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# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MARCH 15, 2018



## Intersection of Business and Education

Chamber hosts Brabrand, three principals at Belle Haven Country Club.



**Kathryn Falk, vice president of Cox Business.**



**Sonja Caison, president of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce.**



**Dr. Tangy Millard, principal of West Potomac High School.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Dr. Scott Brabrand and three local principals explained the interconnections between business and education at the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce's March 8 Business Breakfast at the Belle Haven Country Club.

Following a welcome from Chamber President Sonja Caison, who runs The Cleaning Authority, she introduced some strategic partners, including Cox Business Vice President Kathryn Falk, and some new chamber members. Besides Brabrand, the three principals who spoke were Dr. Tangy Millard, principal of West Potomac; Dr. Matt Ragone, principal of South County; and Dr. Anthony Terrell, principal of Mount Vernon high schools.

"First of all, FCPS is open for business. We are here to forge new and deeper relationships with the business community," said Brabrand, a former classroom volunteer, social studies teacher, and principal in Fairfax County schools. "Good schools are good for business. And good business conditions are also good for schools. We need to continue to attract and develop and enhance the business climate here in Fairfax County for a great quality of life, for more opportunity for our kids as they graduate and for our whole community to be successful."

During his talk, he touched on three "E's" and a "J" — Excellence, Equity, Effectiveness and Joy. "My focus is about making Fairfax County Public Schools the premiere school system in this country and a beacon school system really in the world," he said.

Millard, who for seven months



**About 50 people attended the meeting of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce meeting on Thursday, March 8 at the Belle Haven Country Club in Alexandria.**

has been overseeing 2,700 students at West Potomac, said she is looking forward to partnering with the local business community. "As business owners, you know what you need coming out of high school and college are students who can collaborate; students who can problem-solve; high-order thinking skills; innovation; creation — so, we're moving into this next layer of learning," she said. "Starting in 2020, our high schools are looking to be one-to-one across the board, and that means every student will be given a laptop that they will use as their tool for school learning throughout the school year, and our school district will be supporting that."

In addressing a school-business partnership, she added: "We will need the level of support from the learning side where you guys (local businesses) bring real-world experiences to our students — giving them opportunities to hear from you, coming as visitors and speaking about what you do every day as business owners, as well as what skills are necessary to do the work that you do, and also giving our students the opportunity to intern with you."

Ragone, who was a former prin-

cipal at Langley High and now at South County since late 2014, added: "One of the projects we have is a Military Connected Youth Process Action Team. I'm working with the student services department, and our goal is to make sure the community knows and has the information to support military-connected youth as they transition in and out of Fairfax County," he said. "Fairfax County does a tremendous amount for these kids and these families but not everybody knows about it. So, our goal is to get the word out on how to welcome kids in and help them transition out."

He continued: "Our big initiative also is to become the best academic institution in South County, in the state of Virginia. Our AP scores are going up; our AP enroll-

SEE BRABRAND, PAGE 20



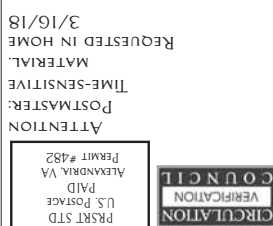
**Dr. Matt Ragone, principal of South County High School.**



**Dr. Anthony Terrell, principal of Mount Vernon High School.**



**Dr. Scott Brabrand, Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.**





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# Making a Difference

BY MARY PADEN

Teens at Stony Brook Apartments praised in Smarter Growth presentation.

A group of teens, who received county awards for their regular grounds and stream cleanups around their Stony Brook apartments and Little Hunting Creek, were featured in a “walking tour and forum series” event of the Coalition for Smarter Growth last month. The nonprofit coalition sponsors educational events and works in the metro area to help plan for growth that is green and transit-centered.

In the community room of Stony Brook Apartments at 3600 Buckman Road, Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the coalition, Monica Billinger of the Audubon Naturalist Society, and others gave presentations on how the planned EMBARK development along Route 1 may influence stormwater management in Hybla Valley.

Schwartz saw EMBARK as an exciting chance to right some of the wrongs of development of the 1950s that paved over huge areas for parking lots and channeled streams to carry flood water to the river as fast as possible, gouging themselves out and removing all life forms.

New trends in development allow runoff water to soak back into the ground through green surfaces, holding ponds, and meandering streams before reaching the river. Billinger stressed the importance of neighborhoods’ understanding the water cycle and acting to keep water clean through rain capture, stream clean up, green spaces, and other environmental actions.

Five of the dozen or so teens from the apartments who have participated in about 10 stream clean ups attended the meeting and told the community leaders who attended why they helped out.

The teen group is led by Ryan Barton, manager of community impact strategies for Community Preservation and Development



Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay (center) praised teens who participated in several stream clean-ups.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Trash awaiting clean up.

