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Honoring George Washington
The crowd in front of George Washington's tomb during the wreath-laying ceremony at Mount Vernon Estate on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 19.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3.

Gun Debate On Lockdown

Democrats unable to gain traction on reform, despite new numbers in House.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When lawmakers arrived in Richmond last month, Democrats were hopeful that they would be able to use their new numbers to gain some traction on the gun debate. Now that the session is half over and the nation is reeling from yet another mass shooting, little has been accomplished at the Capitol.

Republicans are still very much in control of the House of Delegates, even if they have a one-vote majority. Perhaps most significantly, they control the process, which sends all gun bills to a seven-member subcommittee that has six Republicans and one Democrat. All reform efforts died in that subcommittee, including proposals to close the gun show loophole and

SEE GUN DEBATE, PAGE 16

Police Launch Body-Worn Camera Pilot Program

Training and rollout began Feb. 19 in Mount Vernon, Mason, and Reston districts.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) held a news conference, Friday, Feb. 16 at the new Fairfax County Public Safety Headquarters to announce the rollout of its Body Worn Camera Pilot Program to launch Monday, Feb. 19 at three district police stations, Mason, Mount Vernon and Reston. Full implementation of the project is March 13 with 230 cameras deployed. Present at the news conference

SEE TESTING, PAGE 16

2/23/18
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Open concept & filled with natural light, this 3-bedroom, 2-bath Rambler offers classic features, remodeled master suite with ensuite bath and sitting room, new windows, furnace and washer/dryer. thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/1304-quincy/Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221 www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

OPEN SUN 2/25, 2-4



Del Ray | \$1,399,900

Complete renovation of a craftsman home with 6 bedrooms, 4 baths. Open floor plan, chef's kitchen, luxurious master, finished walkout lower level with family room and bedroom. Walk to Metro and "The Avenue." 223 E Mason Ave. Jen Walker 703.675.1566 www.JenWalker.com

SPECIAL OPEN 2/25, 12-5



Alexandria | \$1,111,111

#1 for so many reasons! Bright, majestic Beverly Hills colonial, winner of 2 Alexandria Beautification Awards, offers dramatic family room, master bedroom with vaulted ceiling, eat-in kitchen, fenced yard. Make it your #1. 3505 Cameron Mills Road Ann Duff 703.965.8700 www.AnnDuff.com



Del Ray | \$839,900

Spectacular 2-bedroom New York-style loft. Features include 1,640 SF, gorgeous gourmet kitchen with quartz counters, beautiful walnut floors, a brick accent wall, floor-to-ceiling windows, 2 private balconies, off-street parking and more. Julian Burke 703.867.4219 www.JulianBurke.com



Mason Hill | \$719,000

Classic Mason Hill colonial with five/six bedrooms, formal living and dining rooms, eat-in kitchen, first floor family room and den. Huge unfinished basement and two-car garage. Great opportunity to renovate and make it your own! Robin Arnold 703.966.5457 www.RobinArnoldSells.com



Belle Rive | \$759,000

New price for this large custom-built home with over \$25,000 in recent renovations on flat .51 acre, room for pool or addition. Spacious main level with large family room and chef's kitchen. Full basement for additional rooms or storage. Vicki Binkley 703.994.0778 www.VickiBinkley.com



OPEN SUN 2/25, 1-4

Alexandria | \$749,999

Meticulously maintained 3-bedroom, 3-bath home. 1/3-acre lot situated on a cul-de-sac with winter river views. Large lower level rec room with walk-out to privately landscaped fenced in yard. Screened-in porch. 6620 Skyline Court Kristen Jones 703.851.2556 www.AlexandriaByKJ.com



Fairlington Meadows | \$400,000

Windows galore in this END townhouse condo, private fenced brick patio, master bedroom & two full baths on 3 finished levels, hardwood floors & crown molding, beautiful updates, attic storage, assigned parking, community pool, tennis. Susan Craft 703.216.4501 www.SusanCraft.com



Old Town

\$1,579,000

Circa 1820, this classic plaqued house is an exceptional 3/4-bedroom, 2.5-bath renovated property. Original floors,

tall windows, a double parlor living room with handsome crown moldings, fireplace mantels and chandeliers. Chef's kitchen adjoins a sunny breakfast room overlooking the deep private garden.

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421 www.BabsBeckwith.com

OPEN SUN 2/25, 2-4



Alexandria

\$889,900

Del Ray character and convenience surround this 3 year old Pulte end unit townhouse that still shines like a new build! Features 4 finished

levels, 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, numerous upgrades, a roof top terrace with city views and enviable location near shops, dining and more. thegoodhartgroup.com/listings/601-e-alexandria/

Sue & Allison Goodhart 703.362.3221 www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

OPEN SUN 2/25, 2-4



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\$1,495,000

Beautiful fully DETACHED home in desirable SE Quadrant. Gracious formal rooms and abundant natural light with

windows on all 4 sides of the house. 5 wood burning fireplaces, sensational eat-in kitchen, delightful screened in porch leads to private, professionally landscaped garden. 426 S Fairfax Street

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079 www.LaurenBishopHomes.com

OPEN SUN 2/25, 2-4



Alexandria

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Gorgeous all-brick duplex. This home offers 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths over 3 levels. The family room addition is perfect for everyday living

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Wreath-Laying at Mount Vernon Estate

Crowds throng to George and Martha Washington's tomb for ceremony.

Admission was free to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate on President's Day, Monday, Feb. 19, which marked the Father of our Country's 286th birthday with more than 10,000 visitors to the site. A line of 100 people stretched around the grounds of George and Martha Washington's tomb — their final resting place — for the afternoon wreath-laying ceremony.

During the ceremony, Marine Corps veteran Holly Long of Quantico recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Eric Lutz of Arlington read Washington's Prayer for His Country. At the tomb, a wreath was sent from President Trump and there were also wreaths laid by Naval members of the U.S.S. George Washington as well as the Freemasons. George Washington is buried to the right and his wife Martha to the left. Some 25 family members are also laid to rest behind the vault.

"Today on President's Day we are honored to have so many members of the public joining us in conducting a wreath-laying for our first president, George Washington, at his final resting place. We will be using volunteers who are also veterans to lay a wreath here," said Anette Ahrens, interpretive supervisor.



Anette Ahrens, interpretive supervisor at Mount Vernon Estate (center), leads visitors in the recitation of Washington's Prayer for His Country and the Pledge of Allegiance at the wreath-laying ceremony in front of George Washington's tomb.

Other President's Day activities at Mount Vernon included the Continental soldiers of the Commander-in-Chief's Guard conducting a marching drill, firing their guns and charging their enemy in a military demonstration; and Washington's family sharing stories about past celebrations of the General's birthday. The Old Guard Fife and

Drum Corps played patriotic music on the grounds and visitors could also peruse the Washington Library for the opportunity to tour the reading room and examine replica documents. Mount Vernon Estate also held a swearing-in ceremony for new American citizens.

— STEVE HIBBARD

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/
THE GAZETTE



Eric Lutz of Arlington reads "Washington's Prayer for His Country" in front of George Washington's tomb.



Anette Ahrens, interpretive supervisor at Mount Vernon Estate, with the wreath donated by President Trump at George Washington's tomb.



Holly Long of Quantico (center) recited the Pledge of Allegiance. She is pictured with her family members – Justin Mason, Ashlynn Long, Isabel Mason, and Zoey Mason in front of George Washington's tomb. Both Holly Long and Justin Mason are Marine Corps veterans.



