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# Mount Vernon Gazette

**WINTER FUN**  
PAGE 12

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 25, 2018



PHOTO BY ROB SHENK

## Winter Fun

George Washington welcomes visitors at an earlier Presidents Day. This year's Washington's Birthday Celebration will be Feb. 17-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at George Washington's Mount Vernon. On Feb. 17-18, wish the General a happy birthday while enjoying hoecakes made over the open fire, #PoseLikeThePrez in the Education Center Lobby and observe wreathlayings at Washington's Tomb. Across the estate, listen to members of the Washington family recount stories about the General, visit with George and Martha Washington at the Interpretive Center and watch dancing demonstrations on the bowling green. On Feb. 19, enjoy free admission to Mount Vernon, witness a presidential tribute featuring honored guests, a wreathlaying at Washington's tomb, watch Continental soldiers conduct a marching drill, and enjoy character performances around the estate. From 10 a.m.-4 p.m. greet author Jeff Finegan who will sign books from his series, "I Knew George Washington." Visit [www.mountvernon.org/birthday](http://www.mountvernon.org/birthday). For more Winter Fun activities, see pages 12-15.

## Promoting Safe Bicycling

Cycling advocacy group hosts county law enforcement reps at monthly meeting.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE GAZETTE

At its first monthly meeting of the New Year, the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) got right to work, inviting two Fairfax County Traffic Safety Police Officers to attend and expand the dialogue between law enforcement and cyclists in the county.

FABB member Charlie Bobbish introduced Officers PFC Sheila

Ayers, and PFC Christina Gaizick and began the conversation by asking them to comment on the "state of traffic safety" in Fairfax County.

Safety of all county residents is a priority, according to Ayers, be they drivers, cyclists or pedestrians, but the officer added that she and her colleague were particularly pleased to be invited to the FABB meeting to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the

SEE PROMOTING. PAGE 4



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

From left: PFC Christina Gaizick and PFC Sheila Ayers of Traffic Safety Services, Fairfax County Police Department, were the guests at the January meeting of Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, held at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

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OPEN SUN 1/28, 2-4

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OPEN SUN 1/28, 2-4

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## Alexandria \$260,000

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OPEN SUN 1/28, 2-4

## Del Ray \$674,900

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OPEN SUN 1/28, 2-4

## Old Town \$959,900

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OPEN SUN 1/28, 1-4

## Del Ray \$550,000

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# Inspiring Performance

## Fairfax Symphony Orchestra inspiring next generation of music makers and music lovers.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be saluting the next generation of classical musicians with a special performance by the 22-year-old Korean string virtuoso, In Mo Yang and the premiere of the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra features outstanding high school student musicians from across Fairfax County selected through a competitive audition process.

"We are thrilled to build on the success of last year's pilot program and showcase the 2018 All-Stars," said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, Fairfax Symphony. "The FSO is unique in the orchestra field by programming such a significant education initiative on our main series. Inspiring the next generation of classical musicians is vital to the FSO's mission, and this program is invaluable to maintain the artistic excellence of the next generation of orchestral musicians."

The Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra is composed of nearly 20 musicians. Under the musical direction of FSO's Christopher Zimmerman, the young musicians will perform excerpts from Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet" side-by-side with the professional musicians of the FSO. "The All Stars reflect Fairfax County's diverse, artistic achievements and cultural leadership and is an indication of its vibrant future," said Zimmerman.



Fairfax County All Stars (2017) performing with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

FSO mentor Patti Reid said, "I love the idea of sharing with the young musicians so that they can experience what it's like to be in the symphony.

Knowing that the students are being affected by this is fabulous."

For Dean Woods, another FSO mentor, "Working with the students is such an important part of development as a musician and as a person."

In Mo Yang will perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, playing the unique

"Joachim-Ma" Stradivari of 1714, the violin used by Joseph Joachim for the premiere performance of the Brahms Concerto through the generosity of the New England Conservatory.

Students in the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra include: Benjamin Ascoli, Soni Bae, Huay Din Angel Estrada, Andrew Gantzer, Colin Hill, Liam Johansson, Michael Lee, Stephanie Manning, Anna Paek, Irene Paek, George Pekarsky, Daniel Shen, Katherine Yang, Alan



Maestro Christopher Zimmerman conducting the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

### Where & When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in performance with special guest In Mo Yang and the Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra at George Mason University, Center for Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Feb. 3, 2018 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$53 and \$65. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu)

Zhen and Yilun Zhou.

Impacts of the musical mentoring program can be found in this comment from 2017 All Star, Courtney Tern, "playing music with so many accomplished adults...I want to play as well as they do."

"I can't wait to hear these talented, student musicians from across Fairfax County in this rare opportunity to perform with the Fairfax Symphony," said Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

# Naked Truth About Strip Searches at Traffic Stops

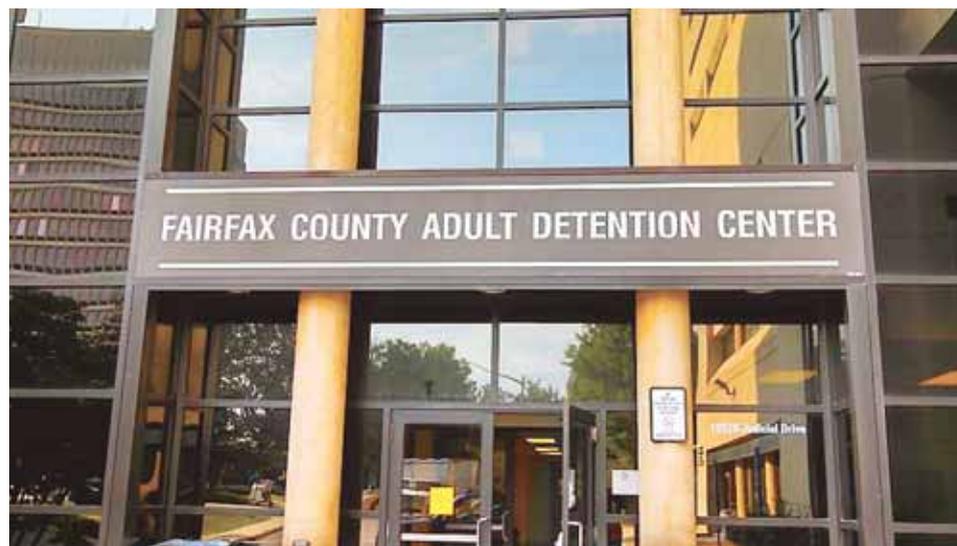
## Northern Virginia Democrat advocates for strip searches to combat opioid crisis.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

Police officers across Virginia will be able to strip search drivers at traffic stops under a bill proposed from Del. Patrick Hope (D-47). Hope says he introduced the bill as a reaction to the opioid crisis after being approached by sheriffs across the commonwealth who are concerned inmates might smuggle drugs into jails. Hope says sheriffs did not ask for strip searches at traffic stops, although he adds the two issues are linked in the code.

"The existing statute allows for strip searches for weapons at traffic stops and going into jail, and that's there for a reason — because you don't want to put someone in your squad car who might have a weapon," said Hope. "And so the question is whether opioids today are lethal enough where you need that same protection at a traffic stop where you are going to put somebody in your car."

Advocates for civil liberties are concerned that strip searches would be based on nothing more than an arresting officer's "reasonable cause to believe" that a suspect has drugs. They worry that suspicion may of-



A spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office says there are no numbers that show smuggled opioids are a problem at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center

ten be based on nothing more than a hunch. And although courts have upheld the ability of sheriff's deputies to conduct strip searches at jails, they say allowing strip searches at minor traffic infractions would violate the dignity of the accused — a burden that would disproportionately fall on

minorities.

"This proposal will fall more heavily on people of color because of disparate policing," said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. "Keep in mind that people who are black are eight times more likely to be

arrested for possession of marijuana in Arlington than white people, even though usage rates for both populations are the same, about 13 percent."

**RECENT YEARS** have seen the opioid crisis spiral out of control in Virginia. The number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased by more than 30 percent last year, according to a recent report from the Virginia Department of Health. Fentanyl is an opioid pain medication that's 100 times more potent than heroin. It's often used to treat pain after major surgeries, and it's frequently traded on the black market. A dose the size of a grain of sand can be lethal, creating a potential problem at jails.

"Google the words 'jail' and 'overdose,' and you'll come up with a number of hits of people who are sneaking in drugs like fentanyl and heroin and other opioid type drugs and people are overdosing on it," said Hope. "It's a very serious concern of the jails and the sheriffs asked me to carry the bill."

A Google search of "jail overdose" comes up with 8.7 million hits with horror stories from across the country. Four inmates overdosed in two days last year in Ohio. Two

SEE TRAFFIC STOPS, PAGE 4

# Promoting Safe Bicycling

FROM PAGE 1

pedal-powered citizenry and to have an opportunity to discuss safe cycling practices and education.

According to Ayers, statistics show a decrease in cycling-related incidents, with only one fatality recently reported in 2015. Early figures for 2017 indicate 72 reportable bicycle incidents, although the fact that there are no clearly defined categories for bicycle accidents in the statewide reporting system TREDIS (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) and that “reportable” incidents must meet a \$1,500 damage or a reportable injury threshold in order to be included in the TREDIS data, left some attendees somewhat in doubt as to the accuracy or usefulness of the information.

