent member in the Fort Hunt community. She began working at Hollin Meadows



Elementary School in 2000, and remained for 17 years. In her role at the school, she facilitated many great events and contributed her exceptional creative talents. During Linda's tenure, she helped promote the school in numerous ways while helping countless families and teachers. She touched the lives of many with her exceptional talents and selfless nature. Her humor, smile and calming demeanor made her an invaluable member of her family and community. Linda was a loving wife and mother who is greatly missed. Funeral services will take place Friday, August 4th, at noon at Good Shepard Catholic Church. Reception will follow at 2 pm at Chadwicks restaurant in Old Town, Alexandria. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations in Linda's memory be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

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Obituary

Week to Weak



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And speaking, a few weeks late, of my "whirled," (see July 5, 2017 column, "Not an Auto-Matic Fix"); at least as it relates to my next week or so: 24-hour urine collection on Tuesday, pre-chemotherapy lab work on Wednesday, in the Connection office on Thursday, chemotherapy infusion on Friday, continuing anxiety concerning the previous Wednesday's CT Scan/awaiting results from my oncologist followed by our usual post-scan appointment with him Friday a week later to discuss my future: status quo or the great unknown; coinciding with the typical eating challenges/post-chemo side effect which lasts a week to 10 days after treatment. If this cycle of gloom doesn't sound like fun, you're right, but it's a living/my life and I'm extraordinarily (I didn't want to say "damn") lucky to be able to live it.

And recently having spoken to a new stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer "diagnosee," who's on a 24-hour morphine drip and Percocet every four hours because he's in constant pain, I know how amazingly fortunate I am/have been since being originally diagnosed in late February, 2009. Sure, I've had my share of pain and discomfort, but in the medical-measuring system I'd give it a "1." Hardly the stuff with which nightmares are made (see column in a few weeks, as yet untitled).

I've always been a great believer in context. Not so much comparison because what you see and what you get are not necessarily relevant, comparatively speaking, but more that the circumstances are all relative. It takes me back to Popeye the Sailor Man, who apologizing to no one, always said: "I 'yam what I 'yam." And so am I. When I see other cancer patients at the Infusion Center, when I talk to cancer survivors, when I hear or read of other cancer patient circumstances, I try to live and learn, not take it personally, and count my blessings. Given the hand that I was dealt back on Feb. 27, 2009 I wouldn't say "Wild" Bill Hickok (and his black aces and black eights) came to mind, but my life, according to the "11 month to two-year" prognosis I was given, certainly passed before me – and much sooner than I had anticipated.

In spite of my diagnosis/prognosis, and the miscellaneous ups and downs that I and most cancer patients endure, I've never given in to my oncologist's initial assessment. It was so unbelievable hearing such grim news, especially considering that I was age 54 and a half, that it almost seemed like an out-of-body experience, sort of like Scrooge in Charles Dickens "novella," "A Christmas Carol." Sure we were listening attentively and asked our share of questions, but it didn't seem real or even about me, sort of. I mean at this juncture, I had no pain and no symptoms and no family history of cancer – and I was a life-long non-smoker. Yet here I was, in the bulls eye of a dreaded disease with no known cure receiving a modest life expectancy/two percent chance of living beyond five years.

But eight years and five months later, here I sit, breathe and try to write some wrongs about a life mostly unexpected, and one in which I haven't sweated too many details nor concerned myself with the "nattering nabobs of negativism," to quote former Vice President, Spiro T. Agnew, specifically as it relates to lung cancer outcomes. Which are dramatically improving.

New drug approvals and increased funding for lung cancer research has infused hope into lung cancer patient's lives. Routines with which us lung cancer patients/survivors have become accustomed will be less routine and will make our lives more fulfilling. It might not be perfect, but it's definitely a life worth living.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 13

plained in detail why she thought the substitute motion should be approved. She explained she is the only member of the FCSB who had attended a Fairfax County High School whose name had been changed (Groveton to West Potomac). She explained that it took fully 30 years for the pain of that name change to subside. From this perspective, she counseled that the FCSB should proceed extremely cautiously. See link beginning at 2:05:30: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M20S98ndwK> She said:

"However, I think that for the healing of this community and for good governance and modeling, I would like us to complete the policy that was laid out in our regulations. This is not a delay. This recommendation, this motion is to complete the process. It's not a delay."

"The request is important not only for JEB Stuart's decision but equally for the operation of this Board and this school system. We establish policies, regulations and procedures to ensure that this school system operates in the most effective manner to ensure our students' success. We also should model the adherence to our policies and regulations."

She then discussed the costs resulting from the name change and stated her support for Mrs. Kaufax's motion (she voted in favor). When the vote was taken, the motion failed by a vote of 6-5. Then, the FCSB took up Mrs. Evans' motion to change the name. After much discussion, the motion passed. Ms. Corbett Sanders voted in support of Mrs. Evans' motion. One can't reconcile Ms. Corbett Sanders' votes on these two motions. Based upon her comments supporting the motion to postpone, her second vote cannot be rationally explained.

If you favor changing the name of the school, you are probably pleased. But before you celebrate, think of the ramifications of the name change. At the hearing, it was pointed out that directly across the street from the school is a county park named J.E.B. Stuart Park. What happens if the Park Authority Board refuses to change the name? Are the names of schools named in honor of slave owners such as Robert E. Lee, James Madison, and Thomas Jefferson going to be changed? One Board member pointed out that in Fairfax County (Lord Fairfax was a slave owner), there are over 100 schools, parks, streets, subdivisions, and magisterial districts named after former members of the Confederacy and other slave owners. What will the cost be to change all these other names in the name of political correctness? The estimate for this one name change is anywhere from \$600,000 to \$1 million. Our public schools are running at a current \$70 million deficit. Where is the money coming from? The Mount Vernon District is not well-served by the poor judgment of Karen Corbett Sanders. The next School Board election is in 2019.

Heaven help us in Fairfax County. Open your wallets!

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

9

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OPEN SUNDAY

**9211 Volunteer Dr.
\$599,000**



Exceptionally spacious 5 BR home in prime location in one of the area's premier neighborhoods. Absolutely gorgeous pool & grounds. Total privacy! Interior has been painted and beautiful hardwood floors just refinished. Exceptional value!



OPEN SUNDAY

**8307 Crown Court Rd.
\$729,900**



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!



JUST LISTED

**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 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 updated 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.



**7617 Range Rd.
\$639,000**

Spacious 3 level home on gorgeous large fenced lot in prime close-in location. Many features include: bright open floor plan, updated thermal windows, hardwood floors, four large bedrooms, distinctive stone front, huge level back yard, large storage out building, and two car garage. Fabulous property in prime location for very reasonable price!



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\$845,000**

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SOLD



SOLD

**1205 Falster Rd.
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**2303 Cavendish Dr.
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SOLD



SOLD

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

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



SOLD



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