The Burns family from East Berlin, Pa., are photographed outside of George Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon Estate.



Braxton Kunde of St. George, Utah; Megan Phillips of Fredericksburg, Va.; and Morgan Harrison of Preston, Idaho; in front of George and Martha Washington's tomb at Mount Vernon Estate.



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News

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE



Four-year-olds in Mrs. McPeck's and Mrs. Metcalf's class compete in hockey.



McKean Gillett competes in the Relay Race for 4-year-olds. He is in Mrs. Collins' and Mrs. Gerig's class.

Experiencing the Olympics

Aldersgate Day School holds its own Winter Olympics.

Aldersgate Day School in Mount Vernon held its third annual Winter Olympics on Feb. 20-21 for 165 children ages 2 to Kindergarten. The event included an Opening and Closing Ceremony, a Medals Ceremony, and sports competitions in eight events, including ice skating, hockey, figure skating, and volleyball and an obstacle course.

"It's a good opportunity for them to get exercise, connect with the Winter Olympics that are on TV that they're all watching, and just to have a lot of fun and do some-

thing different in their school day," said preschool director Patty Spitnale.

"We had an Opening Ceremonies this morning; we'll have a Closing Ceremonies at noon and they pass the torch and then have a Medals Ceremony in their classrooms, so it's a really good way for them to connect with the Olympics that they're watching on TV."

Aldersgate Day School is connected to Aldersgate United Methodist Church on Collingwood Road in Mount Vernon.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Emma Dawson tries her luck at speed skating. She is in Mrs. Olsen's and Mrs. Hotchkiss's 2-year-old class.

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

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.

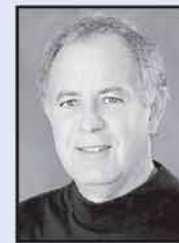
THURSDAY/FEB. 22

Importance of Exercise. 11:30 a.m.-noon at Curves of Alexandria, 7918 Fort Hunt Road. Curves of Alexandria hosts Dr. David Weintritt, founder of the National Breast Center and National Breast Care Foundation, speaking about the importance of exercise to prevent cancer, and treatment advancements. Free. Email CurvesofAlexandria@gmail.com or call 703-721-2044.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Boater Safety Classes. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Boater Safety Classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Students who pass the test receive a boater education certificate recognized by the Coast Guard, Virginia and all other states that require boater education. Contact Moses Pettigrew at msgtop@verizon.net or 202-616-8987.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 16



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**OPEN
SUNDAY 1-4**



Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000
8807 Vernon View Drive
Lovely 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl, Split on a lg, beautiful .3 acre lot w/a fenced bkyd. Freshly painted interior & beautiful refinished hdwds. Main lvl has a spacious & cozy Family rm w/gas FPL, 4th BR, & 2nd full bath. Upper level #1 offers an open kitchen plus Living & Dining Rm. Upper level #2 has a full bath & 3BRs. The lower level has a lg partially finished Rec rm. Good price on a

super lot & very nice home that you can add some personal touches to.

RENTAL



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).

UNDER CONTRACT



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 conveys). 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!

UNDER CONTRACT



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).

UNDER CONTRACT



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!!

SOLD



Alex/Yacht Haven \$644,000
9417 Forest Haven Drive
Stunning immaculate 2 level Rambler on a large spectacular landscaped half acre lot. Updated: Kitchen w/corrian, 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.



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OPINION

Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

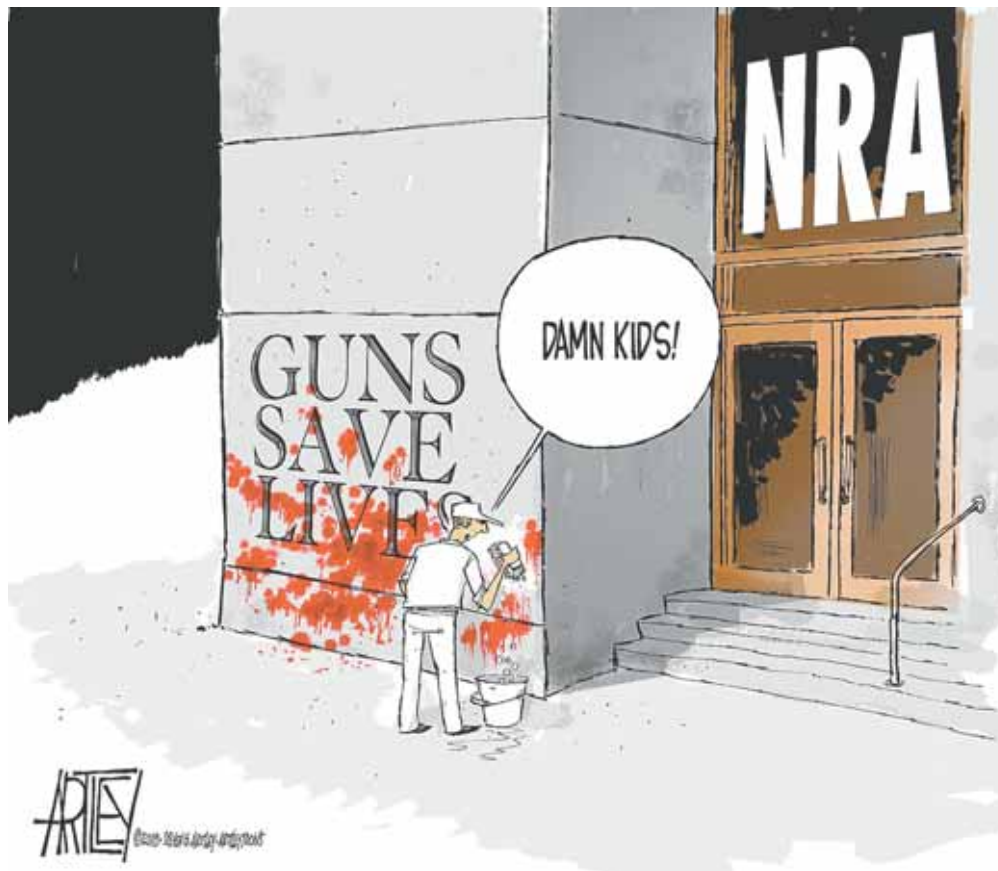
You can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

EDITORIAL Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.



“Wash, Rinse, Repeat.”

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

“I’m with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

there. “As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?”

“I’m with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. “So proud to see America’s young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don’t let anyone tell you that there isn’t hope, that we can’t fight for change and win. There is and we can.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Embarrassed Virginian

To the Editor:

I just learned that the boys in some committee in Richmond voted against the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). The fact that the ERA bill has yet to be passed in my opinion should be offensive to all U.S. citizens. What does “We the People” really mean? As far as the Virginia’s boys club not passing it (all the men/boys voted against it and the women voted for it), I believe that any issue as significant as the ERA Amendment should be voted on by the Virginia’s general public — Not a by a male-dominated committee in the backroom. The ERA Amendment should be put on the November 2018 ballot.

Gregory J. Maley
Mt. Vernon

Serving Whose Interests?

To the Editor:

Scott Surovell is so proud of himself as reported in last week’s Gazette. The good senator after eight consecutive annual failures has finally succeeded in convincing the General Assembly to raise Virginia’s threshold between misdemeanors and felonies from \$200 to \$500. Despite this “success,” he still bemoans that a \$500 threshold is still the second lowest in the United States. I am wondering: Who is Senator Surovell representing in this effort, his constituents or the clients in his law practice?