Jeff Anderson, president of FABB, Steve Ward, the organization’s secretary, and board member Bruce Wright all indicated that advocating for more specific reporting tools might be on the FABB work menu in the future.

**SEVERAL QUESTIONS** were posed to the officers regarding how to stay safe as a cyclist on the road, and what to do when witnessing or experiencing interaction with aggressive drivers.

Although the answers did not provide the cyclists with many solutions, Ayers and

Gaizick both stressed that the first thing to do was “get out of the way and be safe.” Even when the incident is not deemed “reportable,” the officers still encouraged the riders to “be the best witness you can be and call it in.” Calling in and providing as much detail about the alleged offender is still helpful, and could cause the police to issue a “look out” for the vehicle.

In addition to the presentation and conversation with Ayers and Gaizick, a report by Sally Smallwood, Safe Routes to School coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools was on the agenda. Smallwood brought the members up to speed on educational events scheduled for Fairfax County schools, a significant donation that would allow for a number of shareable bicycles to be purchased for several elementary and middle schools, and preparation for this year’s “Bike to School Day” scheduled for May 18.

Smallwood also wanted to spread the word that nominations for Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year for 2017 were still wanted, with the deadline being Jan. 26 for the Feb. 14 announcement of the honorees on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Anyone can nominate a crossing guard by going to the Virginia Department of Transportation website at [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org) and searching Safe



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

**Sally Smallwood is the Safe Routes to School coordinator for the Fairfax County Public Schools. Smallwood brought the FABB members up to speed on school-related bicycling events and activities and encouraged people to nominate a School Crossing Guard of the Year by the Jan. 26 deadline.**

Routes to School.

**FAAB** encourages all cycling enthusiasts of all levels of ability and cycling usage to join their organization to stay informed, to be better educated on cycling safety, and to participate in social rides and other FABB activities. FABB is on the web at [www.fabb-bikes.org](http://www.fabb-bikes.org) and has a Facebook page, as well. Its next meeting is Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

# Traffic Stops

FROM PAGE 3

inmates were found dead last year after overdosing in a D.C. jail. In Miami, prosecutors are considering murder charges after two inmates were found dead after opioid overdoses. None of the stories seem to be from Virginia, though, which worries critics of the bill.

“My concern is that I’m not sure how common that is — how frequently that happens — that drugs are being smuggled in,” said Cindy Cunningham, founder of a progressive group known as VA Plan. “A lot of people are concerned about police in general and I think at this point this is sort of encouraging civil rights violations.”

Requests for data on opioid smuggling into the Arlington jail and the Alexandria jail received no response at press time. And spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff said no data existed to prove opioid smuggling was a problem.

“There are no numbers that show that smuggled opioids are a problem at the Fairfax County Adult Detention

SEE TRUTH ABOUT, PAGE 5



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# Chief Releases Video of Shooting

Fairfax County Police Chief Ed Roessler released in-car video on Wednesday, Jan. 24, from a Fairfax County vehicle, which was at the scene of the Nov. 17, 2017 U.S. Park Police shooting in the Mount Vernon District.

Fairfax County Police officers did not fire their weapons and are considered witnesses to this shooting. The U.S. Park Police shooting resulted in the death of Bijan C. Ghaisar, a Fairfax County resident.

"The family and friends of Bijan Ghaisar, as well as the residents of Fairfax County, deserve to know

what happened," Chairman Sharon Bulova said in a press release. "I support our Police Chief's decision to release the video. I also extend my greatest sympathies to the Ghaisar family during this tragic and difficult time."

The shooting is currently under investigation by the FBI.

The video can be seen at <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/2018/01/24/chief-roessler-releases-video-of-november-u-s-park-police-shooting-in-fairfax-county/>

# Driver Dies in Single-Car Crash

A 23-year-old man from Fredericksburg died Sunday morning, Jan. 21, after losing control of his car and striking a tree, according to Fairfax County Police.

Officers responded to the area of 6700 Telegraph Road in Alexandria around 1 a.m. for the report of a single-car crash. Once on scene, they located a Honda Civic.

The driver, 23-year-old, Walther Rubio Valladarez,

was the only occupant of the Honda.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit are investigating the crash to determine if excessive speed may have led to the crash. According to police, it appeared that the Honda was traveling southbound on Telegraph Road just prior to S. Kings Highway when he lost control of the car and went off the road to the right into a tree. Valladarez was pronounced dead on the scene.

## CRIME REPORT

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

**ROBBERY:** 3200 block of Lockheed Boulevard, Jan. 19 around 1 p.m. A man asked a stranger if he could use his phone. The stranger told him he did not have a phone and continued walking with his friend. The man approached the men a second time and demanded one of their cell phones. When they said no, he assaulted one of them and a struggle ensued. A passerby intervened and separated the parties. The suspect was not able to get the victim's cellphone, but he stole his debit card. The two victims had minor injuries. The suspect was not located. Detectives are investigating.

**STOLEN VEHICLE WITH APPREHENSION:** 8400 block of Richmond Highway, Jan. 18, around 4:40 p.m. A stolen vehicle was located by officers and a short vehicle chase ensued. The 16-year-old juvenile driver eventually jumped out of the moving vehicle and fled on foot but was located a short time later. There were no injuries reported. Further investigation determined there was another juvenile accomplice to the vehicle theft.

**TRAFFIC PURSUIT:** 2200 block of Langport Drive, Jan. 18, around 10:30 p.m. Officers responding to a domestic dispute observed one involved person driving away from the address at a high rate of speed and disregarding traffic laws. The officers chased the vehicle but eventually lost sight of it. The identity of the driver was later determined and ar-

rest warrants were obtained.

**COMMERCIAL ARMED ROBBERY:** 8792 Sacramento Drive (Super Mini Mart), Jan. 12 around 8:40 a.m. A suspect described as a black man, approximately 5'2" to 5'6" and 20 to 25 years of old entered the store and demanded money from the cash register. The suspect displayed a weapon during the robbery, however, there were no injuries. Cash was taken from the business.

**COMMERCIAL ARMED ROBBERY:** 8226 Russell Road (7-11), Jan. 13 around 7:20 p.m. The suspect is described as a black man in his mid 20's and armed with a hand gun. He entered the store and demanded money from the cash register. The suspect then ran away from the business with an undisclosed amount of cash. There were no injuries reported.

**BOMB THREAT:** A 46-year-old man is facing charges for threatening to bomb and shoot a police car. An investigation determined that shortly after 5 a.m. on Jan. 2, The suspect called the Mount Vernon District Station and spoke to an officer. The officer tried to communicate with him, but he was not being responsive. As a result, the call was transferred to the Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC), or 9-1-1 call center, because the officer thought the man needed assistance. When the call was received by the 9-1-1 call center, the man began to make statements about shooting and blowing up a police car with an officer inside. DPSC reported the incident and detec-

tives were assigned to investigate. The investigation led to the suspect and he was arrested the following evening in the 11200 block of Fairfax Boulevard. He was charged with threatening to bomb or damage a means of transportation.

**JAN. 22 LARCENIES**  
6300 block of Columbia Pike, documents from residence

7100 block of Mint Place, license plate from vehicle  
8200 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business  
9100 block of Richmond Highway, property from business

**JAN. 19 LARCENIES**  
6800 block of Vantage Drive, wallet from vehicle

**JAN. 18 STOLEN VEHICLES**  
4700 block of Hanrahan Place, 2002 Ford F350

**JAN. 17 LARCENIES**  
2900 block of Arlington Drive, merchandise from business  
2500 block of Parkers Lane, wallets from vehicle  
6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
7700 block of Tauxemont Road, wallet from vehicle  
7400 block of Mount Vernon Square Center, merchandise from business  
6500 block of Tower Drive, license plates from vehicle

# Truth About Strip Searches

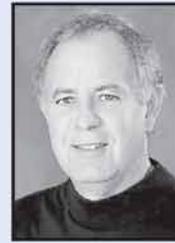
FROM PAGE 4

Center," wrote Jamel Perkins, public information officer for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in a response to written questions.

Hope acknowledges that his bill may end up changing significantly as it makes its way through the legislative sausage-making factory in Richmond, a process that starts this week with a sub-

committee hearing followed by a hearing in the full committee. And then, if he's lucky, a vote on the House floor. Considering the heart of his bill allows for strip searches at jails rather than traffic stops, he says, that part may end up being stripped out before it's considered by member of the House of Delegates.

"If law enforcement feels like that's not necessary, we'll take it out," said Hope.



