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# Mount Vernon Gazette

Home Life Style

PAGE, 8

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 15, 2018

## Prepared for More Challenges

55 Bryant High School students receive diplomas at winter commencement.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

With plenty of pomp and circumstance, Bryant High School held its winter commencement ceremony for 55 graduates on Thursday, Feb. 8, at the high school auditorium on Popkins Lane in Alexandria. The ceremony included the Presentation of Colors by the Hayfield Secondary JROTC Color Guard as well as the singing of the National Anthem by Clifton Ross III, and a video of graduating student testimonials. Student Aron Joel Corrales-Ferrera recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Principal Dr. Christopher Larrick welcomed guests and gave opening remarks.

Larrick said the Bryant staff welcomes all students regardless of their circumstances. "We are less concerned about why you are here and we are more focused on what we can do to help you," he said. "I've learned that our students at Bryant, the graduating seniors in front of us today, are much more than what you think. They are strong-willed, determined, and arrive here today having overcoming many obstacles and challenges along the way," he said.

He continued: "Some of our students, as



Principal Dr. Christopher Larrick addresses the audience.

you know, have already started families. Many work part-time and some full-time jobs while going to school, and many have traveled halfway across the county to get here each day. Some students even dropped

out of high school to return here for one last chance to graduate."

Student speaker Fariha Pirzada said from elementary school through her junior year, she would always get into trouble and be

distracted. "Throughout my first three years of high school, I was not paying attention to my academics and I was missing a lot of school," she said. "When my senior year

SEE BRYANT HIGH, PAGE 15

## Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

Eva Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank, speaks at GMU.

BY JENNIFER KAYE  
THE GAZETTE

More than 1,100 people gathered in The George Mason University Center For The Arts in Fairfax on Wednesday night, Feb. 7, for "A Historic Evening With Eva Schloss." Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, discussed her wartime experiences, stories of loss, and her hope for future generations and the World. The pre-

sentation, put on by the Chabad Lubavitch Centers of Northern Virginia, also included a video presentation and a musical tribute of Ani Maamin by oboist and conductor Eugene Sidorov.

Before the presentation, VIP guests gathered for a reception with guitar music played by Stanley Albert, and also were able to sit down and speak with Schloss one-on-one while getting her book, "Eva's Story," signed. There was a steady flow of people gathering around her the entire time,

telling their childhood stories, discussing relatives they lost in the Holocaust, and asking her many questions about her experiences.

Eli Rosenbaum, U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special

Investigations, led the talk and Schloss started off with a story about her first encounter with anti-Semitism.

She was 9 years old and went  
SEE HOLOCAUST, PAGE 16



PHOTO BY JENNIFER KAYE

Eva Schloss, step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, speaks to the crowd at George Mason's Center for the Arts on Wednesday, Feb. 7.

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OPEN SUN 2/18, 2-4

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Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221 [www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)



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# Dance Around the World at Fort Hunt Elementary

Some 400 people attend PTA-sponsored event with international buffet, booths, and entertainment.

About 400 people attended Fort Hunt Elementary School's fifth-annual Dance Around the World event, which included an international buffet, dance performances, and a parade of nations on Friday, Feb. 9, at the school. The free family event was sponsored by the school's PTA.

"Dance Around the World is designed to put a spotlight on the amazing diversity we have here at Fort Hunt," said Karin Kulinski, who co-chaired the evening with Amanda Socci. About 12 volunteers helped with the planning. "We have over 70 different countries or cultural heritages represented. A lot of times the families of different countries end up left out of family events. This one is

the opposite. This one puts a spotlight on those families and every other family."

Kulinski said 48 families donated international dishes from their native countries — from Mexican Mole to Turkish Baklava. And professional dance troupes from Bolivia, China and Peru entertained the crowd. A deejay played international songs from Australia, the UK, and even Norway. Another highlight was the 17 Country Tables that lined the decorated hallway. "We offered families the chance to have a table to display their artifacts from their culture," she said. "So, every aspect of this is international because that reflects us."

— STEVE HIBBARD



Carla Felix Claure of the Morenada Bolivia USA dance troupe entertains the crowd at the Dance Around the World event at Fort Hunt Elementary School.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

School mascot Artie the Fox (a.k.a. Dale Moore) entertains the children at the Dance Around the World event at Fort Hunt Elementary School.



From left: Isabella and Christina Wheeler with Stephanie Valle with their booth on Peru.



Sofia and Diego Escobar of Alexandria are dressed as Mexicans at the International Photo Booth.



Sophie Lankina with her booth on Russia.



From left: Angus Humphrey, Fiona James and Isla-Rose Humphrey and their booth on Scotland.



Amy McMenamin Kean with her booth on Ireland.



Jacqueline and Chanthaly Henwood with their booth on Laos.



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The Mount Vernon Antique Center on the day after the fire.

# From Out of the Ashes

Antique Center's owner and dealers look to the future.

BY GALE CURCIO

When Sam Nasafi received a call from Fairfax County Fire on Christmas Eve, he assumed that it was a fire in the dumpster on his property. In the past, youths had set fires in the dumpster.

He was not at all prepared for the blaze that had engulfed the property at 8101 Richmond Highway — the home of the Mount Vernon Antique Center.

The fire, which quickly engulfed the second floor, was reported around 9:15 p.m. on Christmas Night.

"I got a call and rushed over" said Nasafi. "The entire building was totally on fire — it was very devastating. To put out the fire, first responders broke into the front doors, but they said that the fire seemed like it was on second floor. They came in with construction equipment and bulldozed the place."

Smoke could be seen from miles away and Richmond Highway was closed in both directions. Trucks and personnel from stations in Lorton, Franconia and the city of Alexandria, among others, joined local units from Penn Daw, Mount Vernon and Woodlawn.

Firefighters initially tried to fight the fire inside but heavy fire conditions and heat forced them to withdraw.

Battalion Chief Willie F. Bailey said that it took approximately four minutes for firefighters to arrive and that the fire was brought under control in 60 minutes.

"There was no impact due to the failed hydrant," said Bailey. "When units were actively trying to extinguish the fire, we had two hydrants in use, upon transitioning to defensive operations the hydrant failed. However, units were able to quickly utilize a third hydrant that was located 50 feet from the hydrant that failed."

When asked about searching for bodies, Bailey said, "We will always perform a primary and secondary search for bodies. We were not able to perform primary or secondary search because conditions were

not safe enough to commit personnel to complete them. We will risk our life to save a life but the building was locked up so there were no signs to believe that this was the case."

Nasafi had locked up the store at 5 p.m. after working on Christmas Eve. The store was closed for Christmas and no one was in the building when the fire started. No injuries to firefighters were reported.

Fire investigators were on the scene the next day, talking to dealers and customers as they came to look at the site of the former store.

Smoke was still coming from the building and firefighters were still looking for hot spots.

Nasafi has since met with multiple fire investigators. They are still looking into it. He just talked to the fire marshal and they said that the investigation is still going on.

Jeff Carney, lieutenant, Fire and Hazardous Materials Investigative Services, Fairfax Fire and Rescue Department, has taken over the investigation, and said, "The investigation is still ongoing. It should be a few weeks before we finish the investigation."

The fire department wanted to knock everything down unless Nasafi put a fence around the perimeter. He had to scramble to find somebody to put up a fence on Christmas, but it was the only way to secure the building.

The nearly 16,000-square-foot building was built in 1946 and was called Thieves Market for 40 years before it became the Mount Vernon Antique Center in 2002. Originally the building was a lumber mill and then Marlo Furniture took over.

Shortly after the fire, rumors started circulating that the building had been sold.