Senator Surovell’s law firm website touts its great effectiveness having “prevailed in the most serious of cases, such as those involving murder charges.” The website holds his firm out as experts in defending criminals in-

cluding those accused of committing “Theft and other property crimes.” Does anybody sniff a conflict of interest here? The scent of conflict is quite strong.

Fairfax County has one of the lowest crime rates in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. There are several reasons why this is the case. First and foremost, we have a superb police force that maintains an active presence patrolling our county and investigating crimes. Next, our citizenry is aware and vigilant and understands the concept that if you see something, say something. The underpinning of effectiveness in reducing crime is the Virginia Code which, up until Senator Surovell’s efforts, made it a felony to steal property having a value of \$200 or more. Now the threshold will be \$500.

Think of all the property items you possess that are worth just under \$500 and realize that, now,

thanks to the efforts of the good senator, criminals will be less deterred from stealing such items because they know that, not only will they not be in peril of being convicted of a felony which could result in a prison term of greater than a year, additionally, lawyers like Scott Surovell can more easily plea bargain the theft of your thousand dollar television down to a misdemeanor.

Thank you to those of you who sent Scott Surovell to Richmond to represent the interests of his law firm and their criminal defendant clients as opposed to you. I am not embarrassed by Virginia’s low state-by-state ranking in the category of the dollar threshold between misdemeanor and felony. To the contrary, I am satisfied with that low ranking because it helps us to be a low crime jurisdiction.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mt. Vernon

Mount Vernon Gazette

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2151 Jamieson Ave #1606-07, Alexandria VA Large 3 BR condo with Great Room plus 37" glass enclosed balcony. Located In Carlyle towers middle building with 24 hour desk! Large Chef's kitchen, garage and possible guest suite. Wood floors, moldings, built-ins and updated baths! Close to PTO, Whole Foods, CVS, metro, VRE & Amtrack. Dash bus outside the door. Floor plan available. Give Marie a call! \$895,000 Marie Louise Meyer (703) 929-1002 <http://bit.ly/2z48wVi>



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827 Elaine Court. Alexandria VA Handsome colonial on a quiet cul-de-sac just steps from the Mount Vernon Bike Path. Four bedrooms, main floor family room and one-car garage! \$785,000 Jane Cole (703) 598-6198 & Shelly Lynch (951) 296-8539 <http://bit.ly/2C4vnVK>



Riverside Gardens

1804 Stirrup Lane, Alexandria VA Lovely updated 6 bedroom / 3 bathroom home in Riverside Gardens! Open kitchen, open foyer, recessed lighting, crown molding, wood floors, updated bathrooms, large deck and fully fenced yard! Welcome home!! \$765,000 Tracy Vitlali (904) 505-1874 <http://bit.ly/2Hopou4>



Dyes Oakcrest

1311 Kenwood Avenue, Alexandria VA Colonial w/renovated kitchen and baths. Huge deck and landscaped yard. HWs, FP in LR, separate DR w/ fresh paint, attic storage, driveway, enclosed porch. LL offers FR, full bath. Walk to shopping and dining. \$765,000 Cathy D'Antuono (703) 819-3077 <http://bit.ly/2Cpn2HS>



Huntington Forest

6268 Gentle Lane, Alexandria VA Beautifully updated home in Wilton Woods area. 3BR, 2BA, study on main level, large deck overlooking treed lot, dark hardwood floors, open Floorplan. \$645,000 Rita McCauley-Redmond (703) 447-9114 <http://bit.ly/2Hla0P8>



COMING SOON • Sunny View

3460 Little Hunting Creek, Alexandria VA Beautifully remodeled 4 BD/2.5 BA. 1/3 acre lot w/ mature trees. Gorgeous kitchen, large master suite, hardwoods, fireplace, large screened porch & garage. So much for the price. \$495,000 Jeanne Atkins (703) 786-0585 <http://bit.ly/2Bzvtnd>



Open House, Sunday 2-4pm • Alexandria House

400 Madison St #1205. Alexandria VA Take the GW Parkway to Old Town Alexandria. Turn left on Madison St. then right on Pitt St. Take a left into the circular drive with parking. \$440,000 Lib & Bob Willey (703) 362-7206 <http://bit.ly/2sNmMD8>



Amberleigh

6512 Langleigh Way, Alexandria VA Recently renovated from top to bottom townhome walking distance to metro! Updated kit, floors, paint & more. 2 Master bds, 2.5 ba w/fin LL close to everything! \$409,900 Tanya Blosser (703) 310-8053 <http://bit.ly/2FixS0r>



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Open House Sunday 2-4pm • Northampton Pl

3101 N Hampton Dr. #404. Alexandria VA Best value in bldg! Sunny corner unit, 2 master bed/ba PLUS DEN w/ 2 gar pkg sp, new neutral carpet/paint, wake to sky and tree views, balcony, W/D in unit, & more! PRIME location nr Ptn/DCA/Mark Cntr, amenity filled pet-friendly bldg w/ all utilities but electric/cable, FHA/VA approved, priced under market value to sell FAST! \$317,500 The York Group (703) 409-3377 <http://bit.ly/2CbeRn1>



James Lee

2856 Annandale Rd, Falls Church VA Beautifully renovated throughout! Fresh new wall-to-wall carpet, paint. New countertops, stainless steel appliances, closet doors and light fixtures. Electric, heat, water are all included in condo fee! Easy commuting East Falls Church Metro, bus stops. Use of the Community Center seconds away. Dine out nearby Mosaic District, shop in Tyson's Corner and Seven Corners. \$189,500 Joyce Jones (703) 731-6071 <http://bit.ly/2EMgQig>

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OPINION

Negotiating the State Budget

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Week Six of the General Assembly brought us to the midpoint of session, completion of work on all bills in our own chambers, and announcement of the proposed House and Senate budgets.

Twenty-one of my bills "crossed over" to the House of Delegates including several this week. First, my legislation continuing the moratorium on permitting the closure of coal ash ponds was continued for 14 months so the legislature could have more time to gather information.

Most other states have moved towards recycling coal ash into products such as bricks and concrete instead of burying it in the ground for eternity. Dominion has estimated that recycling will cost \$4-8 billion but the recycling community contends that is greatly

overstated. My bill requires Dominion to seek specific recycling proposals from coal ash recyclers and to pass proposals along to the legislature so

we can consider the actual cost of recycling next year. It is important that we have correct information before we decide to make a decision that will pass along over a billion dollars of cost to electricity ratepayers.

Second, my legislation to place a 36 percent interest rate cap on consumer finance lenders passed the full Senate on a 37-2 vote after going back and forth to committee on a long journey. The bill faces a committee that has already approved a hostile bill in the House of Delegates, but I am hopeful that we can work out a compromise. Online lenders charging

SEE STATE BUDGET, PAGE 18



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Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Throughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

"For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important," said Intondi, who is the author of "African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement."

"One could argue that there wouldn't



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don't learn about him because he was gay," continued Intondi. "So part of what's important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on."

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. "I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors," she said. "I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold."

"Books that I made students memorize [include] 'I, Too, Am American' and 'My People,' both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; 'I Have a Dream,' [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,' [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], 'Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.,' 'Tar Beach' and 'Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky,' [both by Faith Ringgold] and 'If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks' are book that my youngest students can dramatize," said Lado.

"Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom" by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. "This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad," she said. "I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners."