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**Alex/Riverside Estates \$548,000**  
**8608 Cherry Valley Lane**  
Charming 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial w/3 finished levels. Kitchen has been updated w/granite counters, breakfast bar & porcelain flooring. All Baths have been updated w/new tile, vanities, & fixtures to include double sinks in the master & main bathrooms. Family rm on main lvl has gas fireplace. Beautiful hdwd floors throughout. Lower lvl Rec Rm & extra Den/5th BR. 2 car garage has work area (work bench conveyers). Walk-in attic access on upper lvl for lots of storage. Cozy brick patio w/screened gazebo (conveys). New roof in 2016. Walk to elementary & high schools. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex (N). Best Value in Riverside Estates! Call Rex for showing. CS3%



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,775**  
**8314 Bound Brook Lane**  
Beautiful 3 level colonial w/1 car gar. Meticulously maintained. Lovely landscaping. Renovated kitchen, SS appliances, granite, breakfast bar. Refin hdwd floors. Gorgeous screened porch off Din Rm. Beautiful finished lower level. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex (N).



**Alex/Berkshire East \$449,000**  
**5956 Berkshire Court**  
Lovely three level townhouse, 3BRs, 3.5BAs in walking distance to Huntington Metro! Freshly painted, new carpeting, beautiful kitchen. Spacious floor plan, recessed lighting, hardwood floors. Updated bathrooms. Wood burning fireplace in lower level. Family Room w/walkout door to bkdy patio. Minutes to Old Town, Alexandria.



**Alex/Yacht Haven \$649,900**  
**9417 Forest Haven Drive**  
Stunning immaculate 2 level Rambler on a large spectacular landscaped half acre lot. Updated: Kitchen w/corain, SS appliances & cherry cabinets, 3 updated baths, 2 wood burning Fpls. Beautiful new/refinished hdwd floors-Large finished basement w/family rm, den/BR, 3rd bath & could be used as an in-law suite. Tons of storage available plus a 2 car garage- Great location in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates w/water front properties & an amazing Marina, Pool and Club House.



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$605,000**  
**8331 Blowing Rock Road**  
Beautiful Mt. Vernon Colonial w/stunning renovations! 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 3 lvls, garage & deck. Gorgeous addition w/exquisite remodeling expands the kit & family rm. The quality & design are exceptional. Stunning kit w/all the bells & whistles (skylight, tile & bamboo flooring, SS appliances, silestone counters, high-end cabinetry, double wall oven, gas cooktop) & a casual eating area overlooking bkdy. Spectacular family rm w/gas FPL & sliding glass doors to the deck. Abundant windows provide natural lighting. 4BRs on the upper lvl. Lower lvl has a full bath, lg finished rec rm, & an additional rm that can be easily configured as a 5th BR. Roof replaced in "15. Wood FPL in living rm & lower lvl. This is a winner!



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$599,900**  
**8400 Cherry Valley**  
Riverside's largest & most popular split foyer model w/2800 sq ft under roof, plus spacious 2 car garage- Meticulously renovated & maintained - Updates include: kitchen, baths, roof, triple pane windows, furnace, A/C, exterior siding plus in-ground sprinkler system & garage doors controlled by cell phone - The list goes on... Large deck overlooks a beautiful fenced backyard. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Alex (N) - Walk to schools. This is turnkey!



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# OPINION

## What's Wrong with This Picture?

Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent; less than 2 percent poor; less than 2 percent African American; less than 2 percent Latino.

If these are the demographics to something, you know it needs to be fixed, no matter what "it" is. Especially something paid for with public dollars.

Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent.

Less than 2 percent poor.

Less than 2 percent African American.

Less than 2 percent Latino.

These are the demographics of this year's freshman class at our Governor's school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, known as TJ.

**EDITORIAL** We also know that there are geographic disparities (some middle schools have many more students admitted than others; some have none).

State Sen. Scott Surovell represents a part of the county that tends to be under represented at Thomas Jefferson, and he is kicking off what no doubt will be a lively discussion by introducing SB787, Governor's Schools; enrollment, which would use both economics

and geography to change the admissions dynamics at Jefferson.

Summary:

"Requires any academic school Governor's School that has a focus on math, science, and technology and that has an overall enrollment of over 1,000 students to accept for enrollment (i) a sufficient number of students eligible to receive free or reduced price meals such that the total of such students is at least 50 percent of the weighted average of the participating divisions' percentage of such students in the previous school year and (ii) at least five students but no more than 15 students from each middle school in each school division eligible to matriculate students to such Governor's school who have completed at least two full years at such middle school."

The school divisions currently participating in TJHSST are: Arlington County, Fairfax County (includes City of Fairfax), Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Prince William County.

We've said this before, because these demo-

graphics have been trending in this direction for more than a decade.

Fairfax County Public Schools has a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

School leadership can't continue to act like there are things they can't do anything about. Surovell deserves credit for giving an incentive to get started.

Learn about the referral and screening and selection process for full-time (Level IV) and school-based (Levels II-III) Advanced Academic Programs at [www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement).

— MARY KIMM

KIMM.MARY@GMAIL.COM

## Resolve to Get Involved in 2018

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON  
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Community engagement is vital to building and maintaining strong communities and passionate individuals. As stated by Coretta Scott King, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." I believe that statement to be true, especially here in the Mount Vernon District. We have many strong community leaders who are driving issues from increased economic development and transportation improvements along the Richmond Highway Corridor, to the protection of our natural resources such as Dyke Marsh and Mason Neck State Park. However, we always need more voices and helping hands.

I invite you to join us on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, for our 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Town Meeting at Mount Vernon High School to learn more about our District and how you can be engaged in 2018. The morning will start at 7:45 a.m. with the opening of the Exhibit Hall, where you can meet over 75 community groups and County agencies. Here are just a few opportunities you will find in the Exhibit Hall:

❖ Sign up to volunteer with the



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck

United Community Ministries or GrandInvolve.

❖ Learn about Connector Bus service or the Fairfax County Archaeological Research Team.

❖ Join the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, the South County Federation or the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park.

❖ Explore educational opportunities with the National Park Ser-

vice and the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia.

At 9:30 a.m. the program will begin with musical performances and my personal welcome addressing our major accomplishments in 2017 and our main focuses for 2018. Throughout the morning you will hear from several distinguished speakers about the "State of the District and the

### Annual Town Meeting

31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting

**SATURDAY, FEB. 3, 2018**

7:45 a.m. – Exhibit Hall Open  
9:30 a.m. – Speakers, Audience Q&A's and Virtual Tour

**MOUNT VERNON HIGH SCHOOL**  
8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria

County." Speakers include Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, new County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, new Superintendent of Schools Scott Brabrand and other community leaders. Audience members will have the opportunity to have their questions answered directly by these leaders. The highlight of the morning will be taking a "virtual flying tour" of the changes in our district in this past year, with me as your pilot.

Come out and join us. Learn and get involved. The more residents engage and participate in our district, the more we will all be enriched and fulfilled in our day-to-day interactions within our community. Working together, we all have a hand in our future and in improving the quality of life for all Mount Vernon residents.

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# Much To Do — with Many New Faces

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



**T**he first two full weeks of the General Assembly 2018 Legislative Session are in the books and what a busy and exciting start. It began with Governor McAuliffe's final address to the joint assembly and then our new Governor Northam's first address to the joint assembly including the Supreme Court members, the SCC, both houses and the entire new cabinet. It ended with a weekend of successful town meetings back here in Mount Vernon and Lee. We unanimously elected a new Speaker of the House, Kirk Cox of Colonial Heights, and 19 new delegates were sworn in. No doubt that there has been a dramatic change in our composition since last year. And, personally, I am newly assigned to the important Appropriations Committee, one of only four Appropriators from Northern Virginia, and I remain on the historic Counties, Cities and Towns Committee, in continual existence since 1866. So far, one of two, from the 22 bills I introduced, have

**COMMENTARY**

passed out of subcommittee successfully. Many of these bills started as ideas from my constituents. One such bill is HB9, requiring uniform seat belt usage throughout the vehicle. I am especially proud of West Potomac High School senior Jonathan Tucker who came down on Tuesday for a 7 am subcommittee hearing to testify on behalf of his seat belt bill which would get rid of the back seat exemption for adults. Most compelling was Jonathan's point that when we exempt adults from wearing their seat belts in the back seat it sends a message that it is not unsafe, which is certainly not the case, to other passengers or the adult not wearing a seatbelt. Unfortunately, the bill died on a party line vote.

I was honored to attend the inauguration of Gov. Ralph Northam, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, and Attorney General Mark Herring last Saturday. Dr. Northam's speech was both inspiring and poignant. He highlighted the diversity of his cabinet, which has more

women than men, matching the growing diversity of our General Assembly where 12 women were elected to the House last fall. He also emphasized the need for bipartisanship partnership in steering our new Virginia economy and for both parties to work together for the good of the Commonwealth. That theme was echoed by Speaker Cox, the Republican leader who maintained his party's control of the body by the slimmest of margins via the drawing of lots due to a tie vote (don't let anyone ever tell you that your vote doesn't count). I am hopeful and encouraged that we will work together for the good of all of the people of Virginia, already finding common ground on more transparency with recorded votes and live video streaming in committees, and most importantly we must find a way in which to expand Medicaid to 400,000 more Virginians desperate for health care coverage. Even though I am just in my second term, already I am serving as a mentor to new Del. Cheryl Turpin of Virginia Beach, who by happy circumstance is also a graduate of Groveton High School (now West Potomac). Certainly, there is much to learn

as a new delegate and I am eager to help my colleagues in any way possible navigate the law making process. As I mentioned, there are more opportunities for the public to follow the legislature in real-time this year than ever before. Video streams of meetings of House Full Committees can be accessed online. You can also follow my legislation online at [www.virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://www.virginiageneralassembly.gov) or use the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project website [vpap.org](http://vpap.org) for more in depth information and breaking developments of the General Assembly session.