Corporation, which owns the 204 apartments. The apartments sport solar panels on the roofs and rain barrels at the drainpipes. The grounds are litter free, thanks in part to the students suggesting trash cans near the mailboxes.

Little Hunting Creek originates on the east side of Route 1 and runs behind Walmart, Costco and Audubon Mobile Home Park, then turns east runs through large residential developments such as Creekside, Sequoia, and Stoney Creek. It parallels Buckman Road and flows back under Route 1 where it widens and flows through residential areas to enter the Potomac River at Riverside Park. Barton and Billinger stressed the importance of the in-

volvement of communities, especially youth, in protecting streams as they flow through neighborhoods.

Various civic leaders, some from the downstream areas of the creek, attended the briefing. They were joined by Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay on the grounds along the creek, which is fenced off from most apartment property.

Asked why they participated in clean ups, the teens — three girls and two boys — gave the first reason as “he [Barton] gives us food” — pizza to be exact. But Barton noted that the teens kept working many hours after the pizza was finished.

“At first I didn’t want to touch those dirty things,” said Stephanie Agyemang-Manu, “but now I find clean-up relaxing — sort of therapeutic.” Racheal Appiah said she just wanted to help out her community. Carmela

Dangale said she was still getting used to it but feels like she is helping out.

The teen group is two-time defender of the Fairfax County Youth Volunteer Group of the Year Award from Volunteer Fairfax, and is nominated again — and Racheal is nominated for Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Barton, who works full-time at Stony Brook, is now also working with CPDCs other properties to expand youth volunteer opportunities in locations such as Southeast, D.C.; Reston, Va.; and Silver Spring, Md.

“People are listening to young people, these days,” McKay said. “When our community was built here there were no environmental standards and most of the problems we see are a result of that. As the area redevelops with EMBARK, this is exactly the right time to be in this part of the county. We are focusing on all positive things.”



Ryan Barton, manager of community impact strategies for Community Preservation and Development Corporation, which owns Stony Brook Apartments, surrounded by his teen volunteers shows a group of civic leaders how the creek flows through several apartment complexes.



Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay applauded the work of the group and said, “This is exactly the right time to be in this part of the county.”



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Northern Virginia Brady Chapter President Martina Leinz, state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) and Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) address the crowd about gun violence prevention at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church on Feb. 25.

## How To Prevent Gun Violence

### Advocates meet at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

People — some of them coming from as far away as Maryland and Arlington — filled the parish hall of St Aidan's Episcopal Church to capacity on Sunday, Feb. 25 to find out ways they can take action to help prevent mass shootings and reduce the nation's gun violence.

Members of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence handed out a two-page flyer with five actions for aspiring

advocates, including lobbying their elected representatives, making sure their children aren't visiting homes with unsecured guns, attending the monthly NRA protest/vigil and participating in the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. on March 24.

In addition, Northern Virginia Brady Chapter President Martina Leinz presented the Brady Campaign's legislative focus:

SEE GUN VIOLENCE, PAGE 22

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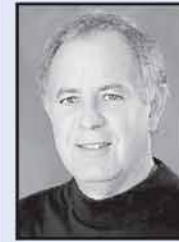
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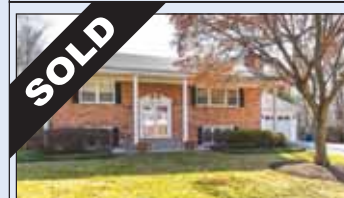
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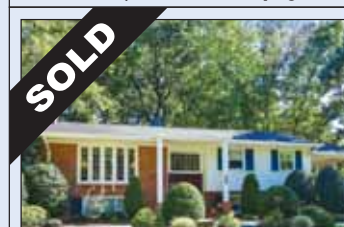
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**APR 22** 34th Annual George Washington  
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**MAY** Historic Alexandria Attics  
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## NEWS



Pearson Parker as West Ford

# West Ford Shares History

## Tales from the past at Gum Springs.

BY MARY PADEN

Every few years, West Ford, who was once enslaved on Mount Vernon plantation and later founded the Gum Springs Community, comes back to tell his story.

Local writer and actor Pearson Parker, dressed in period costume and sitting at a table lit by an oil lamp, narrated the story of West Ford at a dinner theater last month at Gum Springs Community Center, sponsored by the Gum Springs Historical Society.

The audience listened to Ford, represented as in his 70s, describe his concerns as the Civil War approached. "Because of certain tumultuous events, I told my family not to stray too far from home," he said. "I am known here and some Quakers will try to protect us, but I worry about what is happening." Following the 1831 Nat Turner rebellion in Virginia, Ford had to take his family to Alexandria to be registered (as reported in the Alexandria Gazette). The 1857 Dred Scott Supreme Court decision threatened the freedom of even free blacks, who were often captured and sold, and the 1859 Harpers Ferry raid by John Brown resulted in further repression of blacks.