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, "We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years."

Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: "Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird" by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intondi, is "The John Carlos Story" by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. "There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin," he said. "The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book."

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America's past and puts current happenings into perspective. "Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality," said Intondi. "Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world."

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OPINION

Finding Funding for Mass Transit

PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Improving mass transit around Virginia is one of the General Assembly's top priorities for 2018. The most important transportation bill this year would create a dedicated source of revenue for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), better known as Metro. Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax) is the patron of this legislation.

COMMENTARY

On Feb. 13, the Senate of Virginia passed SB856 25 to 15. It is now in the House Committee on Appropriations, where I sit, and will champion this measure. This bill would provide Virginia's share of funding to WMATA necessary to address the system's repair needs from a mix of dedicated state, regional, and local sources. Additional WMATA reforms and funding for the Virginia Railway Express are also incorporated in the bill.

I opposed the House version of this bill, HB1539, from Delegate Hugo (R-Clifton), because it left WMATA underfunded by a third, and did not include the budget for necessary capital improvements. It also in-

cluded unnecessary and harmful anti-worker language that would have made it more difficult for hard-working Virginians to get ahead. I strongly support the Senate version.

Northern Virginia would suffer severely without a mass transit option. Thousands of Metro employees would lose their jobs and all those passengers would be back on our roads, leading to even worse gridlock. VDOT projects 56,500 more lane miles of congestion would occur on just the major roadways. Other studies suggest there could be an 80 percent decrease in jobs that are accessible now by mass transit for Northern Virginians.

Public transportation is critical to Virginia's congestion mitigation, economic development, environmental stewardship, and connectivity to jobs, medical services, and educational opportunities. We must not allow our transit infrastructure to deteriorate — our economic future is riding on Metro.

With only four weeks left during this General Assembly session, it is imperative that we pass good legislation to fund the improvement of mass transit. I hope SB856 will pass the House, as it would replace the proposed half-billion in new debt authorization, with approximately \$20 million in

new funding to mass transit.

Metro would receive \$30 million of existing state funding currently allocated to other transportation projects, without affecting the status of those projects. Currently, the Northern Virginia Transportation District Bonds debt service receives about \$20 million from existing state recordation tax revenues. The Rail Enhancement Fund receives about \$10 million per year.

WMATA would receive \$154 million in annual capital funding to address the state of repair needs. The General Assembly would require WMATA to limit year-over-year operating expense growth to 3 percent. This bill also authorizes the Commonwealth Transportation Board to withhold up to 20 percent of WMATA allocations in years where the rate is smaller than the growth.

WMATA must also create and adopt a stra-

tegic plan and a six-year capital improvement program if this bill were to pass. The Commonwealth could withhold up to 20 percent of the funds dedicated to WMATA in the event of non-compliance.

Use of Metrorail and the VRE generates about \$600 million each year in sales and income tax revenues, which is about equal to Virginia's general fund expenditures on state-colleges and state police. For every dollar that is invested into Metrorail and VRE, Virginia receives \$2.50.

While Virginia has historically underfunded mass transit, SB856 would implement critical infrastructure projects and increase funding to alleviate the existing maintenance problems. Virginians rely on mass transit, and we must ensure they have a safe, affordable way to commute to and from work everyday.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.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

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 17

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

ONGOING

“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 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.

Poster Exhibit. Through Feb. 28, artwork from the winners of the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Poster Contest will be on exhibit at City Hall, 301 King St. The annual contest, sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage, is for Alexandria City Public School students in grades 2-5. This year’s contest theme is “Serving the People, Serving America, Serving Alexandria.” Visit alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory or call 703-746-4356.

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.

1939 Library Sit-In Display. Through Feb. 28, at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Beatley Central Library will host the 16-panel display on the 1939 Library Sit-In — one of America’s first civil rights sit-ins that took place on Aug. 21, 1939. Stop by any library location and get a free commemorative Library Sit-In pin. February Tours of the Freedom House Museum. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

U-Street the Musical. Through March 3, 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.

FEB. 22-MARCH 25

Photo-documentary Study. Various times at Theatre Two, Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington. Select photos from artist/photographer Nina Tisara’s photo-documentary study of worship in Alexandria’s predominantly African American churches for Avant Bard’s production of the “Gospel at

‘Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret’

Singer Roz White to perform at MetroStage in Alexandria.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

MetroStage in Alexandria is presenting “Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret,” conceived and performed by Roz White, on Saturday and Sunday, Feb 24-25. The show is the first in its Spring Solo Series celebrating work by women, about women, and starring women.

Actor and MetroStage favorite 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. Empowered by their determination, talent and artistry, each has a story to tell and music to be celebrated. The music director and piano accompanist is Michael Hill.

According to Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director at MetroStage, “‘Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret’ is the inspiration of Roz White, one of MetroStage’s favorite artists. She has performed in so many of our productions playing singers like Billie Holliday, Pearl Bailey, Alberta Hunter and so many more that it only seems right that Roz would devise a show featuring five influential revolutionary female performing artists. From Sister Rosetta Tharpe to Alberta Hunter to Nina Simone and so many others, these women have contributed so much and influenced so many artists that followed.”

Griffin added that MetroStage has always been committed to diversity in the stories it tells — from the stage as well as diversity in casting — and has always offered a production in February especially appropriate for Black History Month. “So, a musical presentation celebrating the influence and power of these African American vocal artists seems like it is a perfect fit,” she said. “We are proud to showcase Roz White and her incredible range of talent on our stage and give her an opportunity to pay tribute to these African American musical icons.”

According to White, “I have been crafting solo performance pieces since my senior year at Howard University as a musical theatre major. My mentor, Mike Malone, co-founder of The Duke Ellington School of the Arts, was the coordinator of the musical theatre program

Colonus.” An afterchat is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 3 p.m.

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/.

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.

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. No

registration required. 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



Roz White will perform in her solo show, “Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret” at MetroStage, in Alexandria.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

excellence,” she said.

White has been seen in many of MetroStage’s productions and world premieres over the past 15 years beginning with “Three Sistahs” in 2002, and including “Blackberry Daze,” “Gin Game,” “Black Pearl Sings,” “Shake Loose,” “Uprising,” “Bessie’s Blues,” “Cool Papa’s Party,” and others.

The other two shows in the Spring Solo Series include “George ... Don’t Do That,” the music and magic of British comedienne Joyce Grenfell, which is devised and performed by British actor Catherine Flye, on March 8-25. Flye starred in the holiday show, “Christmas at the Old Bull and Bush.” Next up is “I Did It My Way in Yiddish” (In English), written and performed by Canadian/New Zealand Jewish comic actor, musician and writer Deb Filler, on April 13-29.

And in addition to the Spring Solo Series, there will be a series of free play readings by a group of women playwrights, the Pipeline Playwrights, on Mondays, March 26, April 16 and April 30. This is their second annual visit to MetroStage.

Performances for “Resist: A Revolutionary Cabaret” are Saturday, Feb 24 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 25 at 3 p.m. All tickets are \$45. The MetroStage venue is located at 1201 N. Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

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.

“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.

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 scrapper in 1858 through the 20th century. Visit 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.

90th Anniversary Luncheon. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Celebrating with a luncheon and a period fashion show spanning our 90 years of service to the National Society of the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) of the Nelly Custis Chapter will be held. \$45. Call 703-909-1605 or visit nellycustisdar.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 dresses – 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.

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/.