Thank you to everyone who took the time out of their last Saturday schedule to participate in our town meetings at Walt Whitman Middle School and Hayfield Elementary. The audience came prepared with many good questions and I enjoyed sharing the stage with my colleagues, and I really appreciate your feedback and involvement in our representative democracy. It is my pleasure and honor to serve you in Richmond. Please consider a visit to my office in Richmond. You can email me at [DelPKrizek@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelPKrizek@house.virginia.gov) or call 804-698-1044.

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**Resolve to Get Involved in 2018!**  
**31<sup>st</sup> Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting**

Join Supervisor Storck for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Town Meeting! As part of the town meeting, Supervisor Storck will take guests on a "virtual flying tour" of the changes in the Mount Vernon District over the past year.

Speakers: Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, New County Executive Bryan Hill, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders, New Superintendent of Schools Scott Brabrand and other community leaders.

**Saturday, February 3, 2018**  
7:45 a.m. Exhibit Hall Open | 9:30 a.m. Speakers, Q&A's and Virtual Tour

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*Meet your community leaders and learn how to engage in making Mount Vernon the best community in NOVA!*

For more information, call the Mount Vernon District Office at 703-780-7518, TTY 711, visit the office at 2511 Parkers Lane, or send your questions/comments to [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)

To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 1/29 /18.

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## OPINION

# Progress on Transportation Safety

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



The General Assembly acted on several of my bills last week, the first full week of the session. Two of my bills passed this week. First, my bill to expand the types of abuse proceedings in which children can testify by video connection passed unanimously. Also, the Senate passed my legislation raising Virginia's threshold between misdemeanors and felonies to \$500 after it was combined with other members' bills. Virginia's felony threshold is the lowest in the United States, has not changed since 1980, wastes taxpayer dollars and unnecessarily turns many into felons. Only two senators voted against the bill and it now heads to the House of Delegates.

Two more of my bills are headed to the full Senate for a vote this week. One bill requires all sex education programs to include the dangers of "sexting." Second, on a 9 to 4 vote, the Senate Transportation Committee approved my legislation that prohibits people from operating a motor vehicle with a phone in the driver's hand. Similar legislation has failed to pass out of committee the last four years, so I am hoping that the unprecedented increase in traffic deaths is finally causing legislators to take note. Distracted driving is a massive and growing problem.

The last two sessions, I have carried legislation requested by The Education Fund to Stop Gun Violence that would require background checks on all firearm purchases. Unfortunately, the bill was defeated on a party-line vote along with a dozen other firearm violence prevention bills. I am pleased that Sen. Adam Ebbin's legislation prohibiting bump stock purchases was reported out of committee.

This session, I introduced 61 bills and over 50 are still in committee so it will be a busy week. Senate committees will soon consider my bill modernizing

Virginia's assisted conception laws to account for same-sex couples, a bill to clarify authority to withhold spousal support from paychecks and another to establish consequences to government officials who violate the Freedom of Information Act.

Importantly, my bipartisan legislation to provide temporary driving permits to individuals who cannot establish immigration status but who pay Virginia taxes will be heard on Wednesday. Numerous studies have found that the 15 states that have adopted this policy have fewer accidents and hit and run cases and have increased tax revenue. My bill to close loopholes abused by car title and payday lenders is also up for a hearing on Monday.

I have also reintroduced my legislation to prohibit schools from using online textbooks without providing children with computers. I have also introduced separate legislation to prohibit systems like Fairfax County Public Schools from charging "tuition" or fees to low income students for online classes — FCPS currently charges up to \$350 per class for classes like "online PE" or financial literacy to children receiving free and reduced meals and do not even provide them with computers. Public education should be equally accessible to all and free — especially if your parents do not have resources.

On Saturday, nearly 100 people attended our Mount Vernon town hall meeting and another 50 each in Lee District and Woodbridge.

Please complete my constituent survey at [www.scottssurovell.org/survey](http://www.scottssurovell.org/survey) and you can always provide me feedback at [scott@scottssurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottssurovell.org).

It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

# Long View on Legislative Proposals

BY ADAM P. EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



The second week of the 2018 General Assembly session wrapped up last Friday and it feels like we're finally hitting our stride. As we cautiously celebrate the doors reopening at federal agencies in Washington and settle into a semi-regular rhythm, the hours are filled reviewing bills, discussing policy, hearing testimony, and sneaking in a quick lunch on the 100-year-old desks of the Senate floor. In between, I have had the pleasure of receiving many visits from constituents and am humbled by the dedication of those who drove over 100 miles to voice their perspective on upcoming legislation.

It's been a difficult start for those of us advocating for gun violence prevention. The Senate Courts of Justice Committee voted down my bill that would have addressed loopholes that allow people prohibited from purchasing firearms from a licensed dealer to obtain firearms from a "private seller." A glimmer of bipartisan progress emerged, however, as my legislation to ban bump stocks and other devices that make semi-automatics fire like machine guns (SB1) advanced for further consideration to the Senate Finance Committee. Machine gun possession is already heavily regulated at the federal and state level, and it makes sense to treat deadly firearm attachments, which turn semi-automatic weapons into de facto machine guns, with the same scrutiny. Five Senate Republicans joined all six Democrats to move the bill

forward. I serve on three committees, where I play a part in deciding which legislative proposals will advance to the Senate floor — a key step on legislation's journey to the Governor's desk. In the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee I've learned more than I ever thought I'd know about fox penning, feral cats, and yogurt manufacturing. We also work to rejuvenate our oyster population, protect animal welfare and preserve Virginia's natural beauty.

Ensuring a fair and efficient voting process is one of my highest priorities and, as a member of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, I've introduced eight bills to do just that.

Governor Northam's first official action was to sign Executive Order 1, which forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, status as a veteran, and other protected classes in public employment — a policy that has been put forth by four of the past five governors. However, if we're going to continue to attract forward-thinking companies to the Commonwealth, we need a permanent policy. SB 202 represents my continuing effort to permanently codify these protections. As a member of the Senate General Laws and Technology Com

SEE LONG VIEW, PAGE 18

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## ONGOING

### “Interlude: Unfinished Works.”

Various times, through Jan. 21, at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory, spotlights the artistic process in Interlude: Unfinished Works. Art has been left unfinished, both intentionally and unintentionally, and creates a dialogue on what it means for art to be “finished.” The exhibition features 21 artists from across the globe, including nine artists from the region. Visit [torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery).

“Déjà Vu,” Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 4, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery show “Déjà Vu,” highlights the work of artists Elizabeth Davison, Elise Miller, and Dianne Harris Thomas. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

“POUR.” Various times through Feb. 19 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, TAG Gallery, 105 N Union St. #311. Featuring Jennifer Brewer Stone and Whitney Staiger. Brewer will be showing mixed media pieces with resin, texture paste, various paints and gold leaf. Staiger is a jeweler and will be showcasing how to cast into cuttlefish bones, one of the oldest ways of casting metal. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

“Form and Void.” Various times through Feb. 25 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellyn Weiss’s work is guided by a commitment to environmental sustainability and scientific truth, and her sheer delight in working with materials to make art. Using tar, wire, liquid plastic, printing on acrylic, and large-scale drawing, Weiss’s creations are a reflection on survival and regeneration. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

“Winter Respite.” Through Feb. 25, Wednesday-Sunday, noon-4:30 p.m. at Green Spring Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. NOVA Plein Air Artists debuts its exhibit “Winter Respite.” NOVA Plein Air Artists is a group of Northern Virginia artists who regularly paint together in outdoor settings; in local public and private gardens, parks, farms, wineries, and at other local sites. This show features their recent oil paintings showcasing floral still lifes, landscapes and florals, painted en plein air. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**New Project Studio.** Through Feb. 28, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 8. Over the course of three months, Korean painter and sculptor Suh Yongsun will transform the New Project Studio into a workshop and community space for discussions and creativity. He will explore public, social, and political issues in present-day Korea while developing a visual discourse of his time creating in Alexandria. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

“Terracotta Warriors” in Market Square. Through March 11, all day in Market Square, 301 King St. Two replicas of the famous “Terracotta Warriors.” Each replica stands six feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds, and will be on display through March 2018. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more

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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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.HHSingers.org), or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 27

**Keck Collection Auction.** 10 a.m. at The Potomack Company, 1120 North Fairfax St. More than 150 lots from the Keck collection and other special pieces will be offered, including an 18th century Italian painting, a pair of 19th century paintings after Jean-Honoré Fragonard and an important painting by Montague Dawson. Online auction follows on Tuesday, Jan. 30. Visit [www.potomackcompany.com](http://www.potomackcompany.com) or call 703-684-4550.