Ford spoke from the perspective of Feb. 27, 1861 when seven southern states, but not yet Virginia, had seceded from the Union, and the new president, Abraham Lincoln, had just arrived in Washington under threat of assassination.

"I fear for millions in the South all types of freedoms would be lost if the Southern state secede," Ford said.

Ford was born in 1784 or 1785 on the

Bushfield Plantation in Westmoreland County, Va., to Venus, a mulatto slave woman owned by George Washington's brother, John Augustine Washington and his wife, Hannah. Hannah's will decreed that "the lad called West" was to be set free at the age of 21 and he was. However, following the death of George Washington in 1799, Ford was brought to Mount Vernon Plantation by Bushrod Washington, a son of John Augustine and Hannah. When Bushrod died in 1829, he willed 160 acres of land adjacent to Mount Vernon to West Ford, who continued to live on the Mount Vernon estate.

Pearson described Ford's life at Mount Vernon as a paid tradesman who was taught to read and write and who married a free black woman and had four children, noting that "we were even given a wedding in 1812 at the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria." Ford sold the land he received from Bushrod and in 1833 bought 214 acres he had long wanted, and area called

Gum Springs on Little Hunting Creek, now near Route 1 and Fordson Road. While working at Mount Vernon, he also started working the land at Gum Springs and saving to build a house. By the time he moved his family there, some of his children were grown and able to help with the work.

As he pondered the possibility of war, Ford said he didn't know if the family would be able to remain in control of the property, "but I can only hope that as it is passed along it will retain its name."

Ford died in 1863, but as was read in an epilogue to Pearson's performance, after the war the community grew to include a church (Bethlehem Baptist Church), and a school, and has continued to grow, with several descendants of Ford remaining in the area. They formed the Gum Springs Historical Society in 1984.



Pearson Parker





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# OPINION

## Successes in the State Legislature

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Last week brought an end to the regular 2018 session of the General Assembly. Once again, I had some significant successes. The legislature sent 13 of my 61 bills to Governor Northam for his signature. Legislators continued 15 to 2019 for studies and referred several to agencies for administrative consideration.

While several of my budget amendments were included in the Senate budget, including funding the first staff at brand new Widewater State Park in Stafford, we unfortunately adjourned without adopting a biennial budget due to the Senate Republican Caucus's refusal to include Medicaid expansion into their budget. Budget discussions have completely stalled out and Governor Northam will call us into special session at some point in the next two months.

This week, my amendment to a delegate's bill to prohibit operating a moving motor vehicle while drivers have a phone in their hand died after passing the Senate 29-11. Due to fiscal impacts of amendments loaded onto the bill requiring a racial profiling study, opponents were able to push the bill into a conference committee where it died. Car accidents and

deaths are on the rise nationally and in Virginia due to distracted driving and this would have saved lives. I will try again next year.

I am especially proud of successful legislation that I carried with a companion bill by House Appropriations Committee Chairman Chris Jones providing compensation to four men who were wrongfully convicted of rape after being coerced into false confessions by a corrupt Norfolk detective currently in federal prison. The four former sailors, known as "The Norfolk Four," spent between eight to 12 years in jail and another eight-plus years out of jail on the Sex Offender Registry. The legislation authorizes the state to compensate them \$3.5 million if the City of Norfolk at least matches that amount. Convicting the innocent is bad enough, but it is especially wrongful if it is achieved through intentional law enforcement misconduct.

The legislature also approved a bill to provide a \$154 million dedicated funding stream for Metro.

This money will now need to be matched by Maryland and the District of Columbia, but it is desperately needed to make up for 20 years of funding neglect.

Metro funding is good news, but I am very disturbed that the Senate's proposal to increase the Northern Virginia hotel tax and grantor's tax (the tax on home sales) was omitted. Because of this, an additional \$50 million per year will be diverted from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). This means

that those NVTA funds may not be available for U.S. 1 improvements in Fairfax and Prince William counties. I will urge Governor Northam to amend the bill.

Last week, I met with several state officials. First, I met with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) officials to address the pending U.S. 1 widening between Fort Belvoir and Hybla Valley. You can read an update in my online newsletter at [scottsurovell.blogspot.com](http://scottsurovell.blogspot.com). I also met with VDOT about granting them authority to regulate large signs on our interstates to avoid the debacle last week when some I-95 lanes were shut down for three days by a Potomac Mills' 140-foot sign that fell down.

I also met with state economic development officials to discuss Virginia's designation of areas to be included in the federal Opportunity Zone Program, which would incentivize redevelopment in low-income or high-unemployment areas. Prince William County has refused to share their submission to the state with me and Fairfax County prioritized the Amazon site in Herndon over U.S. 1 although I am not aware of any low-income areas around the Amazon site. I hope to provide persuasive information to the state about the 36<sup>th</sup> District's U.S. 1 Corridor, a designation that could yield significant benefit to this highway's future.