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 at the door. Visit 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



PHOTO BY JIM TURNER

Complete Dogness

Complete Dogness is a new family friendly performance about a delightful little doggy with bad habits. She can eat a delicious wool sweater or steal a whole block of cheese in no time. But there is hope as Barky learns new tricks and as the whole family adjusts. The performance incorporates spoken word, movement, and music. \$15 adults, \$10 children under age 10. Sunday, March 11, 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Call 703-933-1111 and www.nvfaa.org.

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. In addition to the February concert, a video compilation created by the duo will play in the Parker-Gray gallery during Black History Month. Call 703-746-4356.

Family Bingo Night. 5-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Join Good Shepherd Housing for their second Family Bingo Night. Tickets include a pasta dinner, refreshments (beer and wine available for purchase separately), plenty of prizes and a fun silent auction. Get tickets at 501auctions.com/gshbingo?blm_aid=27934; \$25 (includes dinner and six bingo cards); \$10 children 5-10 years old (includes dinner and six bingo cards); children under 5 can free. Call 703-768-9404 or visit www.goodhousing.org.

Spy a Woodcock Courtship. 5:30-7 p.m. at Huntley Meadows, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. As spring approaches, a woodcock's fancy turns to love. Don't miss the chance to hopefully witness the woodcock's amazing courtship ritual during a stroll through Huntley Meadows Park. Plan for a walk of approximately 1.5 miles on uneven terrain, and bring a flashlight. This event will be canceled if it rains. \$7. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

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.

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. Empowered by their determination, talent and artistry, each has a story to tell and music to be celebrated. Call 703-548-9044 or visit 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/.

“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 for the 2018 ReelAbilities Film Festival, which is powered by the Jewish Community Center of Northern VA. Free, but RSVP for seats and refreshments at tinyurl.com/BethEl-TheFinishers-2-25-18.

Choral Lenten Evensong. 7:30 p.m. 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

THE AUDIENCE

Peer behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace into the woman behind the crown and the moments that have formed the modern monarchy. Written by Peter Morgan, the creator of “The Crown” Netflix series.

SHOW DATES:
February 24 - March 17, 2018

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'The Audience'

Story of Queen Elizabeth's behind-the-scenes meetings with her prime ministers.

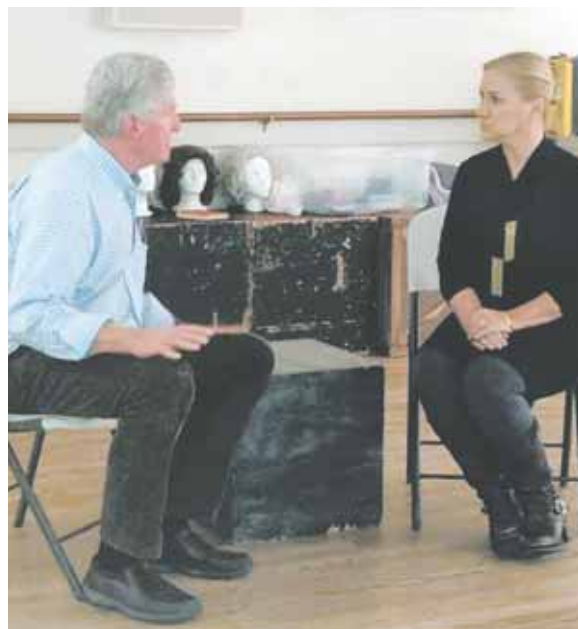
BY STEVE HIBBARD

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Audience" from Feb. 24 to March 17. From the writer of the Netflix drama, "The Crown," playwright Peter Morgan takes audiences behind the scenes of Buckingham Palace. For the past 60 years, Queen Elizabeth II has met with each of her 12 prime ministers in private, weekly meetings at Buckingham Palace. Both parties agree to never repeat what is said in these private "audiences." From Churchill to Margaret Thatcher, Morgan imagines what these meetings would be like as they span decades of the Queen's reign.

Co-producer and LTA President Russell Wyland has produced more than 20 shows at LTA and has been active at the theatre for 28 years. "The longer I am around LTA, the more choosy I become about shows and the more I want to work with people who are bringing new energy to our troupe. I won't produce just any show anymore. It has to either connect to my personal interests or it has to have some unique technical challenge. 'The Audience' has both. My education background (BA, MA, and PhD) is in British literature, and 'The Audience' has been high on my list of shows to produce since I first read about it when it was running in London's West End," he said. His co-producer on this show is Rebecca Sheehy.

He added: "Author Peter Morgan didn't really know what went on behind the closed doors of the Queen's Buckingham Palace drawing room when he wrote the play, but anyone interested in English literature or history has wondered about the famous interactions between queen and prime minister. I am no different and as a sort of Anglophile who visits England once or twice a year, the show feels very real to me."

Nicky McDonnell is playing the lead role of Queen Elizabeth. She said what strikes her about Elizabeth is her broad worldly view of humanity and her compassion and understanding of the Commonwealth — not just the UK. "Over the years I have watched and read many pieces on the monarchy. The images of hats and pearls and carriages and all the pomp and circumstance seem to take



Will Cooke (Prime Minister Harold Wilson) talks with Nicky McDonnell (Queen Elizabeth II) in LTA's production of "The Audience."

PHOTO BY
CHRISTINE FARRELL

his war heroics, his stubborn and often obstinate manner, but most significantly his devout, undying and indefatigable love for his country," he said.

"Eden, who apprenticed for 15 years under Churchill, was a good man most likely better suited for apprenticeship. Thrust into leadership, his tenure shortened by addiction and scandal, he bore a striking image and earned popularity among the Commonwealth, but soon wilted badly under the weight of conflict," he said.

Richard Isaacs is playing two roles as Prime Ministers Tony Blair and David Cameron. "The main challenge I've found in playing both Tony Blair and David Cameron is finding any distinction between the two. I've watched Robert Heiny (as Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden) and Janette Moman (Margaret Thatcher and young Elizabeth's nanny) do this beautifully. They really bring their characters to life ... you would never think it was the same actor playing both roles. But Blair and Cameron are contemporaries, same age, same school, similar demographics, they dress the same, and are possibly fans of each other. There's not much to differentiate the two personality-wise," he said.

Director Ruben Vellekoop said his biggest challenge in directing was staying true to Peter Morgan's characters. "While it is a piece about legends, in this room in Buckingham Palace, they can be just people: people who lived and breathed, but who are still characters in a play. It was never my goal to make this a documentary; instead I wanted to embrace those hints of magic in 'The Audience.' And just like you and me, their lives go up and down, with only history deciding how they are remem-

bered," he said.

Brian Lyons-Burke is playing the role of Prime Minister John Major. "From a bare reading of the script, it would be easy to present John Major as a caricature, and in fact, to play the role a bit 'over the top' for laughs," he said. "Instead, I have been led by my director and my fellow actors to reach for an understanding of the person, of their challenges, and of their role in the management of the British Government in support of the Queen," he said.

Will Cooke is playing the role of Prime Minister Harold Wilson, a Labor Prime Minister who served two terms: 1964-1970 and 1974-1976. "He came from a very humble background in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, but was gifted with a brilliant mind, a photographic memory, a commitment to serve the least fortunate of society, and an exemplary education, earning two Firsts from Jesus College, Oxford. He was a Civil Servant all his life," he said.