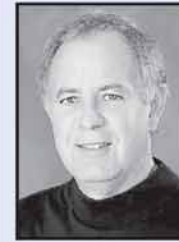
At a recent meeting with the dealers, Nasafi did confirm that they were in the process of selling the building to an Ethiopian church.

He said that he was looking to move north into another property that would help all of their sales.

"My goal was to find a better location to build a better business," said Nasafi.

The church has since cancelled the sale since there is no building. When asked why they wouldn't just sell the property, Nasafi said that the building was actually worth more than the land.

SEE ASHES, PAGE 17



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**Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000**  
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**Alex/Riverside Estates \$548,000**  
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**Alex/Mt. Vernon Manor \$589,900**  
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**Alex/Mt. Vernon Grove \$574,900**  
**9336 Heather Glen Drive**  
Beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA colonial w/2 car garage on the Potomac River side of Mount Vernon. .34 Acre. Library on main level. Family rm w/fireplace off the kitchen w/French doors to bkyd. Dressing room & walk-in closet adjoin the spacious Master suite. Separate Dining & Living rms. Unfinished basement w/walk-up steps. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex, (N).



**Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest \$614,900**  
**9123 Cherrytree Drive**  
Large, Beautiful, 4BR, 3BA Split w/ a spectacular open and renovated kitchen (\$75,000) - Gorgeous Refinished hardwood floors on main level, gas fireplace, double pane replacement window- Stunning screened-in porch overlooks backyard- Separate utility and workshop rooms offer tons of storage- Throw-in updated roof, HVAC system plus a large circular driveway- Great Price!!



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# OPINION

## Send in Pet Photos Now

**T**he Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 23.

**EDITORIAL** We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to

adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature,

identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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## Working Toward College Acceptance

BY JOE FAY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
FACETS



**F**or youth living in poverty, the struggle to make ends meet takes considerable energy and effort. So when the time comes to think about higher education, the dream of

**COMMENTARY** going to college may seem insurmountable. After all, the process for preparing, getting into, and paying for a university is daunting ... even more so for those with little to no family experience with college.

At FACETS, these are the youth we work with every day. Kids who have big dreams but no direct path to achieve them.

In four Fairfax County affordable housing communities, we work to provide the infrastructure so that families and individuals can break the cycle of poverty. The median annual income at three of these communities is \$18,000 while families in our Wedgewood community have incomes below 60 percent of the area's median income. One important way we assist families to overcome the effects of poverty is by working with children in these communities to promote their academic and social well-being.

Year round, staff and volunteers offer an array of after school and evening educational and enrichment programs to help youth, including mentoring, tutoring and college prep. Participation provides many benefits, including ensuring a safe after-school and weekend environment, interaction with caring adults, vibrant programs, and access to resources and case management.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Youngsters participate in a FACETS community program.**

Helping remove barriers for these youth is critical to helping them succeed. According to an Urban Institute report, "adult achievement is related to childhood poverty ... and children who are poor are less likely to achieve important adult milestones, such as graduating from high school and enrolling in and completing college, than children who are never poor."

That's why we start demystifying the process. For our high school and middle school youth, we start taking field trips to universities in Virginia. We want to inspire them and help them dream about what's possible. For many, this is their first time seeing a university so we arrange for tours and explain the application process, funding strategies, and timelines. The programs work. This past year all of the graduating seniors who participated in our youth program moved on to higher education opportunities.

February means that our next round of se-

niors are waiting to see if they receive grants, scholarships, loans and, of course, admission to college, including for Nafisa. She is one of our long-time participants who lives in Ragan Oaks. She was inspired to apply to college after attending a FACETS-supported youth conference. Our team worked with her on her college applications to Longwood University, George Mason University, and Radford University and wrote her a recommendation. She has been accepted to all three of her choices. The next step will be to help her navigate her financial package to see which school will be the best fit for her to attend this fall.

Acceptance is only the next step, but it can open the door to a bright future for a student and their future generations.

Visit FACETS, a Fairfax nonprofit helping prevent and end homelessness, at <http://facetscares.org/>.

## A Deal on Misdemeanor-Felony Threshold

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



**T**he fifth week of the session brought a furious pace to legislating including some of the most contentious bills of the session

as we approached "crossover" – the day the Senate and House are required to complete action on legislation originating in each chamber. It was mostly a successful week for me. Twenty-one of my bills are now set to pass the Senate to be considered by the House

of Delegates.

First, Governor Northam announced an agreement to raise Virginia's threshold between misdemeanors and felonies from \$200 to \$500. Once enacted, Virginia's threshold will still be

SEE A DEAL, PAGE 10

### Mount Vernon Gazette

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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## PEOPLE



**Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution President Michael Elston congratulates Cadet Reyes Spurgeon Keth.**

## Cadet Earns State Award

Cadet Captain Scarlett Reyes of the Mount Vernon High School Marine JROTC Battalion received the Virginia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Enhanced Cadet medallion and a \$1,000 check for winning the 2017-18 enhanced cadet competition. The award was given at the VSSAR annual meeting Saturday, Feb. 10, at the Omni Hotel in Richmond.

Reyes, a junior, at Mount Vernon High School was nominated for the state competition by the George Washington Chapter, SAR, of Alexandria.

She will now compete in the national SAR competition for the chance to win \$2,000,

the National JROTC medallion and a trip to the national congress in Houston, Texas, later this year.

In order to win the state competition, she submitted a 500-700 word essay on the topic, "How JROTC made me a better United States citizen," a resume of her JROTC, school and community activities and recommendations from her principal and JROTC senior instructor.

Presenting the award was VSSAR President Michael Elston and state JROTC Chair Spurgeon Keith. Elston is a past president of the George Washington Chapter, SAR.

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# Styling a Coffee Table

Using décor to make a table pop.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

There's an art to designing a living room coffee table, says local interior designer Susan Tucker. In fact, when she's helping a client create a living room space, she pays particular attention to creating a stylish and functional table.

"It seems like such a small thing, but when designed the right way, a coffee table can become the focal point of a room and really make it pop," she said. "I believe that there's a right way and a wrong way to put together a coffee table, but it's not hard if you keep certain things in mind."

Vary the height and scale so that each item can shine on its own. "If everything is the same height, none of them will be noticed," said Tucker. "Think a pretty vase of flowers behind a small porcelain bowl."

Work to create balance between small and large items, says Alexandria, Virginia-based designer Steven Gambit. "For example, a smattering of small knick-knacks can look cluttered on a coffee table," he said. "Along the same lines, too many large items on a coffee table can be overpowering. Instead select a few items and group them together by size."

Change items as the seasons or holidays



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEST EGG

**Books add visual interest and can provide topics of conversation when displayed on a coffee table.**

change. "As spring approaches, consider adding a small bouquet of fresh or silk spring flowers," said Tucker. "If you celebrate Easter, consider Easter décor, like a bunny or a basket with eggs. I picked up some elegant Easter items at a local home accessories store last spring. One or two simple items can breathe fresh life in a table design."

Choose items with colors that are found in other places in a room's design. "If you



**Consider placing coffee table items on a tray, like this one from the Nest Egg, says Interior Designer Susan Tucker.**

have a painting with bright colors, for example, choose one of the colors and find an item in the same color to add to your coffee table. If you have throw pillows in interesting colors, considering using one of those colors on your coffee table."

Consider only decorating one section of the coffee table, especially if the table is large. "It's a good idea to leave some space free, especially if you entertain a lot," said

Gambit. "Your guests will need a place to put a drink. Don't feel compelled to fill every inch of space."

A serving tray can serve two purposes on a coffee table, says Gambit. "An elegant serving tray can make a dramatic statement on a coffee table, and can give a table some structure, especially if it's holding smaller items," he said. "If you need to clear the coffee table quickly, like if you're entertaining, a tray makes it easy."