Please let me know if you have any feedback on this session at [scottsurovell@gmail.com](mailto:scottsurovell@gmail.com). It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Correct Thing To Do

To the Editor:

The letter to the editor written by Mr. H. Jay Spiegel published on March 14, criticized state Sen. Scott Surovell for his opposition to homeschooled students participating in interscholastic activities. Of course Mr. Spiegel did extensive research on Sen. Surovell's voting record on education issues that I was happy to read was 100 percent. In his letter Mr. Spiegel referred to the term "elite universities." I have to admit I wondered what he meant by "elite universities." I agree 100 percent with Mr. Surovell's opposition to the issue of homeschooled students participating in interscholastic activities.

In fact in consideration of having my three sons attending the Fairfax County public schools from elementary through high school schools and the career successes all three have experienced I have to wonder why any parent would want to have their children home schooled. I have written several books relating to WW II. If I had the time and the years remaining I would like to write a book on the subject, i.e., the pros and cons of

"homeschooling." Yes, I can understand that avenue due to certain circumstances but, and that is a big but, the lack of the interaction between peers and the obvious lower level of educational rigor cannot be overemphasized. I will vote for Sen. Surovell in 2019 if, as we say on the golf course, I am still on top of the grass. Mr. Spiegel convinced me 100 percent it is the correct thing to do.

**Melvin R. Bielawski**  
Alexandria

## Convincing Argument

To the Editor:

I was amused by Jay Spiegel's letter to the editor in the March 8 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette. In it, he purports to uncover the "true motivation" (his words) behind state Sen. Scott Surovell's opposition to legislation concerning home-schooled students — legislation which never made it out of committee this year in Richmond.

Spiegel suspects that it stems from endorsements Senator Surovell received from the Virginia

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

## Snapshot

A truck struck by a tree in the Newington part of the Mount Vernon district after the March 2 windstorm.

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Orchestra Clinic

The Mount Vernon High School Orchestra students led by Al Rodriguez participated in a clinic with author, clinician, professor, and recent winner of the Ohio Music Educators Associations Collegiate Strings Teacher of the Year award Dr. Kathleen Horvath. Horvath ran clinics throughout the day with the students. This was an opportunity for the students to engage in a pre-assessment clinic experience. MVHS Orchestra presented Horvath with an honorary MVHS Orchestra Varsity Letter.

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# Crew Team Seeks Support Following Damaging Storm

BY REBEKAH WHARTON  
TREASURER  
MOUNT VERNON CREW BOOSTERS

**T**he fierce wind storm that swept the region on March 2, knocking down trees and disrupting power to thousands of customers over the weekend, took its toll on a local crew team before moving out. The Mount Vernon High School rowing team lost four racing shells to falling trees during the gale.

Two of the damaged boats, the Alpha and the Bravo, had been purchased recently and had not yet been officially named. Also destroyed were the Rocky, named after a former coach, and the Commander, donated to the team by the Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. While the Majors purchase their equipment used, new shells can cost as much as \$30,000 new. The team carries insurance, but the replacement cost exceeds the value of the lost equipment.

The Mount Vernon program, which is not supported by Mount Vernon High School or Fairfax County, will have to raise money for repairs and replacement. According to the team treasurer, the gap between the insurance coverage and the cost of acquiring new (used) equipment will run as high as \$15,000.

Community support has played a significant role in the growth and success of the Mount Vernon crew team, which is entering its 16th season of competition. The team



PHOTOS BY JAMIE KIRK

Mount Vernon High School rowing team lost four racing shells to falling trees due to the March 2 storm.

raises money for operating expenses through rower fees and fundraisers, including bake sales, car washes, and Bingo. Many community members may have seen the rowers going door-to-door on a soggy Saturday in February during the annual Tag Day fundraiser when the team asks their friends and neighbors for support. "The rowers were trudging through the rain all day to raise money to pay competition fees," said the team treasurer. "Now we are going to have to find new ways to raise money" to pay for the damaged shells.

Many generous supporters of the team have already stepped forward with offers of assistance. According to head coach Jamie Kirk, the team is particularly grateful to have received donations from other rowing teams in the area. "The camaraderie of the rowing community and specifically of our teams here in Northern Virginia has been fantastic," said Kirk. "The funding, offers of using boats, and the words of encouragement point to the strong kinship and cooperation of our sport."

The team rows out of Ft. Belvoir Marina

and stores its boats there during the rowing season. Nearly half the team members are military dependents. The booster club is a certified 501(c)3 charitable organization.

Donations can be made to Mount Vernon Crew Boosters, P.O. Box 205, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0205, or online at <https://www.gofundme.com/mv-crew-boat-fund>.