Evie Graham Jewett is playing the role of young Elizabeth. "Young Elizabeth is processing the fact that her uncle has abdicated the throne, making her the heir apparent. She has to move to the palace, trade her schoolwork for courtly training and most markedly, give up a piece of herself. She desperately wants to be a child, but the crown comes with a very adult costume. Her conversations with The Queen, are like those of a little girl with her imaginary friend. She shows spunk, curiosity and a hint of vulnerability," she said.

Paul Donahue plays the role of the Equerry, the right-hand man to the Queen. "He manages her day-to-day appointments and affairs and therefore is always an open ear to anything that may be on her mind. In this production, he is a kind of timeless narrator painting a picture of the setting and time stamping the scenes with each of her Majesty's prime ministers," he said.

The Little Theatre of Alexandria is presenting "The Audience" from Feb. 24 to March 17. Show times are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19 and \$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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.

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 A "Gallery Workout" heightens the perception of visual art with movement and sound that leads to a greater understanding of the art itself. \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 26

Freedom Riders. 6:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Based on Raymond Arsenault's

book "Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice," this two-hour documentary tells the story of the summer of 1961 when more than 400 Black and white Americans risked their lives traveling together in the segregated South to protest segregation. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

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: The Great Debaters (PG-13). Enjoy free popcorn while supplies last. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/e/black-history-month-movie-series-tickets-42260523363.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

"Border." 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Visual art, movement, audio interviews by community members focus on borders. Hear of chance happenings told through movement and spoken word. Learn about people who have inspired a redirection of action, aided others in crossing boundaries or made barriers insignificant. Find threads of bias, isolation and loneliness residing alongside the urge for belonging. \$15 at www.nvfaa.org.

World War I Lecture Series. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Join The Lyceum for Women's History Month and three lectures about women's contributions to the World War I war effort. "The Hello Girls" (with a book signing) by

Elizabeth Cobbs. On the eve of American involvement in World War I, the Selective Service Act drafted 2.8 million American men to do their part for home and country. Three hundred remarkable women known as "The Hello Girls" were selected to operate the vital communications network that helped the Allies win. \$10 per person; all three lectures \$25 (March 1, 15, 22). Reservations recommended. Tickets at shop.alexandria.gov.

MARCH 1-31

Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (closed Tuesdays) at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. The 55th annual Needlework show and sale at Woodlawn Estate, the historic home

of Nelly Custis, America's foremost needleworker. Exhibits, vendors, workshops, house tours, and more for the whole family. Adults \$15, k-12 \$6, 5 and under free. Call 703-570-6903 or visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/.

MARCH 1-APRIL 15

"Parallel Lives." Various times, March 1-April 15, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In Parallel Lives transcultural humanity is on display. Curated by Brigitte Reyes, five artists (Antonius Bui, Amy Chan, Nekisha Durrett, Muriel Hasbun, and Jeff Huntington) bridging diverse cultures and aesthetic traditions embrace and explore their place in the world. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 2-APRIL 1

“Outdoors In.” Various times at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Outdoors In” showcases the ways artists see nature and depict it in paintings, sculptures, textiles, mixed media, and drawings. Before the camera, much of what we knew about nature came from artists and others who drew and painted what they saw and experienced. Artists include local students. Opening reception takes place Friday, March 2, 7-9 p.m. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

Songwriting Contest Finalists Perform. 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists (including Jarrett Nicolay of Alexandria) and one will win the \$10,000 Grand Prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. Three songwriters from the Young Songwriter category (applicants who are under 18 years of age) will also perform live and compete for \$2,500. Tickets will be \$15 and \$20 and available at www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Historic Sites in Peril. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Meet leaders in Mid-Atlantic archaeology, and learn about their challenges and finds. Speakers from a variety of projects in Virginia and Maryland will discuss sites in peril. Refreshments and lunch included in registration. Registration is \$55; \$45 for Friends of Gunston

Hall and Friends of Fairfax Archaeology, \$25 students. Contact Lacey Villiva at lvilliva@gunstonhall.org, or 703-550-9220. To register online, visit bit.ly/2BcZskw.

Writer’s Workshop. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Author Sheila Moses will conduct a workshop for young adults (age 16 and older) and adults interested in writing for the young adult market. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. This workshop is limited to 14 people. A continental breakfast and snacks will be provided. Bring lunch. Reservations are required, and the \$100 registration fee must be paid online by March 1 at shop.alexandriava.gov. For more information, call 703-746-4356.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Classic car show is from 9:30-11 a.m. Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon. Parade starts at 12:15 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Don green and line King Street in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia to kick off the D.C. region’s St. Patrick’s Day celebrations at the 37th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick’s Day Parade presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Visit www.ballyshanners.org for schedule and locations.

Needle and Thread-Maker Market & Pop-Up Shop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A historically-hip shopping experience on the first Saturday of the Annual Needlework Show. Area makers sell their needle art and textile-based wares in the front entrance to the historic mansion. Call 703-570-6903



Above: 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 or call 703-548-0035.

or visit woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade Open House. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. John Carlyle’s son-in-law, William Herbert, immigrated to America from Ireland and married Sarah Carlyle. He became an influential merchant, banker, and politician in Alexandria, resigning as Mayor on the eve of the War of 1812. Step back in time to see what life was like in the 19th century in Alexandria, and to learn more about this part of Carlyle’s family life. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit www.novaparks.com.

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 Sweet Sophia local honey product tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Floral Design Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Make a beautiful, early spring flower arrangement using cut flowers and flowering branches with the help of designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn to harvest and force flowering branches and get ideas for ways to use them in floral designs at home. Register for program code and supply fee – \$38/person, with a \$25/person supply fee. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 112 6601 for program and 290 112 6602 for supply fee, or call 703-642-5173.

Concerts at St. Luke’s. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. Concerts at St. Luke’s presents Melissa Mino, soprano and Brad Clark, pianist, offering a program of American Art Songs, arias, and tunes from the Great

American Songbook. A reception will follow to meet the artists. \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

The Origin of Manners Tea

Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Concepts of courtesy and good manners have defined cultures throughout history and made social interaction run smoothly. Learn how manners have changed from medieval times to the Victorian era to the present day, and consider the differences between “good manners” and “etiquette.” For adults. \$32/person (program and tea); \$12 (program only). By reservation only. Call 703-941-7987.

Winter Lecture Series. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. No southern garden would be complete without a beautiful azalea. Azalea expert Don Hyatt discusses the diversity of Asian evergreen azaleas, including old favorites, newer introductions and recent trends in hybridizing. For adults. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes using code 290 186 0601 or call 703-642-5173.

“Parallel Lives” Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. In Parallel Lives transcultural humanity is on display. Curated by Brigitte Reyes, five artists (Antonius Bui, Amy Chan, Nekisha Durrett, Muriel Hasbun, and Jeff Huntington) bridging diverse cultures and aesthetic traditions embrace and explore their place in the world. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.




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Meet Carol and MJ. Carol and MJ are great buddies. They are also next door neighbors. Carol is 88 years old and MJ is 79. Carol moved to Hermitage Northern Virginia from Arlington about a year before MJ, who came from Montgomery County, Maryland. After moving, the two friends discovered a shared love of outdoor walks on the grounds of the community and around the quiet neighborhood streets. Carol focuses on her balance with a functional fitness class 4x a week and MJ enjoys reading in the library. Carol likes the many interesting people and MJ enjoys the many excursions and the reading club. It feels like a family here at Hermitage Northern Virginia.