Think about what the items on the coffee table will look from different places in the room, suggests Tucker. "Stand over your coffee table and get a sense of what the objects look like gazing down at it," she said. "Sit across the room from it. Can the items be seen fully or are the most appealing parts of an item obstructed? I generally discourage clients from putting picture frames on a coffee table because you can't see the main attraction — the photo — from behind."

Be practical and sentimental. "Because people tend to gather around coffee tables, don't put a breakable family heirloom or an expensive piece on them," said Gambit. "Coffee table books are a good idea because they can be topics of conversation. You can use a coffee table to display things that represent a part of your personality, lifestyle or a hobby."

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# Trying To Curtail ‘Double-Dipping’ at Dominion Energy

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



One of the most debated and controversial bills of the legislative session, SB 966, passed the Senate on a 26 to-13 vote on Friday, Feb. 9. If the bill were signed into law, it would repeal an electricity “rate freeze” instituted in 2015 — ostensibly to shield ratepayers from potentially-escalating electricity costs associated with complying with the Obama Administration’s Clean Power Plan emission regulations. However, the bill would allow utility monopolies to profit doubly from investments without returning money to ratepayers, fail to resume essential regulatory oversight, and trade on support for investments in renewable energies that market forces are already bringing into play naturally.

Prior to 2015, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) conducted regular biennial reviews that served as crucial ratepayer safeguards, ensuring independent oversight of the electric utility monopolies Dominion Energy (Dominion) and Appalachian Power (APCO). The responsibility of the SCC is to determine whether base rates (the costs of building, closing, and maintaining power plants and the electrical grid) are adequate, or whether electric bills are too high and result in “over-earnings” (excessive profits) for utility monopolies, in which case the over-earnings would then be rebated to

customers.

I voted and spoke out against the 2015 bill that stripped the SCC of the authority to conduct regular reviews of utility monopolies’ earnings, arguing that it was unnecessary

to freeze rates (as the Clean Power Plan was likely to be challenged in court or not implemented for other reasons). This turned out to be the case and the SCC estimates that, had the rate freeze not been enacted, ratepayers would have been entitled to as much as \$705.2 million in rebates for 2015 and 2016 alone. Additional over-earnings have yet to be calculated for 2017. One SCC commissioner estimates the total amount that would have been due to customers is as much as \$1.1 billion.

The bill severely limits SCC authority by restricting the frequency of rate reviews from every two years to every three years. Since the SCC can only order base rate reductions after two consecutive reviews show the utility has been over-earning, the new law would lengthen the period of time before ratepayers receive a potential rebate from four years to six.

SB 966 would require Dominion to pass on just \$200 million to ratepayers of the estimated more-than-\$350 million that the company will receive as a result of the recent federal tax cut.

One positive aspect of the legislation is

that the deployment of up to 5,000 MW (enough to power 1.2 million homes) of renewable energy would be declared to be “in the public interest.” However, with the costs of renewables becoming increasingly more competitive, market forces will result in additional renewables being deployed at a faster pace.

Sweeteners were added to the legislation to facilitate buy-in, including projects to underground transmission lines in Prince William County as well as residential communities in other regions with the most outages, and other incentives for rural areas.

Most importantly, while refunds were required to be returned to ratepayers prior to 2015, under SB 966, utility monopolies would be able to keep the over-earnings, as long as they were invested into grid modernization or renewables. Due to the way that the base rates are calculated, it would allow utilities to “double-dip,” or, make excess profit from capital projects.

Prior to 2015, Dominion was allowed to charge customers a 10 percent rate of return on its capital investments. These projects had to be approved by the SCC and any money earned in excess of recouping the cost of the investment plus 10 percent profit would be rebated back to consumers. Under SB 966, Dominion would still gain 10 cents on every dollar invested, but the company could count those over earnings against those same capital projects and keep the rebate, rather than returning over-

earnings to ratepayers.

Because of this “double-dipping” provision, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Sierra Club, the Virginia Poverty Law Center, and Attorney General Mark Herring opposed the legislation. Last week, I supported floor amendments offered by Sen. Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax City) that would have eliminated “double-dipping” and returned highly-technical independent oversight to the expert utility lawyers at the SCC, rather than having 140 citizen legislators try their hand at it. As electronic voting mechanisms malfunctioned on the Senate floor due to power fluctuations in Richmond, the amendments were ultimately defeated.

I have long maintained that Dominion, and Virginia as a whole, were far behind the curve in making adequate investments in solar and other renewable technologies. In the end, I opposed the bill. I could not justify asking Virginians to pay twice their fair share for utility investments.

An amendment from Delegate Toscano, (D-Charlottesville) to the House version of the bill removed the “double-dipping” provision. I hope the final bill that makes it to the Governor’s desk will reflect this.

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

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

## A Deal on Misdemeanor-Felony Threshold

FROM PAGE 6

the second lowest in the United States. I have introduced this legislation every year for nine sessions. I am pleased it is finally going to be enacted into law.

My legislation to place a 36 percent interest rate cap on all consumer finance loans was sent back to committee for “additional vetting” after the online lending industry retained a top Richmond lobbying firm. Luckily, my bill re-escaped the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee with only three “no” votes and I hope it will finally pass this week.

All six of my coal ash bills were heard this week. Ultimately, I mediated a compromise between Governor Northam, Dominion and environmental groups to continue the moratorium on closing coal ash ponds for 12 months, required Dominion to issue requests for proposal from coal ash recycling companies to recycle ash, and convene

a joint committee of Senate and House members to investigate the coal ash problem over the next 12 months. My bill also allowed the closure of ponds where ash has already been removed so we do not continue to have open holes in the ground.

While I was disappointed that we did not completely resolve the issue this session, the ultimate disposition of these ponds will cost ratepayers billions of dollars and it is important to proceed carefully to both build support and make sure the correct outcome is justified. I am hopeful that the information generated last year and over the coming months coupled with other legislators focused on resolution will help generate a consensus.

Unfortunately, my bill to impose a four-year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” for natural gas east of Interstate 95 was rereferred to the Senate Finance Committee where it died on a tie (8-8) vote. Some members were concerned it consti-

tuted a government “taking” although similar legislation has passed in numerous states and survived numerous litigation challenges. I will try again next year.

The Health and Education Committee passed my legislation to allow low-income high school students to take online classes without paying any fees and requiring schools to provide them with computers. I introduced the bill after I discovered Fairfax and Prince William counties charge free and reduced lunch families fees up to \$345 to take online classes and do not provide computers. The bill will be on the floor of the Senate this week.

The Equifax data hack highlighted the vulnerability of personal information. My legislation to require credit bureaus to freeze credit at no charge was amended to a \$5 fee and my legislation to clarify the process for freezing children’s credit was passed. The bill passed committee and should pass the full Senate this week.

Finally, the Senate passed major legislation repealing the cap on electricity rates that the General Assembly enacted in 2015 due to uncertainty created by President Obama’s Clean Power Plan that the current Administration has taken steps to repeal. While there were some parts of the bill I did not like, the legislation takes all of Dominion’s over-earnings and reinvests it into necessary grid modernization, will increase Virginia’s renewable energy production by ten-fold (500 MW to 5,000 MW), increases Dominion’s shareholders’ payments towards low-income energy assistance, directs Dominion’s profits towards \$450 million of coal ash cleanup expenses, and expands Dominion’s Strategic Undergrounding Program in ways that could lead to underground power lines on U.S. 1.

You can always reach me at scott@scotturovell.org if you have any feedback. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

### CRIME REPORT

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

**BURGLARY:** 7702-F Richmond Highway (AT&T), Feb. 10, 12:56 a.m. A man broke into the business and stole merchandise. The suspect was wearing a light colored hooded sweatshirt, a black mask, black sweatpants, light colored tennis shoes, and a black backpack.