The team is also looking for an additional assistant coach. Contact [president@mvcrow.com](mailto:president@mvcrow.com) for more information.

## State Legislature Adjourns without a Budget

BY ADAM EBBIN  
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

**T**he 2018 legislative session adjourned "sine-die" on March 10, and as dozens of cars with multi-colored bumper stickers and House and Senate license plates departed to different corners of the Commonwealth my staff worked through the weekend, helping me send out responses to 906 informative emails on 107 different



topics that I've received from constituents. As I reflect on the session, it is impossible to ignore that we adjourned without adopting a biennial budget.

Crafting a budget is one of our primary constitutional duties as state legislators and leaving Richmond without one means that localities, school divisions, and state agencies cannot finalize their own budgets. Governor Northam, the House of Delegates, and Senate Democrats all agree on the merits of Medicaid expansion, with only Senate Republicans standing in the way — in-

sisting on a version of the budget that excludes health coverage for 400,000 Virginians, strikes teacher pay raises, has fewer investments in renewable energy, and omits funding for background checks on firearm sales. I anticipate the governor will call us into a special session to adopt a budget within the next month.

After touch-and-go negotiations between House and Senate Conferees, the General Assembly has approved \$154 million in funding for Metro (SB856) — Virginia's portion of \$500 million called for by Wash-

ington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) General Manager Paul Wiedefeld to address essential capital funding needs. We were able to arrive at a sustainable solution for our vital transit infrastructure needs, but two proposed tax increases in Northern Virginia (on real estate transactions and hotel stays) that had been included in the original Senate version, were eliminated from the final bill. This change requires existing regional transportation funds from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTa) to be re-

SEE ADJOURNING, PAGE 21

### COMMENTARY

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# Spring 2018 HomeLifeStyle

The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. One garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. [fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for tickets. [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

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# Mid-Century Modern Mecca on Tour April 28

**M**id-century modern fans don't have to head to Palm Springs to appreciate stunning examples of mid-century modern architecture and landscape. Visitors are invited to tour the largest enclave of mid-century modern homes in the Washington, D.C. region during the 2018 Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour in Alexandria on Saturday, April 28. The neighborhood even has a connection to AMC's "Mad Men," as the show's production designer, Dan Bishop, grew up in Hollin Hills and says the neighborhood inspired his design sensibilities.

Visitors coming for the home tour can make a weekend of it by staying in Old Town Alexandria and also visiting Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, a "usonian" style home in Alexandria that represents Wright's dream of creating affordable housing for the middle class. End the weekend by shopping in Old Town Alexandria at one-of-a-kind mid-century modern boutiques. Find exquisite vintage cocktail ware and bar ware by designers like Dorothy Thorpe at The Hour then head to Acme Mid-Century + Modern for vintage and modern furniture, sculptures and art.

Located minutes from Washington, D.C. and tucked away in a quiet neighborhood just south of Old Town Alexandria is the



**The 2018 Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour is scheduled for Saturday, April 28.**

largest enclave of mid-century modern homes in the region — the Hollin Hills neighborhood. Hollin Hills is a modernist

enclave comprised of more than 450 glass-enclosed minor masterpieces built from the late 1940s to the early 1970s by developer

Robert Davenport and architect Charles Goodman. It was the first community in the Washington, D.C. metro area to be made up entirely of contemporary homes. Every other year visitors are invited inside the homes for an up close look during the Hollin Hills House and Garden Tour. This year's self-guided tour showcases 10 examples of mid-century modern architecture and landscape Saturday, April 28 from noon until 6 p.m. Recognized many times in the past for its architectural and design vision, Hollin Hills was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013, and is a Virginia Landmark Historic District.

Visitors can also tour Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House, minutes from Alexandria's Hollin Hills neighborhood. This "usonian" style house was designed by Wright in the 1940s and was one of the first types of affordable housing for the middle class. Tours are available beginning in April Friday through Monday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour begins at 3 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$7.50 for students; \$12 for seniors and active military with ID; and are free for children 5 and under. At 1,200 square feet, visitors will see how Wright's combination of high ceilings, large expanses of glass, and an open floor plan creates the

SEE HOLLIN HILLS HOUSE. PAGE 14

## MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>

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# 85th Virginia Historic Garden Week in April

**M**ark your calendar for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, as the Garden Club of Fairfax invites you to this year's Historic Garden Week Tour in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna.

Experience 250 years of history in the once agricultural hills of northern Fairfax County. Near the village of Great Falls is the William Gunnell home built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax. Stroll through a quilt garden designed by the current owner, a well-known quilter, and enjoy carefully tended fruit and vegetable gardens as well as landscaped vistas.

In the historic town of Vienna, explore an 1892 home built on the grounds of the Grange Camp and a charming cottage designed by a couple as a "sensible home" to retire-in- place.