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Testing Body-Worn Cameras

FROM PAGE 1

was Chief of Police Edwin C. Roessler Jr. He was joined by Major Christian Quinn and Captain Chantel Cochrane as well as others, including Kofi Annan, president of Fairfax NAACP. The body worn cameras were on hand and available for demonstration.

ROESSLER explained the Body Worn Camera Pilot Program is a model program based on nationwide best practices and input from a committee of community stakeholders and organizations. Roessler explained the program is designed to understand the scope of the project's cost, how the policy would best work, staff needed to run a full-time program, and to study whether or not body worn cameras have a reduction in complaints against officers and a reduction in the use of force deployment in the community.

One of the major questions Roessler clarified is when to turn the cameras on and off to protect privacy rights of the community while at the same time not compromising the task or safety of the officers.

During the news conference, Roessler said the department engaged multiple community stakeholders in the development of the program, as well as mental health advocates, and other community agencies that serve individuals in crisis.

According to Roessler, American University will gather and study data from the cameras to see if their use makes a difference in the community and for the police officers. The analysis will cover data and community feedback over the length of the program and will assess the impacts before, during, and after the pilot program window.

During the news conference, Roessler pointed out that School Resource Officers would not be part of the pilot project. He emphasized if an officer who is part of the project is called for service in a school and the officer comes in as a backup officer or if the officer works off-duty at a school function, such as a sports event, the camera will be worn.

During the presentation and question and answer period, topics centered on the body cameras, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), when videos would be released and deleted, and staffing changes.

Annan said, "The policy has gone from being really a policy written 'for cops by cops' to one that includes concerns from the community I do think it was very important that the community was involved and especially from the minority community which has traditionally ... had a lot of concerns with the regards of trust This is a great opportunity to shore up that trust by helping to bolster the transparency portion that factors into the police trust."

COCHRANE explained, if it is a service call, meaning there is no crime in process, like a domestic dispute, and the officers are let into the house on a consent basis, if the officer is asked to turn off the recording, the officer will stop recording. Notwithstanding, if anytime later while at the scene, there is a sign of something criminal, violent, or there is going to be a use of force, the officers will start recording once again. She noted there is the 30-second buffer built into the camera.

Roessler added: "There are many nuances and this (pilot program) will provide us the opportunity to work with the community, so we all understand on/off, delete/not delete."

Quinn said, "We are bringing in some limited term employees both on the IT side and the Information Technology Bureau. So, we are going to have 24/7 technical support for the program throughout its duration. We're also bringing in some folks that are going to be assigned to the Media Relations Bureau, that's where we currently process FOIA requests, Freedom of Information Act as well as visual video evidence for the Commonwealth attorney and also internal law enforcement requests."

Quinn added that by the evening of March 1 Fairfax County Police Department should have 200 cameras on the street and have all their workforce trained by March 13.

Psychological Readiness for Life and Lifelong Learning." For information, call 703-324-7006, TTY 711. Free. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/a-community-conversation-strengthening-youth-resiliency-tickets-43005383259.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Chamber Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Chamber's March Business Breakfast will feature the new Superintendent of Fairfax County Public School Dr. Scott Brabrand. Get an update on the status of area schools. \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for guests. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

FRIDAY/MARCH 9

Growing Roses. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Green Spring is hosting a series of Garden Talks with Master Gardeners during the winter months of 2018. Discover common-sense approaches to growing roses and precautions to take to ensure growing success. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/.

Wreath-laying Ceremony

Dean Stark, and Scoutmaster David Lewis from Troop 1906, based at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gum Springs, were part of the annual wreath-laying ceremony on Feb. 19 hosted by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck to pay respects to President and Mrs. George Washington as well as the slaves and ancestors that have gone before. Other attendees included Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity; Mount Vernon School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders; Mount Vernon High School Principal Dr. Anthony Terrell; Queenie Cox, president, New Gum Springs Civic Association; and Ron Chase, president, Gum Springs Historical Society.



Gun Debate on Lockdown

FROM PAGE 1

ban bumpstocks. When Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) introduced a bill to create a new Stop Gun Violence license plate, Republicans amended it to raise money for mental health.

"They were trying to make the point that we don't have a gun violence problem we have a mental health problem," said Simon. "I think that's wrong. We actually have a gun violence problem, and it is in fact about the instrument."

INSTEAD OF MOVING forward on gun control, the Republican majority is moving in the other direction — finding ways to increase where people can take guns. Churches, for example. Virginia law prohibits firearms in places of religious worship. After 26 people were killed in a Texas church last year, religious leaders across Virginia began lobbying to change that. State Sen. Ben Chafin (R-38) responded by introducing a bill that would allow guns in churches during worship services.

"Virginia has the archaic law that says you're not supposed to have firearms in the church," Chafin said in a speech on the Senate floor. "Even if the faith leaders of the church, even if the people that own the church, even if the people who control the church want to have some members of their church provide protection."

For Republicans, the debate over gun control is a matter of good versus evil. Their solution to the epidemic of gun violence in America is not to restrict who can have guns and where they are allowed. It's to arm what they call the "good guys" who will take down what they call "bad guys." After the school shooting in Florida, many responded by calling for more guns in the classroom.

"Training and arming a few teachers in each school would make these attackers think twice about ever opening fire," said Prince William County Board of Supervisors Chairman Corey Stewart, a Republican who is challenging U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine. "The only way to stop these mad men is to return fire."

CAMPAIGN FINANCE records show big money on both sides of this debate. Advocates for gun control donated \$2.4 million to candidates in the last election cycle, mostly to the Democratic statewide candidates who were successful. But gun rights groups pumped more than \$160,000 into targeted House of Delegates races that helped Republicans keep control of the chamber and quash reform efforts. Members of the subcommittee that routinely kills gun reform effort were showered with tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions.

But money doesn't always win the day. One race that pro-gun groups targeted was a hotly contested election in Prince William County, where eight-term incumbent Del. Scott Lingamfelter (R-31) trying to hold onto a district with shifting demographics. The NRA gave him \$2,500. The Virginia Citizens Defense League gave him \$2,000. A Portsmouth gun dealer gave him \$10,000. But he ended up losing that race to Democrat Elizabeth Guzman.

"I support the Second Amendment and the right of every citizen to own a gun," said Guzman during the campaign. "However, we need to implement responsible gun laws that protect our communities from gun violence."

Unfortunately for Guzman and advocates for gun control, that agenda was dead on arrival as lawmakers arrived at the Capitol. The Republican majority killed more than two dozen gun safety bills this year — efforts to limit handgun purchases to one a month, proposals to ban high-capacity magazines and laws to keep guns out of the hands of people who present a threat to themselves or others. Republicans are more interested in getting rid of gun-free zones, including schools.

"The idea that we disarm people in the schools, we forbid out teachers and our staff from carrying concealed firearms, is a mistake," said state Sen. Dick Black (R-13) in a Senate floor speech after the Florida shooting.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

Heart, Mind, and Body. noon-1:30 p.m. at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane (Engh Conference Center, 2nd Floor). Inova ACTIVE: Adult Community That Is Very Energetic is the name of the monthly active seniors (age 60+) community group co-sponsored by Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and AARP Virginia. Join for lunch and hear from medical professionals and community members. Call 703-664-7261. Or register at <http://bit.ly/2npwS7K>.