**ASSAULT ON A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** 1692 Richmond Highway (Ruby

Tuesday’s), Feb. 9, 11:43 p.m. An officer responded to the location for a drunk woman who was trying to drive away. Officers arrived, located the intoxicated woman and placed her under arrest for drunk in public. While at the Adult Detention Center, the woman kicked the arresting officer three separate times. A 56-year-old woman from Alexandria was charged with

assault on a law enforcement officer and drunk in public.

**ARSON/TRESPASSING/ARREST:** 2511 Parkers Lane (Mount Vernon District Station), Feb. 9, around 12:13 p.m. As an officer was driving towards the Mount Vernon Station, he noticed a man trespassing in the area of the gas pumps. The officer saw a small fire in the grass, a gas pump off

the storage hook and a bottle with paper sticking out that appeared to be burned. The officer placed the 31-year-old man of no fixed address under arrest for creating an explosive device, trespassing, maliciously setting fire to the ground, carelessly damaging property by fire and a fire code violation. The man was held without bond.





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**Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914**  
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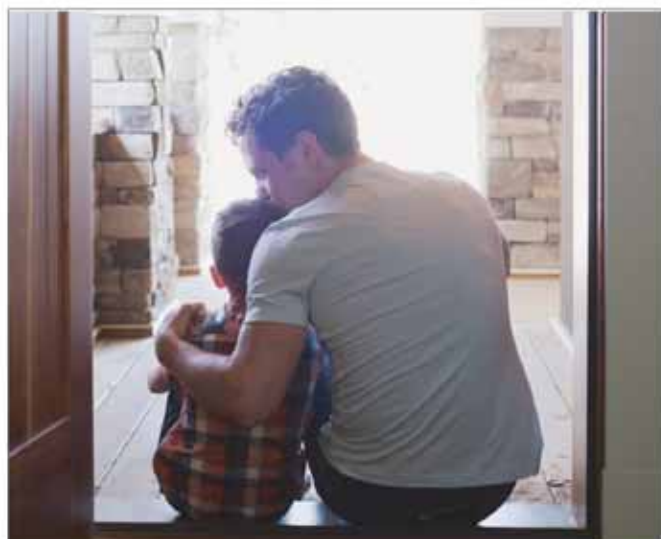
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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'The Boys Next Door' at Port City Playhouse

Show features characters with developmental challenges and mental illness.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Port City Playhouse, which used to be in Alexandria but moved to Falls Church, is presenting "The Boys Next Door" from Feb. 16 to March 3. The story takes place in an urban communal residence in New England, where four men live under the supervision of a "burned out" social worker named Jack. Playwright Tom Griffin brings us into a world where the "little things" of daily life sometimes become momentous – and often funny – and are mingled with moments of great poignancy.

Norman, who works in a doughnut shop, is unable to resist the lure of the pastries and takes pride in the bundle of keys that dangles from his waist; Lucien has the mind of a 5-year-old, but imagines that he is able to read and comprehend the weighty books he lugs about; Arnold, the ringleader of the group, is a hyperactive, compulsive chatterer, who suffers from deep-seated insecurities and a persecution complex; while Barry, a brilliant schizophrenic who is devastated by the unfeeling rejection of his brutal father, fantasizes that he is a golf pro.

Kevin Sockwell decided to direct because it is one of his favorite plays and he performed one of the roles years ago. "The story is about how even mentally challenged people have dreams, goals, aspirations, desires and the need to connect and relate despite their handicaps and limitations. I feel it is important to note how people, even different from ourselves, are people and worthy of dignity and respect," he said.

Producer Mary Beth Smith-Toomey wanted to produce for two reasons: She loves the show and the message it delivers, and Sockwell is a friend who she really enjoys working with. "His insights on this show have been particularly on point because of his professional life and because

he's been in the show," she said.

She said the biggest challenge is getting all the tech people to get this show mounted. "With this show, getting a light designer has proved impossible, so I am designing it myself. Something I have not done since college," she said.

Jerry Gideon plays multiple roles including Mr. Klemper, who has an estranged relationship with his schizophrenic son. "But the father suffers from the same form of the illness as father and son, only the father can function in society, whereas his son has been institutionalized most of his life," he said.

"Primarily because the father cannot demonstrate his affection or deal with his son's inability to communicate with his domineering father, this reunion after nine years is stressful for the son, and ultimately only reinforces the gulf between them, though both clearly had hopes that this reunion might have a different ending," he said.

Matt Williams plays the role of Norman, an intellectually impaired man in his late 30s. "He loves his job working at a local donut shop, although it's caused some sudden weight gain, which is wreaking havoc on his romantic interest, Sheila. Norman is a sweet and romantic guy — more than anything else, he dreams of a lot of things that we all dream of — love, marriage, and family," he said.

Janet Davis plays three smaller characters: Mrs. Fremus, Mrs. Warren, and Clara. "Mrs. Fremus is a deaf widow who lives in the neighborhood and to whom Barry tells his problems. Mrs. Warren is a younger mother who just moved in next door to the boys and meets them while looking for her son's lost hamster. Clara is a new friend to Sheila. They both attend one of the dances for the developmentally challenged at the community center," she said. "I've never played multiple characters in the same play, so that was challenging for me — to create



PHOTOS BY KYLIE MILLER

Cast members of Port City Playhouse's production of "The Boys Next Door" in rehearsals.

separate and distinct people for each character."

William Jeffreys is playing the role of Lucien, who has the mental capacity of a 5-year-old. "The great thing about this character is that he is happy go-lucky and easily excitable. However, he is oblivious to a lot of what goes on around him because he focuses on key words, and not the whole picture. However, there are some instances in the play where he is able to zone in on what the other characters are saying, and it makes for a different interaction," he said.

Mary Ayala-Bush is playing the role of Sheila, who is mentally challenged and the love interest of Norman. "She is happy and is attracted to Norman. She loves flowers and frogs. Her focus is on getting Norman's keys as she sees getting his keys as a sign of love," she said.

She said it was a challenge to portray a mentally challenged individual without either being a stereotype or being disrespectful of the person. "Throughout the rehearsal period, the focus was on what would be her motivation and her understanding of what things meant that has driven the characterization of Sheila. I also found myself having a better understanding and respect for individuals that may not be as intellectually gifted as the rest of us, and that love and patience can overcome much of our misunderstanding," she said.

John Wakefield plays the role of Arnold, the ringleader of the four men who live in the group apartment. "He certainly fancies himself the brains of the operation, and he spends most of his time overthinking every moment of his life. Most of the show is spent worrying or despairing about some aspect of his life or another. His workplace bully, his unusual grocery list, some girl named Helen who has a tic, the incident with the rugs, and so on and so forth," he said.

Michael Schwartz plays the role of Barry, a 28-year-old man with schizophrenia who believes he is a pro golfer. "He is highly sensitive partly because of his upbringing and would do anything to impress his father," he said.

He said playing a character with a mental illness is quite challenging, especially in a play that has comedic parts. "Barry is a schizophrenic, and ends up situations that can be quite funny because of his mental illness. That being said, I didn't want Barry to be a cartoon. Trying to be funny and being realistic as possible is a very difficult challenge," he said.

Port City Playhouse presents "The Boys Next Door" Feb. 16-March 3 at Sleepy Hollow United Methodist Church, 3435 Sleepy Hollow Road, Falls Church. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. \$18-\$20. Visit [PortCityPlayhouse.com](http://PortCityPlayhouse.com).

### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 15

**Birthnight Ball Dance Classes.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on the 17th, learn 18th century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. \$12 per class or \$30 for the series. Reservations are recommended: online at [alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://alexandriava.gov/Shop) or by calling 703-746-4242.

#### 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 brought to life with 12 musical numbers, and a 30-

member cast. 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).

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 16

**Opening Reception.** 6-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery 208 King St. Principle Gallery presents Bodies of Work: A Figurative Invitational. Thirteen artists from around the world have been invited to participate in this selective exhibition, and from found object sculptures to traditional figure studies to Magical Realism oil paintings, the show offers a variety of work. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com).

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 17

**Expand Space for Gardening.** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Green Spring

Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. If space is at a premium, think vertical when it comes to planning a garden. Find out how rooftops, balconies and terraces can be used to make the most of limited garden space. This half-day symposium is for adults. \$58 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

**Grio StoryMan.** 9-11 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Multipurpose Room, 7836 Fordson Road. Troop 1906 presents Grio StoryMan: Baba Jaml Koram. As part of Black History observance, gather around Baba Jaml Koram unfolds children's tales filled with the warmth of the African sun. Each conveys a lesson: of standing up for what's right, caring for the earth and its animals, and believing in the good in everyone. Visit [www.bethlehemofalexandria.org](http://www.bethlehemofalexandria.org).

**Puppet Shows.** 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605

Cameron St. The National Capital Puppetry Guild in collaboration with the Office of the Arts will present Beech Tree Puppets at two family-friendly puppet shows. Reservations per show are \$5 for person, including children. Children must be accompanied by at least one adult. To purchase tickets online, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac), select activity number 355211.02 (10 a.m.) or 355211.03 (11:15 a.m.).

**Locals' Alley Saturdays.** 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring Crum's Hot Sauce tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**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. 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.visitallexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/](http://www.visitallexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house/4676/).

**Community "Ceili" Dance.** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, Luncford Hall, 100 E. Windsor Ave. Alexandria's own Irish Breakfast Band is hosting a Community "Ceili" dance designed for first-timers and beginners who would like to have some fun learning traditional Irish social dancing. A ceili (pronounced KAY-lee) is similar to an American square dance, with live music provided by friends and neighbors and fun had by all. Free. Call 571-379-3927 or visit [www.Irishbreakfastband.com](http://www.Irishbreakfastband.com).

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 18

**Revolutionary War Day.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West



# ENTERTAINMENT

Braddock Road. Learn about the army life and fighting tactics of Revolutionary War soldiers in this annual Fort Ward Park event presented in conjunction with Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Weekend. The program features a Colonial encampment and a tactical skirmish between British and Colonial troops at 2 p.m. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard](http://www.alexandriava.gov/FortWard).

**Alexandria Wedding Showcase.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Westin Alexandria 400 Courthouse Square. 50+ exhibitors, fashion show, brides across america wedding dress giveaway. Call 703-652-5367 or visit [alxweddingshowcase.com/](http://alxweddingshowcase.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 Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 min. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Call 703-746-3301.

**Benefit Concert.** 3 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. The Harmony Heritage Singers, a men's barbershop chorus, will perform to benefit the charity Alice's Kids. Ron Fitzsimmons, founder of Alice's Kids, is a member of the chorus. Free and open to the public; an offering will be taken for Alice's Kids. Email [gronbrandt@gmail.com](mailto:gronbrandt@gmail.com) or call 703-765-4779.

**Concert.** 3-5 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic introduces three works by American Composers including William Grant Still's Symphony #4, Mark Edwards Wilson's Piano Concerto with acclaimed pianist Thomas Pandolfi, plus this season's WMPA Composition Competition Winner, Zhou Tian's Broken Ink. \$20, children are free. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org/](http://www.wmpamusic.org/).

**Art League Patrons' Show Fundraiser.** 4 p.m. in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Each \$225 ticket allows the ticket-holder to participate. On the evening of the Patrons' Show drawing, tickets are randomly drawn and when the name of each ticket-holder is announced, they may select an available work of art from the show. Learn more, view the donated artwork, and purchase tickets at [www.theartleague.org/content/patrons\\_show](http://www.theartleague.org/content/patrons_show).

## MONDAY/FEB. 19

**Annual Breakfast Meeting.** 9-11:30 a.m. at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 901 N. Fairfax St. This three-course hearty breakfast meal is hosted by the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association. \$35 at [www.eventbrite.com/e/friendship-breakfast-tickets-31187603963](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/friendship-breakfast-tickets-31187603963). Visit [www.friendshipfire.net/](http://www.friendshipfire.net/).

**Presidents' Day Open House.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. As part of the parade festivities, visit the following museums for free: Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St.; Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.; and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 20

**Homeschool Program: Citizen Firefighters.** 10-11:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Join the bucket brigade and learn how community volunteers fought fires in colonial and early 19th-century Alexandria. Designed for family groups, recommended for ages 5 and up. \$8 per child, adults free. Reservations required at [Alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://Alexandriava.gov/Shop).



PHOTO BY D. HILL

## SOUPPer Saturday

24th annual SOUPPer Saturday collaboration of ceramic artists at the Torpedo Factory to benefit United Community Ministries. For \$20, customers get original ceramic artwork and soup from the Chart House. Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Lobby, 105 North Union St. Call 703-819-9990 or visit [www.ucmagency.org/](http://www.ucmagency.org/).

**Shopping Stories.** 7-8 p.m. at Cameron Station Clubhouse, 200 Cameron Station Blvd. AAUW Alexandria Branch presents "Shopping Stories: Learning about 18th-Century Women's Lives through Ledgers." How do store ledgers show us how 18th century women living in Alexandria were able to be independent and live their daily lives separate from men? Open to all community members. Email [GailLaneAAUWAlex@gmail.com](mailto:GailLaneAAUWAlex@gmail.com).

**Inventors of Color.** 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. This free program from the National Park Service describes crucial inventions developed by enslaved people and others which helped cultivate the United States. From a slave named Ned, who invented the cotton scraper in 1858 through the 20th century. Visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

**Oney Judge Historical Reenactment.** 1:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Sheila Arnold Jones, a local storyteller and historical character interpreter, will be performing as Oney Judge, a slave owned by Martha Washington who escaped to the North. This program is for ages 6+. Visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Author Talk.** 3:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Ruthi Postow Birch discusses her memoir, "How to Build a Piano Bench: Lessons for Success from a Red-Dirt Road in Alabama," which shares her humorous and heart-warming story about the life lessons she learned and how she applied that knowledge to build a successful business. Visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Black History Month Movie Series.** 6 p.m. in the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium, 1108 Jefferson St. Celebrate Black History Month with a movie highlighting African American contributions and their impact on the nation: Marshall (PG-13). Enjoy free popcorn while supplies last. RSVP at [www.eventbrite.com/e/black-history-month-movie-series-tickets-42260523363](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/black-history-month-movie-series-tickets-42260523363).

**Four Hundred Years of American Chairs** 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Oscar Fitzgerald gives an overview that will show how American chair styles evolved over time from the 17th century to the present. This will be followed by a signing of American Furniture. Visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

## FEB. 21-MARCH 4

**Art League's Student/Faculty**

**Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., daily; Thursdays until 9 p.m.; Sundays noon-6 p.m. in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show showcases the diversity and talent of more than 6,500 students and 100+ artist instructors. Visit [www.theartleague.org/content/student\\_faculty\\_2018](http://www.theartleague.org/content/student_faculty_2018).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 22

**Local Author Thursday.** 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by John R. Maass, "George Washington's Virginia." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**Lecture: I Cannot Tell A Lie.** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 Royal St. Abigail Adams said that truth was George Washington's best quality. Professor Peter Henriques examines a number of the various myths that have developed and which keep us from better understanding the remarkable individual who was our first and greatest president. \$12 per person, \$10 for Gadsby's members or volunteers. Call 703-746-4242 or visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**Vegetable Gardening.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Vegetable Gardening Part 2: Planning and Preparation for the beginning gardener. Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting the best site and evaluating and improving soil, including which plants grow best in this area. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralex@gmail.com](mailto:mgaralex@gmail.com).