**U.S. Navy Band Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. Concert will feature a wide variety of wind ensemble pieces including Short Ride in a Fast Machine, Symphonic Metamorphosis, and Stuberneck Fantasy where 3 percussionists maneuver around a marimba. Free, no tickets required. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/) or [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**Open House.** 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Road, Suite 4. Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) Performing Arts Academy of Alexandria, is hosting an open house with an opportunity for prospective students to meet and greet with MSA staff as well as refreshments. Visit [www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org](http://www.metropolitanschoolofthearts.org).

### Scottish Celebration Burns

**Dinner.** 6-9 p.m. at Sheraton Suites Old Town, 801 N. St. Asaph St. Join in a celebration of Scottish culture and support the film, “Why They Left: A Scottish Migration.” Buffet dinner including chicken and haggis. Cash bar, professional portraits, video of the film project, short talk on the story told in the film, t-shirts, Scottish magazines. Visit [scottishmigration-film.com](http://scottishmigration-film.com).

**The James Brown Experience.** 8 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Led by former James Brown drummer Robert “Mousey” Thompson, The James Brown Experience is all-star ensemble that faithfully performs the most popular songs by one of the greatest music legends of our time. \$30-\$35. Visit [thecarlyleclub.com](http://thecarlyleclub.com).

**Earth Day Artwork Student Competition Deadline.** The theme of Earth Day 2018 is Local Action, Global Impact. Students are encouraged to create an artistic design of the role they play in protecting the Earth. The selected artwork will be printed on Earth Day t-shirts, reusable shopping bags, posters, fliers, and advertising to donors, as well as posted on the Alexandria Earth Day website. Visit



Port City bar food

## Winter Restaurant Week

More than 60 Alexandria restaurants offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or a \$35 dinner for two during Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week, Friday, Jan. 26-Sunday, Feb. 4. More than 30 restaurants will also offer lunch menus at \$10, \$15 or \$20 per person in addition to the dinner offerings. New to Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week are Hank’s Pasta Bar, Sunday in Saigon, Cedar Knoll, Café 44, La Trattoria and Nectar Coffee & Wine Bistro. Returning participants include Restaurant Eve, Sonoma Cellar, Magnolia’s On King, Vermilion, Evening Star Cafe, Virtue Feed & Grain, Mason Social, Cheesetique, Columbia Firehouse and Del Ray Café. View the menu flip-book and make reservations at [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com).



Cedar Knoll oysters

[www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/earthday](http://www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/earthday) or call 703-861-8705.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 26-SUNDAY/FEB. 4

**Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week.** In neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, Virginia, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End, participating restaurants will offer a \$35 three-course dinner for one or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20 per person. Visit [www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com](http://www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com) or call 703-838-5005.

## JAN. 27-MARCH 4

“Passages.” Various times at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery’s next exhibition, Passages, explores the lasting effects migration has on cultural identity from the perspective of immigrants and immigrant families from across the global diaspora. The juror for this exhibition was Adriana Ospina, curator of the Permanent Collection and Education at the Art Museum of Americas. Visit [torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 28

**Winter Wedding Showcase.** 11 a.m. at the Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Experience live music, talk with award winning professionals in the areas of floral design, cake design travel, event planning, and more.

Gather ideas, taste free samples, fill gift bags and enter to win many exciting prizes. \$10. Visit [thecarlyleclub.com/weddings.html](http://thecarlyleclub.com/weddings.html).

**Art of the Book - Calligraphy.** 1-2 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Historic Huntley is offering three classes this winter that delve into different aspects of book making. Register for any of the series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Pinewood Derby Workshop.** 3-6 p.m. at Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Old Town Ace Hardware is hosting a series of pinewood derby workshops for local Cub Scouts. During select Sundays in January, the store will provide wood cuts, sandpaper, and work stations for scouts to prep their derby cars. The store asks that participating Scouts trace their car designs on their woodblocks prior to arriving at the workshops. The store kindly requests a \$1 donation per woodcut to benefit Boy Scouts of America and Children’s National, our local Children’s Miracle Network Hospital. Complimentary popcorn will be served during the event. Email [amiller@acehardware.com](mailto:amiller@acehardware.com) or call the store (Monday-Saturday, 8-8; Sunday, 10-6) at 703-566-7040.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 1

**Alexandria Poetry Contest Entry Deadline.** 5 p.m. at the City of Alexandria, The Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of

Recreation. The “DASHing Words in Motion” poetry contest, topics edge on transportation, ideas might stem from The Alexandria Transit Company’s DASH buses motto is “Keep Alexandria Moving.” Call 703-746-5565 or email [cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov](mailto:cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov).

**Blues Night with Meigs Hodge.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meigs Hodge explores Delta and Chicago styles through the music of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and others; as well as contemporary standards and original compositions. \$10. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

## FEB. 2-MARCH 10

**Art Exhibit.** Various times at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its third and most exciting year so far. This year’s expanded event features over 90 Alexandria high school students and will welcome two additional schools to its juried exhibition; Commonwealth Academy and The Howard Gardner School. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 3

**Alexandria Warehouse Sale.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. The “Super Bowl of Shopping Event” (always occurring the Saturday of Super Bowl weekend), the 13th Annual Alexandria Warehouse Sale will take place at the Westin Hotel located in the Carlyle District of Old Town Alexandria. Free to enter. Visit [www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com](http://www.AlexandriaWarehouseSale.com).

**Watercolor Workshop: Paint a Winter Scene.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to paint a winter landscape in watercolor with the help of artist Erik Hottenstein, who demonstrates techniques for translating photographs into winter scenes and provides guidance for your individual piece. \$90. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-642-5173.

**Fighting for Freedpeople.** 11 a.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Learn how two women, one black and one white, helped improve conditions while carving out new roles for themselves in 19th century America. Paula Whitacre’s recently published book, “A Civil Life in an Uncivil Time,” is a biography of Julia Wilbur and tells the story of how Wilbur and Jacobs became effective advocates for free people’s rights. Whitacre will be available to sign copies of her book. Call 703-746-4356.

**A 1760s Celebration.** Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join in to wish a very happy birthday to Alexandria town founder, Col. John Carlyle. Festivities will include 18th-century dancing, live music, and a birthday treat. Admission is free, donations are welcome. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com) or call 703-549-2997.

**Freedom House Museum Tours.** 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria, the public is invited to visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery. Admission is \$5 per person. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online, or by cash or check

PHOTO BY K. SUMMERER/VISIT ALEXANDRIA

# WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS BY ELLEN HAMILTON  
**McQueen gravestone, a relative of Ellen Hamilton, buried in South Carolina.**

**Thread factory in Paisley, Scotland.**

A heartwarming musical for the whole family! Orphan Anne Shirley quickly charms her new home and community with her fun spirit and comical adventures.

**SHOW DATES:**  
 January 13 - February 3, 2018

Little Theatre of Alexandria  
 600 Wolfe Street • 703-683-0496  
[www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)

## Scottish Dinner To Support Film

A Scottish-themed “Robbie Burns” dinner is planned to raise funds for the historical documentary film, “Why They Left: A Scottish Migration,” written by Alexandria-based graphic designer Ellen Hamilton. Hamilton hopes to finish the film and have a screening in Alexandria this time next year. She has help with equipment and advice from veteran filmmaker and reporter Margaret Kennedy of Old Town Productions.

Hamilton travels to the area near Glasgow, Scotland’s largest and most industrial city, with her husband who is from that region. Being urban and busy, this Lowland area tends to be overlooked by American tourists. She was given a book on the history of the area written by Scottish archaeologist Derek Alexander. Hamilton became interested in her own ancestor’s roots and decided to tell the story of the place that most Scots emigrated from. She found that most people are not aware of their own family’s stories and how they came to leave Scotland and take the trip of seven or more weeks on a sailing vessel. Many people died on that journey. People were quarantined once they got to Alexandria, because of the threat of disease outbreaks. Hamilton features William Gregory who bought and expanded the building at 329 North Washington St. in Alexandria. Gregory came from Kilmarnock, Scotland where his family ran a rug weaving factory.

Hamilton has interviewed local historians Lance Mallamo and Michael Lee Pope for the project.

In Scotland, arranged for an on-camera interview of Alexander in a 700 year old, castle on the banks of the Clyde river. The land that the castle sits on

and the neighboring town, Port Glasgow, are part of the story in the film. It was the place where many Scots climbed aboard a ship, and embarked on that long journey. The time frame that Hamilton writes about, late 1700s, was also a time of major transitions for Scotland. The cotton revolution was restructuring the landscape with new towns, the use of money by many for the first time, and the loss of most people’s rural homesteads. Roads were being built between towns for the first time, and Scotland’s inclusion in the country of Great Britain meant new wealth and new problems for its people.

To get the word out about the film and raise some money for promotion, production and permissions, she and her team of helpers are hosting a Scottish themed “Robbie Burns” dinner where Hamilton will speak about the story told in the film. She designed t-shirts for the event and will have Steven Halperson of Tisara Photography on hand for professional portraits. Guests are encouraged to wear their best tartan outfits for their portrait. The dinner will take place at the Sheraton Suites Old Town. Dinner will include haggis and roast chicken, and the classic British dessert, trifle, which is berries, cake, cream and custard in layers. The dinner will be held Friday, Jan. 26, 6-9 p.m., at Sheraton Suites Old Town, 801 N. Saint Asaph St.