MONDAY/MARCH 5

Strengthening Teen Resilience. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax County Public Schools' Virginia Hills Center, 6500 Diana Lane, Alexandria. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) and the NEXUS committee invite all to be part of a community conversation about strengthening teen resilience. Scott Brabrand, Ed. D., Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, will kick off the event and share remarks on "Today's State of Students K-12:

OPINION

Working on Strategy To Fund Metro

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



Tuesday, Feb. 13 marked “Crossover” in the Virginia General Assembly, the point at which all Senate and House bills must be considered by the body in which they originated. During a six-hour marathon floor session, the Senate passed legislation that would provide critical funding for our Metro system.

First opened in 1976, Metro today has 91 stations and 117 miles of track. This essential resource provides enhanced mobility, traffic congestion relief, and improved air quality, serving as a lynchpin for regional economic development for the entire National Capital Region.

In Virginia, Metro’s presence is estimated to generate more than \$600 million per year in sales and income tax revenues that benefit the entire Commonwealth. Without Metro, Virginians would be subjected to

COMMENTARY

56,500 more lane miles of traffic congestion on arterial roadways and an 80 percent decrease in transit-accessible jobs. Together with the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), Metro moves more than 290,000 people on an average weekday. Now, more than 40 years after its first trains went into operation, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) customers are experiencing the effects of an aging system compounded by years of deferred maintenance.

The 30th District is home to seven Metro stations along the yellow and blue lines from Huntington to Pentagon City. As a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) and a former commissioner of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVT), I have long supported transit and understand the important connection between the Virginia General Assembly and Metro. Eight years ago, I passed legislation to secure a commitment of \$50 million per year in Virginia state funds for Metro matched by Maryland and the District of Columbia. That \$150 million was in turn matched by the federal government — yielding \$3 billion over 10 years. However, this vital funding runs out in 2019. Members of our Congressional delegation have introduced legislation to continue this important federal match.

Following a 12-month restoration effort, during which WMATA replaced more than 50,000 railroad ties, fasteners, and insulators, in an effort to make rides smoother, safer and quieter, then-Governor Terry McAuliffe, working with former U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood and NVTC, initiated a detailed review of Metro. Secretary LaHood recommended that the region come together to create dedicated funding, institute cost control measures, address repair backlogs, and institute structural improvements to the WMATA board and governance structure.

WMATA’s general manager, Paul Wiedefeld, has made great strides in addressing major repairs and building upon recent improvements to reliability, safety, and reduced operating costs through his “Back2Good” Initiative. Mr. Wiedefeld also identified \$25 billion in unfunded capital needs required for the system to remain safe and reliable. Dedicated funding of \$500 million per year, shared between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, will allow WMATA to meet these needs and restore the system to a much-improved and reliable operation.

Recognizing the importance of Metro and the urgency of the moment, the General Assembly has embarked on the difficult task of establishing a dedicated \$154 million funding source — Virginia’s share

of the \$500 million required to right the ship. While Maryland uses state funds to fulfill their obligation, the Virginia Senate proposal allocates just \$30 million in state funding, with the majority of the additional funding on Virginia’s side coming from regional taxes imposed on transactions occurring within

the Metro jurisdictions of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church and Loudoun. The pressures of rising populations, increased demands on schools, and the need to make major infrastructure improvements leads to cities and counties having little choice but to disproportionately rely on property taxes to generate additional revenue. Localities have extremely limited taxing authority because of the “Dillon Rule” that requires jurisdictions to seek explicit approval from the General Assembly before they are permitted to enact most taxes and ordinances.

As this issue has come to a head, key players have been brought to the table. I co-sponsored SB856, introduced by Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-Fairfax), which would augment the current funding mix beyond local property taxes. The bill accomplishes this by instituting a regional gas tax floor, re-allocating a portion of Northern Virginia’s existing regional transportation funding directly to Metro, redirecting \$30 million in state transit funding, increasing the real estate transaction tax (Grantor’s tax), and raising the region’s hotel tax (Transient Occupancy Tax). The legislation also calls for ongoing attention to operational costs and reforms to the Metro board. I served as an active member of NVTC’s Governance Committee that spent a number of meetings reviewing WMATA’s board and its processes.

A contrasting bill (HB1539) emerged in the House of Delegates, introduced by Del. Tim Hugo (R-Fairfax). The legislation includes similar reform provisions to the Senate bill, but provides just \$105 million in funding. The bill would also take more revenues directly from the existing Northern Virginia’s regional transportation fund administered by the NVT, threatening the financial stability and creditworthiness of our regional funding program and reducing the availability of funds for other Northern Virginia improvements. Del. Rip Sullivan (D-Fairfax) introduced a proposal that mirrored the Senate approach, however the House adopted Delegate Hugo’s bill instead, setting the state for intense negotiations to come. It is my hope that the final legislation that emerges from the General Assembly reflects the Senate language and we arrive at a sustainable solution for our vital transit infrastructure.

Please follow @AdamEbbin on Twitter, like my facebook page at facebook.com/ebbincampaign, and email your views to me at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

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

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 11

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.

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-Thomas Fuller

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His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were "demanding," or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn't begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I've gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test - of will power, I can't help wondering if there's a tipping point of sorts when the consumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure ("on demand" disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I'm being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can't imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I'm accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can't quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn't know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I'm sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can't help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don't want; it's a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don't want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch.

Remember the goal is to capture my attention, not abuse it.

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

OPINION

Negotiating State Budget

FROM PAGE 8

effective interest rates as high as 900 percent are currently attempting to use consumer finance licenses and we need to shut this down.

Third, my legislation to require Northern Virginia school districts to waive all fees and provide computers to children taking online classes passed the full Senate unanimously. No child who cannot pay \$5 for a lunch should be required to purchase a computer or pay over \$300 to take an online class and utilize the same public school opportunities that wealthy children use to get ahead for college.

Fourth, my legislation to create a settlement structure including state compensation to facilitate compensation to four men known as the "Norfolk Four" passed the Senate. All four men were coerced into confessing to a rape they did not commit by a detective who is now incarcerated and knew the identity of the actual rapist. Each spent over a decade in jail and another eight years of "freedom" while still having to live on the Sex Offender Registry.

The last bill we passed was Senator Saslaw's bill to create a framework to supplement capital funding to Metro and match monies provided by the District of Columbia and Maryland. The bill corrects a technical error from 2013 and imposes a "floor" on gas tax collections which have declined due to lower gas prices. It takes \$20 million per year from allocations to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (instead of over \$100 million proposed by the governor). It also imposes a new \$0.10 per \$100 grantors tax on the sale of real property, and a 2 percent tax on hotel stays.

On Sunday, the Senate and House announced their respective budgets. Surprisingly, the House of Delegates' budget included an expansion of Medicaid, albeit with a work requirement, while the Senate budget contained no expansion. Because of this, the Senate bill was forced to cut over \$500 million from the budget to make up for the lost revenue. Both budgets also cut \$190,000 of funding for a derelict barge in Belmont Bay that I have been working for three years to get removed.

On the good side, the Senate budget included funding for new staff for Widewater State Park in the 36th District which currently has none. Both budgets also increase secondary education money to Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford counties by nearly \$170 million over the biennium.

Each chamber will vote their budget amendments on Thursday and then the budget will be negotiated over the next two weeks.

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9104 Chickawane Ct.
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JUST LISTED



9411 Mount Vernon Cir.
\$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



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



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!

CONTRACT



9032 McNair Dr
\$569,000
One Level Living!

8807 Battery Rd.
\$589,9000
Backs to Park!



CONTRACT



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



3909 Rive Dr.
\$725,000
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