**Air Force Band Concert.** 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 4915 East Campus Drive. Special appearance by percussionist Michael Burritt. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 23

**"The Audience."** 7 p.m. at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The Commonwealth Republican Women's Club (CRWC) presents "The Audience," as the club's fundraiser for local candidates. For 60 years, from 1952 on, every Tuesday afternoon, Queen Elizabeth II met in Buckingham Palace in a private audience with her prime ministers. What did they discuss? How candid were they? Before the performance, from 7-8 p.m. attendees will be treated to a buffet with champagne. \$35. Visit [www.alexandriacrwc.org/](http://www.alexandriacrwc.org/).

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# ENTERTAINMENT

**Artists Reception.** 7-9 p.m. 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).

**Late Shift at the Factory.** 7-11 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Alexandria's past comes to life with help from the Alexandria Archaeology Museum. Artists and innovators team up for a night of unearthed secrets, music, and trivia celebrating the region's rich history. Presented in collaboration with the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Free. Call 703-746-4399.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 24

**Veteran's Meet and Greet.** 10-11:30 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. All veterans are invited to join the Office of Historic Alexandria for a meet and greet reception at the Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum. Enjoy coffee, tea, and pastries while catching up with old and new friends. Browse the exhibits for free, including the recently opened World War I exhibit and hear about plans to honor all veterans during the World War I 100th anniversary commemoration. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum).

**"Kepi to Cartridge Box."** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the clothing and equipment used by Union soldiers during the Civil War in "Kepi to Cartridge Box: Outfitting Billy Yank." Free. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org).

**Inventors of Color.** 11 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. This free program from the National Park Service describes crucial inventions developed by enslaved people and others which helped cultivate the United States. From a slave named Ned, who invented the cotton scraper in 1858 through the 20th century. Visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Keeping Heritage Alive: African Story Telling.** 11 a.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Sheila Arnold Jones, a local storyteller, will be a program featuring stories and songs written, told, or passed down through the African-American culture. For adults and kids of all ages. Visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Brides for Haiti.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Brides For Haiti, a fundraising effort of St Mary's Church, will host a discount bridal sale event at the Sheraton in Alexandria. Brides for Haiti will have hundreds of wedding



## Visitors

"Terracotta Warriors" in Market Square, on display in Market Square, 301 King St. Two replicas of the famous "Terracotta Warriors." Each replica stands 6 feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds, and will be on display through March 11. Visit [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov).

dressers – many that are designer gowns –costing \$199 each, and veils costing from \$15 to \$50. Brides should wear fitting clothes under their normal clothes; changing space is limited during the event. Pre-register for the event on the Brides for Haiti Facebook page or by emailing [Brides4Haiti@gmail.com](mailto:Brides4Haiti@gmail.com).

**Live Owl Prowl.** Noon-1 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Come meet live owls up close. Soar into the night time world of Great Horned Owls, Barred Owls, and Eastern Screech Owls. \$10 per person for Fairfax County residents and \$12 for out-of-county participants. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/).

**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. 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/).

**Under the Same Roof.** 2-3:30 p.m. at The Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. This tour will include parts of the house not normally open to the public. Space is limited. \$8 in advance, \$12 at the door, members of Lee-Fendall House free. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Evening of Music: Tom Teasley and Charles Williams.** 4-5:30 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This concert will focus on the works of Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson, and

other important African American figures. Call 703-746-4356.

**Gallery Workout.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Jane Franklin Dance presents Gallery Workout — movement and sound, a performance in cooperation with Form and Void, visual art show by Ellyn Weiss. \$15. Call 703-933-1111 or visit [www.nvfaa.org/events-upcoming](http://www.nvfaa.org/events-upcoming).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 24-25

### Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret.

Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St. Roz White pays tribute to Alberta Hunter, Sister Rosetta Tharpe, Abbey Lincoln, Roberta Flack, and Nina Simone, depicting their hardships and challenges, and their revolutionary influence on music and pop culture. Call 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 25

**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.

**Opening Reception.** 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312. An exhibition of new photographs by E. E. McCollum. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com/).

**"The Finishers."** 4 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Beth El Hebrew Congregation is presenting the acclaimed film "The Finishers" in a sneak-peek preview event. Free, but RSVP for seats and refreshments at [tinyurl.com/BethEl-TheFinishers-2-25-18](http://tinyurl.com/BethEl-TheFinishers-2-25-18).

**Choral Lenten Evensong.** 7:30 p.m.

## 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. 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.

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St. St. Paul's Episcopal Church will present a Choral Lenten Evensong in memory of the late Raymond F. Glover, a parishioner and international icon in the field of church music, directed by Grant Hellmers. A reception will follow. This service is free to the public, with optional donations going to St. Paul's

Lazarus Ministry, serving those in need. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or [grant@stpaulsalexandria.com](mailto:grant@stpaulsalexandria.com).

**Movement and Sound.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A performance by Jane Franklin Dance in cooperation with Form and Void, visual art show by Ellyn Weiss. \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

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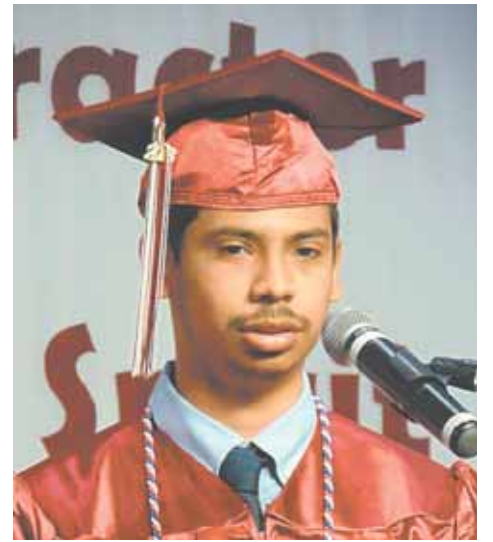




**Singer Clifton Ross III sings the "National Anthem."**



**The Presentation of Colors from the JROTC Hawks Battalion Color Guard from Hayfield Secondary School.**



**Aron Joel Corrales-Ferrera recites the Pledge of Allegiance.**

# Bryant High School Presents Winter Commencement

FROM PAGE 1

approached, I made the decision to come to Bryant because I had six missing SOLs."

"So, I decided to challenge myself and double up on my classes and graduate early in the first semester," she said. "This was an eye-opener for me. I could use this opportunity and get myself out earlier and move on with my life by getting a good-paying job. I realized my high school diploma is a stepping stone for a higher education."

She said a lot of people underestimated her along the way. "But from my high school experience, I've learned that it's never too late to actually try and get what you need to get done in order to help yourself succeed. Your attitude determines your direction," she said.

Maricarmen Valeriano-Cruz, who gave the Student Welcome, added: "With hard work and determination, we have made this day possible but it doesn't end here. I want you to always keep in mind that there will be obstacles, there will be doubters and there will be mistakes .... So, when we leave here this afternoon, we will all walk out with the memory of having the honor of graduating from Bryant High School."