Hamilton’s website for the film is [scottishmigration-film.com](http://scottishmigration-film.com). She has opened her first online store called Yellow Dot Shop, where she is selling tickets to the dinner and other items; see [yellow-dot-shop.myshopify.com](http://yellow-dot-shop.myshopify.com). To contribute to the film, people can visit at [gofundme.com/Scots-Doc](http://gofundme.com/Scots-Doc).

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**Let us know about an upcoming event**

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# WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



**Night Comes, Ellyn Weiss, 52" x 12', oil bar, charcoal, and acrylic, 2017.**

## 'Form and Void'

Ellyn Weiss's work is guided by a commitment to environmental sustainability and scientific truth, and her sheer delight in working with materials to make art. Using tar, wire, liquid plastic, printing on acrylic, and large-scale drawing, Weiss's creations are a reflection on survival and regeneration. Through Feb. 25, various times at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

at the door. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 4

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St. Focuses on some of the most important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 min. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Call 703-746-3301.

### MONDAY/FEB. 5

**Microgreens.** 7-8 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Microgreens: What Are They, Why They Are So Fabulous, and How to Grow Them. Join us to learn their many benefits, and some simple ways to grow these delicious, nutritious and inexpensive baby plants and sprouts at home. Come prepared to get a bit dirty while planting one's own microgreen garden in class. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or [emailmgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:emailmgarlalex@gmail.com).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 7

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. The Cutaways, with Dave Kitchen, promise a great time for swing dancers. An accomplished singer/songwriter active in the roots rock scene for over 15 years, since 1995 Dave has been nominated for a dozen or so of the Washington Area Musician's Association's WAMMIE Awards and has won twice. \$10. Visit [nicksnightclub.com/](http://nicksnightclub.com/).

### THURSDAY/FEB. 8

**Artists Reception.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, TAG Gallery, 105 N Union St. #311. With a demonstration by Jennifer Brewer Stone and Whitney Staiger. Brewer will be showing mixed media pieces with resin, texture paste, various paints and gold leaf. Staiger is a jeweler and will be showcasing how to cast into cuttlefish bones, one of the oldest ways of casting metal. RSVP on Facebook at <http://jennifersartgallery.cmail19.com/t/r-l-jrdhjtdt-jytjuthly-m/>.

**Artist Reception: Passages.** 6-8 p.m. Various times at at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Target Gallery, 105 N Union St. The newest exhibition in Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, explores the lasting effects migration has on cultural identity. Passages gives an intimate look in to artists' individual experiences and how they shaped who they are today. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 9

**Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Director of Music John McCrary will conduct the Blessed Sacrament Festival Chorus and Orchestra with soprano Michelle Kunz, alto Sally Monson, tenor Phil Pickens, bass Joshua Hong in a concert of works including Bach's Ascension Oratorio and the Litaniae de venerabili altaris sacramento, KV143. Donations are encouraged. Email [jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org](mailto:jmccrary@blessedsacramentcc.org) or call 703-998-6100, ext. 103.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 10

**Fancy Nancy Author Visit.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Visitors should dress in their fanciest ensemble (that's fancy for "outfit") as Hooray for Books! welcome back Jane O'Connor. She will present and sign her final Fancy Nancy picture book, Oodles of Kittens. To secure a spot in the signing line, stop in, call 703-548-4092, or email [order@hooray4books.com](mailto:order@hooray4books.com) to purchase a copy of Oodles of Kittens. Recommended for children ages 3 and up. Free admission. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com).

**Seed Swap Day.** 12:30-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Washington Gardener magazine is hosting the 13th annual Washington Gardener Seed Exchange at Green Spring Gardens. These seed swaps are in-person and face-to-face. Bring extra seeds and swap them with other gardeners. Participants can learn, network and prepare for next year's seed collecting. Registration is strongly recommended as space is limited. Register online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3210698](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3210698).

**Freedom House Museum Tours.** 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. The Freedom House Museum was once the headquarters and holding pen for the largest domestic slave trading firm in the United States, Franklin and Armfield. The building is currently owned by the Northern Virginia Urban League and together with the Office of Historic Alexandria, the public is invited to visit the museum in this historic reminder of slavery.

## George Washington's Birthday 2018

Celebrate George Washington's Birthday at His Home, Mount Vernon. Four days of events, with free admission on Monday, Feb. 19 and Thursday, Feb. 22. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/birthday](http://www.mountvernon.org/birthday) or call 703-780-2000.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 17-18

(9 a.m.-4 p.m.)

**George Washington's Favorite Breakfast** - 9 a.m.-noon - Join "General Washington" for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff (while supplies last).

**Mingle with Costumed Characters from George Washington's World** - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

**18th-century Dancing Demonstration** with costumed characters.

**Wreathlaying Ceremonies** at the tomb of George Washington throughout the day.

### MONDAY/FEB. 19

(9 a.m.-5 p.m.) Free admission.

**Visit George Washington's home and burial site.** The traditional wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's Tomb takes place at 10 a.m. followed by Mount Vernon's official celebration on the east lawn including a keynote speaker and 21-gun salute to the first president. Special military demonstrations and patriotic music will take place on the Bowling Green at 11:15 a.m. "General Washington" is on the grounds to greet visitors and receive birthday wishes all day.

**Special musical tribute** - 1 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

**Share selected stories with "George Washington"** - 2 p.m.

**Wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington** - 3 p.m.

**Visit the Washington Library** for the rare opportunity to tour the reading room and examine replica documents.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 22

(9 a.m.-4 p.m.) Free admission

**George Washington's 286<sup>th</sup> Birthday** - Visit Mount Vernon on George Washington's actual birthday for wreathlaying ceremonies throughout the day. Enjoy a patriotic concert and observe a moving ceremony honoring new citizens. Join "General Washington" for a slice of birthday cake (while supplies last).

**Be Washington: It's Your Turn to Lead** - Mount Vernon has opened a new first-person interactive experience titled Be Washington: It's Your Turn to Lead in its Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center.

**New Objects on View** in the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center. A new installation will highlight objects related to one of the Be Washington's scenarios: the Newburgh conspiracy.

**New Revolutionary War 4-D Theater** - The new 17-minute film focuses on Washington's leadership and the pivotal campaigns that secured American independence. This experience is included in admission.

*The City of Alexandria celebrates George Washington's Birthday with more than a dozen events throughout February. Visit [www.washingtonbirthday.net](http://www.washingtonbirthday.net) or call 703-829-6640.*

**George Washington Birthday Parade** - Feb. 19, 1-3 p.m., Old Town Alexandria.

**Cherry Challenge** - Jan. 28-Feb. 11, at various restaurants throughout Alexandria. **Walking with Washington Tours** - Sundays in February 2018, 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St.

**Washington's Birthday Celebration** - Feb. 17-19, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Feb. 22, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at George Washington's Mount Vernon. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/birthday](http://www.mountvernon.org/birthday) or call 703-780-2000.

**George Washington's Birthnight Banquet & Ball** - Saturday, Feb. 17, 5:30-11 p.m. (9 p.m. if attending the ball only), at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Reservations required. Visit [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop) or call 703-746-4242.

**Historic Alexandria Open Houses** - Feb. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., various museums throughout Old Town Alexandria. In honor of George Washington's birthday, admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum.



**Proud to Support Alexandria Restaurant Week  
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# WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

Admission is \$5 per person. Space is limited and reservations are recommended. Tickets can be purchased online, or by cash or check at the door. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/).

## Champagne and Chocolates

**Fundraiser.** 4-7 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Champagne, small plate hors d'oeuvres, desserts, mansion tours by costumed historical interpreters, raffle and live auction to benefit educational programs for George Mason's Gunston Hall. Music by Robinson High School String Quartet. Cocktail attire. \$50 per person. RSVP by Feb. 3 at [bit.ly/champagneandchocolates2018](http://bit.ly/champagneandchocolates2018). Call 703-550-9220.

**Salon at the Statehouse III.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ashley and George Wilson will welcome 50 guests to their recently renovated, historical home, where dinner will be served. \$100. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org) or call 703-548-0035.

**ASO Presents: Debussy & Sibelius.** 8-10 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4815 E Campus Drive. Join the ASO and Maestro José-Luis Novo for a concert with nationalist themes. The ASO presents Debussy's *Petite Suite*, the Overture to Verdi's epic *Nabucco* and Lutoslawski's *MaBa Suite*. Written on the heels of his acclaimed *Finlandia*, the concert ends with Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*. \$20-\$80 adult, \$5 youth, \$10 student. Call 703-548-0885 or visit [alexsym.org](http://alexsym.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 11

**Art of the Book - Paper.** noon-1 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Historic Huntley is offering

# After Four Decades, La Cuisine Says Sweet Goodbye

BY HOPE NELSON

Eventually, every meal must end — even a feast that has kept going for 47 years. And for La Cuisine, the longtime cookery shop in Old Town's grand finale was sweet indeed.

"What we thought would be a month-long process ... lasted three days," said owner Nancy Pollard. "We did not expect it."