A transitional executive home with a waterfall garden is showcased in nearby McLean. Tour headquarters are at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, where admission and refreshments are included with the tour ticket.

Access to William Gunnell House is only by shuttle bus. Pick-up and drop-off at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets available at the Library. Advance Tickets: \$40 per person [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org) or by mail before April 17. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to The Garden Club of Fairfax to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. (703) 978-4130 or [Fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:Fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for questions. \$50 day of tour.

As part of the Garden Club of Virginia's 85th Historic Garden Week, this tour will be one of thirty statewide tours held April 21-28, 2018 featuring nearly 200 of Virginia's most picturesque gardens and private homes. Proceeds from this celebrated event fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a new partnership with the Virginia State Parks. Iconic landmarks such as Mount Vernon, the Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library have been restored to their original splendor due to the hard work of thousands

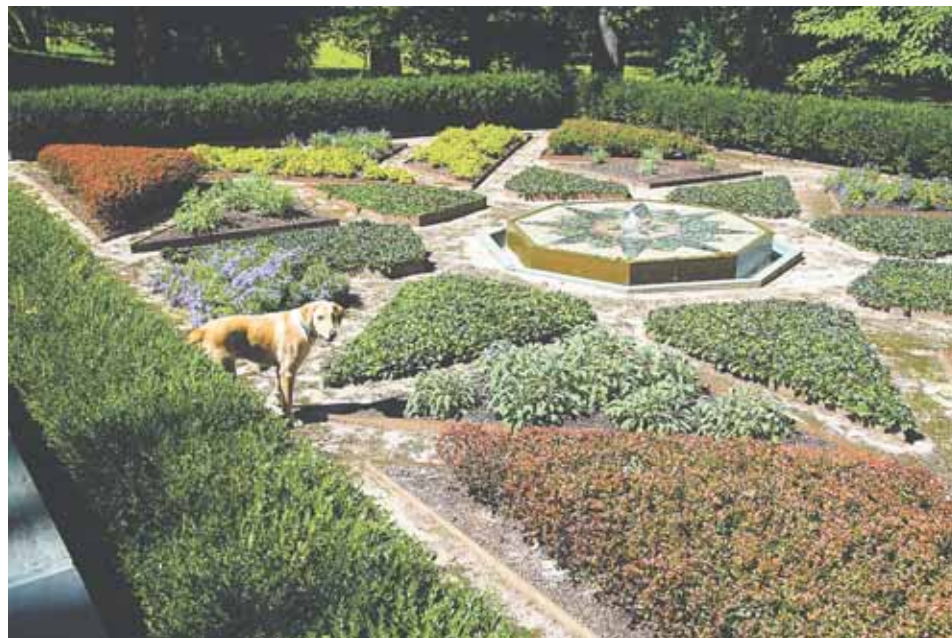


PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

**The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens around Virginia, as well as in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. This garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. [fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for tickets. [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)**

of volunteers, the generosity of countless home and garden owners, and the nearly 30,000 visitors from around the world who have enjoyed the tours.

For more information about our Great Falls-McLean- Vienna Tour, and to buy tickets online, go to [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). The statewide schedule for Historic Garden Week is also listed.

Tour Headquarters, Facilities and Special Activity: Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Tickets, maps and restrooms available on tour day.

There will be a free King's Park Flutes Concert 10 to noon. Tour tickets: \$50 per person available on tour day at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and at tour homes.

**WILLIAM GUNNELL HOUSE**, Innsbruck Avenue, Great Falls The original home is a hall-and-parlor structure built in 1750 on 12,588 acres owned by Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, for whom the county is named.

William Gunnell III (1750-1820), first known resident of the home and believed to have been caretaker for Lord Fairfax, purchased it in 1791 and constructed an addition for his large family, making it one of the area's grandest manor homes with a 1,500-acre plantation and numerous outbuildings. One outbuilding, c.1770, survives today. The home was in the Gunnell family until 1913. Twentieth century additions are unobtrusive and compatible with the home's 18th century Colonial and post-Revolution styles. In 1934 a log cabin tavern was moved here from Ruby, Virginia, to become a dining room with a massive stone fireplace at one end. The now 10-acre property includes a large farm pond, Virginia's fifth oldest measured hemlock, boxwood lined paths, flower, fruit, vegetable and herb gardens, and grape and rose arbors. The homeowner, a world-renowned quilter and fabric designer, designed the property's quilt garden, best viewed from a large vine-covered pergola. The star pattern quilt bedspread de-

sign in the master bedroom is repeated in a leaded glass panel in the master bath, in a wrought iron railing and in the quilt garden. National Register of Historic Places. Accessible only by shuttle bus. Jinny and John Beyer, owners.