Bryant students receiving senior awards and scholarships included: Project Opportunity and Elizabeth Link Scholarship – Jennifer Cecilia Hernandez-Custodio; Defense Acquisition University Scholarship – Hung Pham; Spirit of Learning Award – Meer Hassan; Salute to Tenacity Award – Jhonnatan Coto-Hernandez; William Cullen Bryant English Award – Hung Pham; Tippins Jordan History Award – Hung Pham; Outstanding Science Student Award – Ethan Jacob Southorn; Outstanding Mathematics Student Award – Jose Damian Villanueva-Gaitan; Outstanding CTE Family and Consumer Science Student Award – Alexia Leah Sanchez-Villatoro; Outstanding CTE Business Student Award – Ethan Jacob Southorn; Jobs for Virginia Graduates Program Completion – Lissette Estela Arevalo, Jasmine Roxana Cruz, Jennifer Cecilia Hernandez-Custodio, Ana Cesilia Hernandez-Zelaya, Charles Ethan Joch, Mikyla Moet Kelly, Miya Crystal Menskey, and Fariha Pirzada.



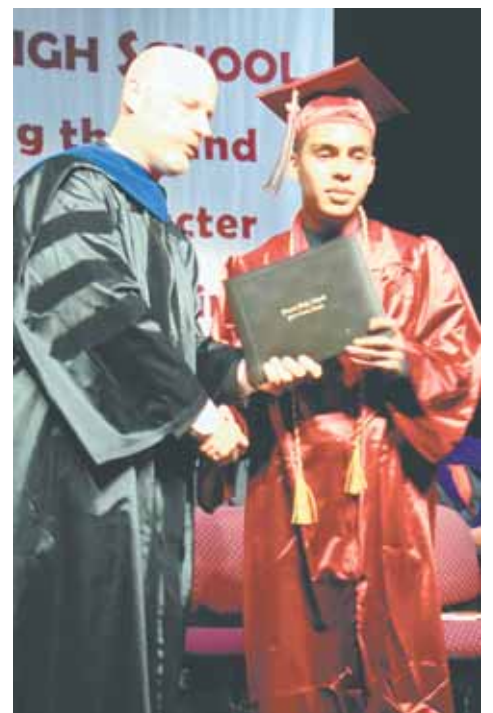
**Maricarmen Valeriano-Cruz gives the student welcome.**



**Student speaker Fariha Pirzada addresses the crowd.**



**Graduates Ethan Joch and Alexia Sanchez with son Elijah Joch at the reception following graduation.**



**Jordan Hernandez-Pedraza receives his diploma from Principal Dr. Christopher Larrick.**

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE



**Graduate Lidia Ocubay poses with her family at the reception following graduation.**



**Graduate Daeree Tanksley with his family at the reception following graduation.**





**Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, delivers the opening remarks to the audience.**



**Eva Schloss thanks the crowd after the presentation.**



**Eugene Sidorov takes a bow after his musical tribute, Ani Maamin.**



**Co-director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, Raizel Deitsch, gives an introduction and talks about her family's experiences.**

# Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

FROM PAGE 1

to play with her Catholic friend after school. When she arrived at her friend's house, the mother slammed the door in her face and told her that she never wanted to see her there again.

A confused Schloss ran home to her mother hoping she could shed some light on the situation, and her mother replied with "This is how life is going to be now."

She then went on to describe in detail the years her family was in hiding, the separation of her and her mother from her father and brother, and the Dutch nurse who in 1944 pretended to help them hide, but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

With the audience silent and enthralled throughout the presentation, Schloss detailed her nine months spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the last moments she saw her

father and brother. She ended her talk discussing the importance of education for everyone, and by telling the audience that all need to look after the planet. Schloss said, "It's a wonderful gift from God for us to enjoy." The closing remarks by Rabbi Leibel Fajnlund, director Chabad of Reston-Herndon, echoed these thoughts by saying, "We must become better not bitter."

Schloss stayed quiet about her Holocaust experiences for 40 years, and it was not until 1985 that she decided to devote herself to Holocaust education and world peace. Since then, she has written three books, delivered more than 1,000 speeches and had a play written about her life.

Schloss is currently on a speaking tour around the United States sharing her and her step-sisters stories, hoping to educate and help end the violence and bigotry that she sees in the world today.



**Eli Rosenbaum, U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations, led the interview with Eva Schloss.**

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

## Grant Promotes 'Breaking Bread Together'

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church has received a \$22,700 grant to further the church's ministry promoting community understanding, addressing racism, xenophobia, and other issues confronting the community.

The grant is one of 21 projects awarded by the United Methodist Church's General Commission on Religion and Race.

Rising Hope Pastor Keary Kincannon said, "Breaking Bread Together" furthers Rising Hope's commitment to erase racial prejudice, economic stereotyping, and xenophobic attitudes in the community. Our commitment is to build a multi-racial, multi-economic community to work on a common goal — building Christ's kingdom through feeding the hungry and serving those in need."

Project partners include Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church; Aldersgate United Methodist Church Youth; and supportive engagement with Ventures in Community.

"Rising Hope and its partners will host

several ethnic themed meals during the next two years, inviting community individuals to discuss the richness of the diversity in this community. "Through presentations and discussion, participants will explore their hopes and dreams for themselves, their families, and our community. We expect to find a lot of common ground upon which to build.

Keary added, "Coming together to get to

know each other will encourage the community to work together on common goals. Rising Hope's current ministries will provide options for addressing the grant's vision." The General Commission on Religion and Race awarded \$463,025 to projects developed by local churches, district annual conferences, and seminaries in all five jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church in the United States.

### SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnews-papers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnews-papers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Stephanie Lea Ticer**, from Fort Belvoir, graduated from Baylor University (Waco, Texas) with a Master of Science in nutrition.

**Freddie Perez**, of Alexandria, made the fall 2017 dean's list at the University of Hartford (Conn.).

**Anjum Choudhury**, of Alexandria, made the fall 2017 dean's list at the University of Hartford (Conn.).

**Ayanna Bundy**, of Alexandria, was named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Levon Bell**, of Alexandria, was named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Emily Walzl**, of Alexandria, was named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Emily Flaherty**, of Alexandria, was named to the University of Delaware dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 18

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



### Supporting Good Shepherd Housing

Sheehy Honda in Alexandria recently donated \$7,500 to Good Shepherd Housing as part of Sheehy Auto Stores' annual Giving Program for 2017, whereby \$150,000 was given to charities throughout communities in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Maryland and Richmond. Above, from left, are Sina Mohabat, general manager and partner of Sheehy Honda, with Rosemary G. Murray from Good Shepherd Housing. The mission of Good Shepherd Housing is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency.





Dealers meet with owner Sam Nasafi (second on left) to discuss future plans for the antique center.

# From Out of the Ashes

FROM PAGE 5

"I've been there for 17 years and there's nothing left. No showcases. This is all I know what to do. This is my income. This was my only job," Nasafi said.

He was able to go in and retrieve his computer so that he could pay dealers for their sales in December.

Several of the dealers have asked if they can go in, hoping that some of their items might still be in the building. Nasafi said that it is not safe and that they will need commercial equipment to move things around.

"Nobody can go in until they have finished with the investigation," said Nasafi. The insurance company has said that it is going to be very hard to determine cause because of how the building was bulldozed."

Nasafi is planning to rebuild, but it will be many months before that will happen.

In the meantime, he is looking at temporary spaces. He said that he talked a few times to the people who own the former Antique Warehouse but they weren't willing to commit to a short-term lease.

Most of the dealers have said that they would return if he rebuilds.

One of the antique dealers, Lucia Martinez, has started a GoFundMe Page, [www.gofundme.com/4x1qk6g](http://www.gofundme.com/4x1qk6g) page to rebuild the Richmond Highway antique mall. She described it as "the only true antique center" in the Mount Vernon area and included a computer repair shop that lower-income families could afford.

"This business was the only source of income for the Nasafi family who owned the building, [and] a second home to the dealers that occupied it, and the customers that frequented it, from local and military families to interior designers and real estate stagers," Martinez wrote.