Nor did Pollard and her team of "Cuisinettes" — devoted La Cuisine employees — expect the gaggle of longtime customers who waited outside 323 Cameron Street for their turn to enter the shop to reminisce, say goodbye — and pick up some deals.

"From what I understand, there was a line out the door and it was freezing — and the people apparently ... were all trading stories

about cooking and how much they loved the store. It was kind of like a little community of people who had been coming to our shop for a long time," Pollard said. "It was all very positive, even though it was like 19 degrees. And of course we never saw any of this because we couldn't see beyond the sea of people in our 700-square-foot (space)."

Over the years, La Cuisine developed a following for being one of the top choices for home cooks who were looking for high-quality materials at a fair price. From cast iron to cookbooks, copper pots to new knives, the shop was small but mighty, a tour de force for anyone looking to restock their kitchen — or treat themselves.

"I'm still answering letters from people who wrote really, really lovely things," Pollard said.

With the shop in good shape financially and all her ducks in a row, Pollard knew it would

be a good time to close things down on a high note.

"I was ready to retire," she said. And as her family continued to expand, including two grandsons, "I really wanted to spend more time with them."

As for what's next for the Cameron Street space, Pollard says there's no news to report at the moment. Perhaps she will open its doors for a pop-up store here and there, or donate the space to a group for political-campaign purposes. Regardless, she and her husband will continue to live right above what was her lifeblood for so many years.

"We're staying," Pollard said, "except when I visit my grandsons."

*Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).*

three classes this winter that delve into different aspects of book making. Register for any of the series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Chocolate and Wine Tasting.** 1-3 p.m. at The Italian Place, 621 Wythe St. Join The Italian Place of Old Town for a complimentary wine and chocolate tasting before Valentine's day. Meet local chocolatier, Sarah Dwyer from Chouquette in Maryland who will offer a variety of chocolate samples. Free. Call 571-777-8981 or visit [theitalianplaceofoldtown.com](http://theitalianplaceofoldtown.com).

**Walk with Washington Tour.** 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Visitor Center (Ramsay House), 221 King St. Focuses on some of the most important Old Town sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 min. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Call 703-746-3301.

**Alexandria Symphony Orchestra.** 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Enjoy a world tour exploring themes of nationalism, led by Maestro José-Luis Novo. A delicate collection of French dances originally written for two pianos, the ASO presents Debussy's

*Petite Suite.* Dropping by Italy for a little opera, Maestro Novo will conduct the Overture to Verdi's epic *Nabucco*. Commissioned by Polish radio and complete with a polka movement, the program continues with Lutoslawski's *MaBa Suite*. Admittedly a "confession of the soul" and written on the heels of his acclaimed *Finlandia*, the concert ends with Sibelius' *Symphony No. 2*, proclaiming the grandeur of his homeland and the struggle for Finland's independence. \$5-\$80. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

## FEB. 15-MARCH 3

**U-Street the musical.** Various times at the Richard Kauffman Auditorium (Lee Center), 1108 Jefferson St. U-Street, the musical is an exploration of homelessness in America brought to life with 12 musical numbers, and a 30-member cast from around the D.C. metro area. The production is also a fundraiser to support programs for low-income youth in Alexandria. \$20. Call 703-640-4980 or visit [www.momentumcinc.org](http://www.momentumcinc.org).



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## HISTORY

# Under the Same Roof

New Lee-Fendall tour examines the life of slaves and servants throughout the home's history



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / THE GAZETTE

Amanda Roper leads a tour outside of the Lee-Fendall House

BY VERNON MILES  
THE GAZETTE

The Lee-Fendall House opened as a museum to celebrate the bicentennial, but in the 40 years since it was purchased by the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation, there's a half of the building's history that hasn't been told. Much of the building's history has focused on the home's owners, like the Lee Family or the labor figure John Lewis. But for the first time, the Lee-Fendall House is working to tell the story of the slaves and servants who build the house and labored under generations of families.

The home was built in 1785, and when the Lee family moved in they came with 51 men, women and children enslaved to the family. Unlike many prominent homes of the day, the Lee home had its kitchens, cleaning and slave quarters all in the same building. With a dozen slaves working in the home, African-Americans living in the home far outnumbered the white family that owned it.

But according to Amanda Roper, assistant manager for the Lee-Fendall House, finding records discussing the slaves and their lives has been a challenge. The museum works from a combination of tax records and context clues from other pieces of local history. It isn't stated where the slaves were from, and, when the family fell into more dire financial straits in 1805, it isn't known where the 15 slaves sold from the household went. Roper says the museum is still trying to find the records of sale, but that it was very likely many of them were separated from their family and children, with some probably sent to work on plantations in the deep south.

The history of the house is an exhibit to the evolving national views of abolition and race. A later homeowner, Phillip Fendall, was an abolitionist and a member of the American Colonization Society. Fendall didn't believe in racial equality, however, and

like other abolitionist Virginians supported a plan to send former slaves back to Africa to the newly founded nation of Liberia. Documents from the home show that one man from the house, Henry Tate, did make the journey to Liberia to seek a better life. Roper says the museum was confused at first, because the document looked like a bill of sale to another family member, but a handwritten note on the back notes that Tate "has made his journey across the sea to freedom."

By 1850, 10 percent of Alexandria's population were freed black citizens. One of them, Malvina Harris, was biracial and hired to look after two of the family daughters as a nurse. Harris couldn't read or write, so Roper said opportunities for work were scarce. By 1850, the slave trade had been outlawed but the fugitive slave law was in effect, so slave catchers regularly kidnapped freed black men and women and sold them into slavery. Roper said a freed woman like Harris attaching herself to a prominent local home was one means of protection.

After the Civil War, Alexandria was still the scene of outbursts of racial violence against the local black community, which had swelled during the war as escaped slaves from across the south fled north. However, by the time the Lees returned to the home in 1870, many of the Reconstruction programs designed to revive the economy and give newly freed black citizens a chance at starting a new life had disappeared. Many were forced to return to work for the same families that had owned them. Roper said there were very little records of employment in the home.

In 1903, the home was sold to Robert Downham, a liquor dealer and eventually mayor, who made

SEE NEW TOUR, PAGE 18

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## Donating for Toys for Tots

Kindergarten students from Chesterbrook Academy Preschool in Alexandria donated four boxes of gifts to benefit Toys for Tots, a gift drive run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Students delivered the toys on Dec. 15 to the offices of Tom & Cindy and Associates at Long & Foster. The donations were distributed to children in need in the community in time for the holidays.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand presented the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11. The School Board plans to hold a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019).

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 25

**Planning Commission Embark Public Hearing.** 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Embark Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a

multimodal future for Richmond Highway Corridor where residents, workers, and visitors can walk, bike, or drive to the places they want to go. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/embark-richmond-highway](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/embark-richmond-highway).

#### FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**Nomination Deadline.** Nominations are being accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation for Virginia's 2017 Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year. Parents, students, and teachers are welcome to submit a nomination and photo online. Visit [www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard](http://www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard) for more.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 1

**Award Nomination Deadline.** 5 p.m. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards is a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. For a complete list of categories and guidelines, visit

[www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call Kristen Moore at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-246-3531.

**Comment Period Closes.** The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting) for more.

**Registration Opens: Two-way and Immersion Programs.** Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Current prekindergarten students may apply for the kindergarten immersion program and current kindergarten students may apply for the first grade immersion program for the 2018-19 school year. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration).



PHOTO BY LAURA MANN

Students line up at the Metropolitan School of the Arts Performing Arts Academy.

## Open House at Performing Arts Academy

Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) Performing Arts Academy of Alexandria is hosting its open house on Friday, Jan. 26 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with an opportunity to meet MSA staff. The open house is located at 5775 Barclay Road, Suite 4, in Alexandria. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

The Academy at Metropolitan School of the Arts is a college preparatory performing arts program for

emerging young artists, grades 7-12, who are dedicated to high-caliber academics and pre-professional performing arts education.

Founder and executive director, Melissa Dobbs, was classically trained at Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C., George Mason University and the Royal Academy of Dance in London, where she became a registered teacher.

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## Lost in Space



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not a reference to the iconic television series of my youth, but there was “danger,” Ken Lourie, and it wasn’t caused by Dr. Zachary Smith nor by “robot,” (Robbie) either. And it wasn’t a conspiracy. It was simply a confluence of absenteeism by my health care providers. Both my oncologist and internal medicine doctor were absent with leave and yours truly was caught in the crossfire, so to speak. Let me provide some context to help you appreciate my dilemma.

I have chemotherapy every six weeks. Accordingly, I have lab work the Wednesday before the Friday to check for anomalies – anomalies which over the years have occasionally delayed my infusion by up to two weeks waiting for my body to settle. In the early days of treatment, my white blood cell count was crucial; too low and no treatment; too high, it was never too high. No treatment and the cancer was left unchecked. An incredibly stressful occurrence when your treatment is stopped. Whether or not a week or two delay ultimately mattered in checking the cancer, it certainly mattered – emotionally, to the patient. You feel adrift, sort of, which is exactly how I felt during the first two weeks of January.