**MONTVALE WAY, McLEAN** Located within a 255-acre wooded community of 166 homes in McLean, known as "The Reserve," this two-level executive style home was built in 2001 by one of the premiere builders in Northern Virginia. An exterior of bisque and gray brick construction is framed by stone pillars and enhanced by a paved circular drive. Mature trees, grasses and a massing of bulbs, perennials and shrubs provide four seasons of interest. An armored soldier stands guard, injecting a whimsical tone. Warm tones of beige and brown and faux-painted walls on the first floor act as a backdrop for the mix of old and new in art, furniture and family treasures. A sunroom is the perfect spot to enjoy the backyard koi pond and extensive landscaping designed and implemented by the homeowners. Sandra and Robert Varney, owners

**THE GRANGE CAMP**, Redwood Drive, Vienna The exterior front of this Folk Victorian home with a Federalist front porch is essentially unchanged from its 1892 appearance. Alexander Wedderburn, a successful printer and publisher in Alexandria, purchased the property and built a summer home on 42 acres previously owned by the post-Civil War Grange movement and used for annual summer fairs for farmers and their families. Every room reflects the homeowners' love of family and respect for the history of the home. Original windows and interior doors are displayed as pieces of art and original wood molding was salvaged to become paneling in the powder room. A schoolhouse chair and piano are from Ms. Dyer's mother's school in Connecticut. Her father, a furniture maker and refinisher, refurbished the piano, a Singer sewing table and other pieces. The needlepoint on a living room chair was done by Mr. Smith's grandmother. Smith and Alison Dyer, owners.

**CENTER STREET NORTH**, Vienna From drawing board to completion, the homeowners envisioned a "sensible" home allowing for present-day living and entertaining within an open floor plan, and the flexibility of converting the current den to an additional first floor bedroom and bath for aging in place for this Custom built, 2011 modern Cape Cod cottage in historic Vienna. As the owner of REfind, a Vienna boutique, the homeowner mixes vintage with fresh accessories throughout this three-level cottage. Favorite art pieces include an original oil of a whimsical cow by Greg Osterhaus in the kitchen/dining area, and an original landscape by a local artist in the master bedroom. A screened porch off the dining room serves as a second living room. Carey and David Williams, owners.

## Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour

FROM PAGE 13

illusion of a much larger home.

While visiting, check out Alexandria's mid-century offerings at one-of-a-kind boutiques located on King Street in Old Town Alexandria, the city's nationally designated historic district.

Step into The Hour and head back to the Mad Men era with a vintage cocktail

ware and bar ware-filled boutique on historic King Street. Victoria Vergason took her passions for entertaining at home and collecting designer vintage glassware and barware and created The Hour in 2009. With two glittering floors "dedicated to all things cocktail," The Hour seeks to reinvent today's cocktail hour by bringing back mid-century style for home entertaining but with a decidedly modern-day twist.

Acme Mid-Century + Modern owned by Pierre Paret is a purveyor of vintage and modern furniture, artifacts, accessories, sculpture, and art. Acme provides a broad selection of periods and styles, though its specialties include Danish and Scandinavian Modern, designs by Charles and Ray Eames, George Nelson, and pieces in Brazilian rosewood.



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Long time customer Joyce Weishaupt (center) and Dan Morningstar (right) welcome back Mark Sable (left) to Buick GMC of Woodbridge.

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Because this is a new Dealer, General Motors has given this team New Dealer allocation and discounts that can be passed on to you, the Customer. These additional discounts can only be given at the NEW Buick GMC of Woodbridge. What a great time to save \$\$\$! Mark said, "This allocation will enable us to have the area's largest selection of New and General Motors Pre-owned vehicles in stock. Our goal is to be the largest Buick GMC Dealer in Virginia!"

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There is a great staff here at the New Buick GMC of Woodbridge - some travelled to New Jersey for five years and are back - others were here during that timeframe and are still here. The dealer also recruited a few from the New Jersey team.

Mark and the team look forward to seeing you in our showroom! Please don't hesitate to stop by and say Hello!

Mark Sable can be reached by email  
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Dranesville

# The Conversation Begins: Budgeting Words

**Board of Supervisors prioritizes compensation for teachers and county employees.**

By KEN MOORE  
THE GAZETTE

**S**pringfield Supervisor Pat Herrity claimed the dissenting vote. “It probably is not going to surprise the board that I won’t be able to support this,” he said.

By a 8-1 margin, the Board of Supervisors advertised the county executive’s budget with the proposed two and a half cent tax increase.

Braddock Supervisor John Cook supported the advertisement but stated he won’t support a budget in May if it remains at the advertised tax rate.

“So I’ll support the advertisement because I think the process dictates that there be something on the table. But if the board is inclined to pass it as is, it will have to do so without me,” said Cook. “If the board is inclined to do what a couple of other people have suggested this morning, which is look for reductions and perhaps go back to that concept of balancing, then I’m looking forward to being part of that discussion and will keep an open mind to where we should end up. But two and a half cents is not where it’s going to be.”