She hopes to raise \$300,000 to help the business find a new location and to support the dealers whose livelihoods depended on their businesses. She says many of the dealers are elderly people surviving on pensions, and some may not have had insurance covering the goods lost in the fire.

Insurance was on the building only. Dealers had to have their own insurance. In fact, only two dealers had insurance, and it is not clear how much they will be able to recover.

More than 30 vendors occupied the space and losses vary greatly according to individual dealer. Craig Baker and Alex Guthrie, owners of Eldest Geeks, said that they lost a considerable amount. Baker also lost a large part of his mineral collection, which he kept on site.

Another dealer, Madelyn Marchessault, said, "I've been booted out of one [antique] mall [in Leesburg] and burned out of another. I lost Waterford and a fair amount of Wedgewood."

Marilyn Moore, who sold fine furniture and other items, said, "I myself bought my first antique there when I was 21. I was driving around the beltway from Silver Spring, Md. to what was then called Thieves Market. Forty years later, I sold that chair to a couple just starting out in Old Town. They loved that story."

"Every vintage piece has a story. Maybe that's what drew so many kindred spirits to this place — the story of this D.C. institution, the stories of this crazy group who tries their hand at selling old things. We have heard by phone or text message from many friends, family and customers about how sorry they are about this loss."

"Sam and the many dealers, past and present are shocked and saddened. It is like a death in the family. It felt like family there — the dealers, the customers, the owners. I so appreciate being part of it. They say for every door God closes, he opens another. We will pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off and move forward."

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

## "AutoMadic"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize that given the growth and evolution of the world most of us live in, and how business is transacted, there are two words, a phrase actually, whose very existence is threatened: "Bill me." "C.O.D.," "Cash on delivery" is likely itself on the precipice of extinction, a dodo bird if there ever was one. However, since "Money makes the world go 'round," – or at least it made the hit musical "Cabaret" go 'round in 1966, credit and one's good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills have to be paid or else the world doesn't "go 'round" so far. Moreover, if the money is missing, there's less to sing about.

Ergo an idea/system was devised whereby people/entities to whom you owed money would have semi unfettered access to your money – without having to talk to you/ask permission. Once the consumer/"ower" had signed an authorization granting such access, the game was on and the money withdrawn (debited) regularly, as agreed to.

Occasionally, financial inducements were offered to entice the consumer to subject his money/accounts to such plundering. But eventually, the process became all the rage. Meaning, consumers couldn't transact business any other way, and despite any hesitations or objections (anger) to the contrary, it was either debit or die. And though this system didn't cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we bank, buy and balance.

Within the last few weeks I've added two more automatic monthly debits. Payments which I was given no other realistic choice/method to pay other than all at once (not happening,) or once a month, automatically from my bank. And not that I felt held up by the process, but I did feel as if the highway awaited if I didn't pay their way.

So now I have six recurring debits drafting on five different but recurring days, save for holidays and weekends of course. In addition, I have granted additional bank access to retailers, service providers, Internet-only companies, Amazon, pharmaceutical warehouses and on and on and on; all of whom have keys – so to speak – to my kingdom, such as it is.

Still, I think I know what's being debited at any given time, but in the context of and conjunction with, all the other transactions that I or my wife make, sometimes I don't know if I do know, actually, whether my money is coming in or going out or finding a new home somewhere – and one not in this country and likely irretrievable, or disappearing altogether with any other money I may have accumulated.

All of those worst case, possibly everyday scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do? If I don't play and in turn, don't pay, then I am likely having to fend for myself. I may still have plenty places to go to, but what am I going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Costanza's) isn't big enough to hold all the cash I'd need to conclude just a few of my transactions. I don't like ceding control this way, but the joke may already be on me: I don't have any control. It was taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing a second/third party to withdraw money – automatically, and regularly, from the "signee's" bank account. From that point on, it was, as we say in New England: "Katie bar the door," meaning: bad news, among a variety of other "unpleasantries."

Regardless of how I fear all of these companies/"withdrawers" having a way into my bank account in order to get my money out, the reality is, there isn't a damn thing I can do about it. I just have to pay attention, literally – and figuratively. Otherwise, I'll be a victim of their circumstance.

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

## 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.

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30?** If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

### TUESDAY/FEB. 20

**National Archives Research.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Malissa Ruffner, JD, MLS, CG, will speak at the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society monthly meeting and will provide tips on how to successfully find records at the National Archives. Her talk is called "A Federal Family Tree." Open to the public. Free. Call 703-768-4101 or visit [www.mvgenalogy.org](http://www.mvgenalogy.org).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

**REVIVE Trainings.** 1 p.m. at CSB's Gartlan Center, 8119 Holland Road (Room 168), Alexandria. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) will dispense free Naloxone at upcoming REVIVE trainings. Get trained with the skills and tools to administer Naloxone, a drug that reverses the effects of opioid/heroin overdose. Trainings are free, approximately one hour long, and are offered at numerous locations and times across Fairfax County. Advance registration is not required to attend training. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/free-naloxone-revive-trainings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/free-naloxone-revive-trainings).

**Commission on Aging.** 1-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Government Center, Rooms 2 & 3, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mt. Vernon. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging). Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

**South County Task Force Meeting.** 1-3 p.m. at South County Building, 8350 Richmond Highway, in the Haywood Conference Center. Agenda includes updates on local issues including: schools; EMBARK and affordable housing; domestic violence shelter; health care guide; and DACA and immigration. Also a review of 2017 and priorities for 2018. Register at [coveringthecorridor.com/event/south-county-task-force-human-services-meeting/](http://coveringthecorridor.com/event/south-county-task-force-human-services-meeting/).

## SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 16

2017 semester.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, N.Y.) student-athlete **Amaechi Konkwo**, of Alexandria, has earned a year-end team award in football. Konkwo, who attended Bishop Ireton, a freshman who earned Defensive Rookie of the Year, totaled 24 tackles (13 unassisted) with four tackles for lost yards (22) in 11 games. He had three sacks (21 yards lost) and a fumble recovery.

Alexandria native **Jordan McCray**, a sophomore geographic science major at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, will spend the 2018 spring semester studying in Brazil after receiving a Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State.

McCray, a graduate of West Potomac High School, will study Portuguese language and culture, Brazilian history, Brazilian politics and wildlife conservation while in Brazil through May 12. The courses will fill requirements for McCray's major, where she is concentrating on environmental conservation, sustainability and development. It also fits well with her Latin and Caribbean studies minor.

**Alayna Theunissen**, a resident of Alexandria, has been named to the Emerson College (Boston, Mass.) dean's list for the fall 2017 semester. Theunissen is majoring in theatre and performance.



2

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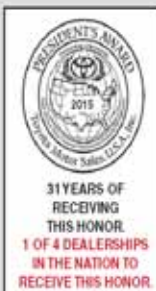
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\$1,220,000  
Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!**

Stately brick colonial in area's premier water front community. Over 6,000 sq ft of luxury! Features Include: Estate size rooms, high ceilings, three finished levels, four BR's including 3 room master suite with stunning bath, elegant trim detail, hardwood floors, extensive rear decking, oversize 2 car garage. Located in cul-de-sac with river access.

**JUST LISTED**



**9509 Ferry Harbour Ct.  
\$849,000  
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!

**JUST LISTED**



**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.

**1 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!

**NEW KITCHEN**



**9424 Mt. Vernon Cir.  
\$949,000  
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

**CONTRACT**



**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**



**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!

**CONTRACT**



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

**8709 Curtis Ave  
\$539,000  
Recently Renovated!**



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

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



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

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



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**BEST 2015  
2016  
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