Typically, what my current lab work presents is my creatinine level and the associated glomerular filtration rate, measuring kidney function/efficiency. After nearly nine years of infused toxicity, I have suffered some collateral damage to a major organ. My oncologist and internal medicine doctor are incredibly sensitive and concerned about this damage. Per these results, every medical decision made concerning me; from prescriptions approved to “normal” internal medicine stuff to whether I get “contrast” when I have my scans and MRIs to what chemotherapy drug I infuse and how frequently its infused, is decided with my kidneys in mind. Nothing happens medically until my kidneys sign off on it, if you know what I mean?

As it happened, my creatinine level for my Jan. 12 infusion was higher than usual. When this measure occurs, I know to call the Infusion Center and ask the head nurse if I should come in for treatment. She will contact my oncologist and with his direction, will advise me what to do, except for this week. My oncologist was away and though another oncologist – whom I’ve never met – was covering, I’m not really sure she knows enough about my situation. Specifically that I’m a bit of a special case, per my oncologist’s own characterization of me, and I’ve never gone seven weeks, let alone eight weeks without treatment. Delaying my infusion would break a multi-year precedent. In fact, around the holidays when I asked my oncologist if I could extend my infusion interval from six to seven weeks (to accommodate life), he emphatically said “No.” Moreover (to complicate a covering physician’s decision), my oncologist has also told me that if I were a new patient with creatinine levels as chronically high as mine, he wouldn’t/couldn’t treat me until those levels reduced.

So not only was I in the middle of an unprecedented one to possibly two-week delay in my infusion, but I also needed an oncologist – who I don’t know and who doesn’t know me – to decide/make an exception/maybe risk her medical license (if something were to happen to me), to authorize treatment for a patient whose creatinine levels fall outside of protocol, and me not having either of my two primary-care physicians available for consultation. And other than the default emails advising that both were out of town, I had nowhere to go and no one to turn to.

Heck, I might as well have been on another planet, given the limited choices I had.

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

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## OPINION

# Long View

FROM PAGE 10

mittee, I was happy to see my fellow committee members advance the bill on a decisive 12-3 vote.

A flurry of orange cards has appeared on my desk this week, giving notice that this or that bill will soon be considered in committee. Some proposals have been appearing on that desk, in one form or another, for several years. Fourteen years in the General Assembly have granted me some longer-term perspective, however, and while I have seen many of my proposals become law, others require persistent effort each year. Once again, I have introduced legislation to decriminalize marijuana, which has steadily gained more allies, including several Republicans this year. My bill would make people who possess small amounts of marijuana subject to an escalating fine, from \$50 to \$250 per violation, rather than a criminal record.

Over three town hall meetings this past weekend, I was able to hear a multitude of questions and concerns on pending legislation. Your valuable input on issues ranging from disability waivers and education, to Metro and non-partisan redistricting, was informative and engaging. On Saturday, I will be in Alexandria and Arlington for two more town hall meetings. I hope that you will join us.

### Alexandria

Saturday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Mount Vernon Community School, 2601 Commonwealth Ave., with Del. Mark Levine.

### Arlington

Saturday, Jan. 27, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16<sup>th</sup> Street S., with Del. Alfonso Lopez.

Please consider following me on Twitter @AdamEbbin, liking my facebook page at facebook.com/ebbincampaign, emailing your views to me at district30@senate.virginia.gov, and taking my survey at www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey.

It is my continued honor to serve the people of the 30th District.

## New Tour

FROM PAGE 16

notes at the time of having difficulties employing servants to staff the large home. Roper said at the time, new generations of black youth had begun to push for job opportunities beyond housework, leading to what Downham and others called “the servant problem.” Life outside the Lee-Fendall House was beginning to change as well. The first sit-in occurred at the Queen Street Library, setting the stage for future civil rights action. By 1937, Downham was forced to sell the home, this time to labor leader John Lewis.

Lewis’ ownership of the home was the end of its servant days. John Lewis was assisted by a chauffeur and bodyguard named James Lewis, who became a trusted friend of John Lewis and his right-hand man.

The “Under the Same Roof” tour will be hosted on Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. Tickets in advance are \$8 or \$12 at the door.

12

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NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/18.



**TRUESTART BATTERY**

**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month **FREE** replacement, 24 month **FREE** roadside assistance.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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**4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT**

**\$64<sup>95</sup>**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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Jack Taylor's  
**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

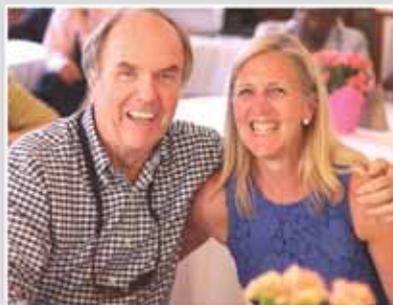
Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **11/17, 12/17, or 1/18?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

**VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION**

**FREE**

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**



# CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2018?  
Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!  
Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE  
CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



**9509 Ferry Harbour Ct.  
\$879,000**

**Many Updates!**

Classic Southern Colonial. Unique opportunity, stately 5 BR custom colonial with classic old south style. Balconies overlooking front and rear grounds. Spec

Features include: porch, Hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ custom bar, & oversize 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on level half acre lot on one of the area's premier streets!

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**



**9424 Mt. Vernon Cir.  
\$975,000**

**Completely Updated!**

Better than new! Stunning updated home in area's premier waterfront community! Fabulous home has been renovated from top to bottom. Features include: 3

finished levels, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, designer kitchen, hardwood floors, new HVAC, new windows, doors, and 2 car garage. Spacious screened in porch overlooks expansive rear yard. Unparalleled community amenities

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**



**3909 Rive Dr.  
\$725,000**

**Pristine Condition!**

Fabulous property in prime Belle Rive location! Major features include: 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, large room sizes, open floor plan, home has been substantially

updated and Chef's kitchen is absolutely stunning. Gorgeous setting on elevated half acre landscaped grounds in premier river front community with many multi million dollar properties!

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**



**4417 Dolphin Ln.  
\$649,900**  
**Spacious Rambler!**

Exceptionally spacious rambler in Yacht Haven Estates with expanded main level master suite with luxury bath. Gorgeous setting on large level lot steps from Yacht Club. Features include: large room sizes, hardwood floors, 4 BR's, 3 Baths, thermal windows & finished lower level. Oversize deck overlooks expansive fenced rear yard.

**ONE LEVEL LIVING**



**8307 Crown Court Rd  
Incredible New Kitchen!**

Just completed, brand new Chef's kitchen and custom lighting plan enhance this truly spectacular property. New kitchen features custom cabs, top line granite counter, brand new appliances, and gas cooking. Other feats: 5 BR's, 5 BA's, high ceilings, two car garage and the most amazing pool and grounds you'll ever find at this price range!

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4PM**



**8745 Plymouth Rd.  
\$829,000**  
**Great Opportunity!**

Rare opportunity to get into desirable Plymouth Haven at such a reasonable price! 4 level home has many updates including impressive family room addition, upgraded windows, large master bath and closet. Home is surrounded by \$1.5+ million homes on a gorgeous half acre lot! This one won't last long!

**GREAT POTENTIAL**



**9032 Mcnair Dr.  
\$569,000**  
**One Level Living!**

Rare opportunity! Totally renovated rambler with oversize two car garage on gorgeous level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location! Recent major updated include: new

roof, thermal windows, hardwood floors, new kitchen. Located in quiet neighborhood surrounded by Mt. Vernon Country Club and Grist Mill Park! Nothing like it for close to this price!

**CONTRACT**



**8807 Battery Rd  
\$589,000**  
**Excellent Deal!**

Quaint setting backing to Ft. Hunt Park creates your own private oasis. Many impressive features including gorgeous kitchen which opens into dining room area, many windows creates light filled living area and garage parking/storage. Back deck overlooks private wooded parkland. Great opportunity at a great price!

**CONTRACT**



**8709 Curtis Ave.  
\$539,000**  
**Recently renovated!**

Gorgeously updated home on 2 lots on quiet cul-de-sac ready for you to move in! Inviting front porch leads you to dramatic open floor plan with tons of light. New Kitchen, windows, light fixtures, updated baths, fresh paint and landscaping make this a rare opportunity! Huge yard, pond, and hot tub complete this serene setting.

**CONTRACT**



**5125 Remington Dr.  
\$1,395,000**  
**Virtually New!**

Truly stunning custom home near river with seasonal water views from many major rooms. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan enhanced by dramatic high

ceilings on main two levels. 7,000 sq ft of luxurious custom features include spectacular custom kitchen with two islands, 5 BR's, including the most amazing master suite you'll ever see, 5 full / 2 half baths, top of the line

**CONTRACT**



**SOLD**

**4214 Robertson Blvd.  
\$550,000**  
**Great Value!**

**9317 Maybrook Pl.  
\$575,9000**  
**Great Value!**

**SOLD**



**SOLD**

**3705 Riverwood Ct.  
\$889,500**  
**Classic Colonial!**

**4708 Ferry Landing Rd.  
\$475,000**  
**Great Value!**

**SOLD**



**CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028**

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[chris.white@longandfoster.com](mailto:chris.white@longandfoster.com)

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