Jeff McKay, chair of the budget committee, said advertising a lower rate “would be taking off the table an opportunity to hear from our public about whether our public employees from the schools and county side should be getting the type of compensation increases to move them into market and to deliver the services that we rely on in this county.”

In addition to community meetings scheduled around the county, the board slotted three days, April 10-12, for public hearings before the full board.

“We have two months of community conversation ahead of us, and some members of this board have declared how they are voting on the budget today or what they can’t support,” said McKay. “Two months we have to hear from our community about what their priorities are. And to me it would be irresponsible to decide how we are going to vote on the budget without hearing from members of our community and how they feel about it.”

The board will officially adopt the FY 2019 budget on May 1.

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full two and a half cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner’s annual tax bill.

“When we advertise the tax rate, that will become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it cannot be higher than” two and a half cents, said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Below are excerpts from the March 6 board meeting. The supervisors spoke in the order presented below:

## **Pat Herrity, Springfield District**

“It probably is not going to surprise the board that I won’t be able to support this. A two and a half cent with [an increase] in the storm water tax, a five percent potential tax increase, 26 percent over five years.

“I voted for last year’s budget because I thought it was reasonable. We made some difficult decisions last year.

“I think we need to go back to doing what our residents have had to do in a time of stagnant wages, and make difficult decisions. And we just frankly have not done that. I’ve put a bunch of them on the table and it hasn’t happened and it needs to happen. ...

“If you look at wages, they’ve been stagnant, we’re literally taxing people out of Fairfax County.

“I appreciated the county executive’s introductory remarks when he said we’ve got to be more nimble and more efficient. We need to get to that, and I can’t put a potential five percent additional burden on our residents. I won’t be supporting it.”

## **Linda Smyth, Providence**

“Given the unknowns still from the General Assembly in terms of budget or WMATA funding, I think we need to be sure that we have some flexibility in the tax rate and in the discussion about our budget.

“But I will also say ... that I’m seeing increased assessments in some of our more affordable neighborhoods and it’s not the first year for some of these neighborhoods. This has been a multi-year cycle and that’s a concern because, again, taxes are part of the affordability of owning a home in Fairfax County. And I want to be sure that we keep that as part of the consideration going forward.

“I hope, again, when we look closely at the budget that county executive has put before us that we will be able to see if there are savings that we can go back and find and apply that to help some of our residents out.

“Residents are ... seeing increases in their health insurance, in fact considerable in-

creases in that, and everything they do on a daily basis.

“So it’s a balancing act, and I hope we find that balance. But we need to have a little flexibility here because we just don’t have all the answers at this point.”

## **Penny Gross, Mason**

“I will be supporting the motion.

“I am hoping that we are able to back down a little bit from the two and a half cents just in looking at how we find some savings.

“But I will say we have excellent services. We will put our services up against any other jurisdiction. Fairfax County is known for its quality of life. It’s known for its schools, we’re the safest community of our size in the country, we have parks and libraries and lots and lots of services, and we invest in the community.

“And that’s what we do when we establish a tax rate. Really, we’re investing in the community on behalf of all of our tax payers. ...

“We made a promise to our employees when we adopted a compensation plan a few years ago. We have not been able to always keep that promise. This year, we must. We absolutely must.”

## **Dan Storck, Mount Vernon**

“Flexibility is clearly the operative word. There are a lot of things we still don’t know yet including the state budget ...

“I think it is about competition. We clearly have competition for the best, the best minds, the best folks, the best leaders, and we need to pay a competitive wage to do that. ... It’s clearly about commitments.

“Finally, I think it is about investment. Investments in our kids, investments in our teachers, investments in the folks who clearly are the keys to our future in this county and in the area. So I will be supporting the tax rate.”

## **John Cook, Braddock**

“I’m going to approach this issue much as I did a couple of years ago. The board will recall that two years ago, the county executive proposed a large tax increase and the board eventually adopted it and described it as a booster shot ... “Here we are as Yogi Berra would say, ‘It’s deja vu all over again,’ with another large increase described as a need to jump up and then next year we will stay flat. ...

“I can not and I will not support a budget

that increases the tax rate by two and a half cents.

“So I’ll support the advertisement because I think the process dictates that there be something on the table. But if the board is inclined to pass it as is, it will have to do so without me. If the board is inclined to do what a couple of other people have suggested this morning, which is look for reductions and perhaps go back to that concept of balancing, then I’m looking forward to being part of that discussion and will keep an open mind to where we should end up. But two and a half cents is not where it’s going to be.”

## **Cathy Hudgins, Hunter Mill**

“This advertising gives us that opportunity to look at what we really need.

“And I think it is difficult having a conversation with the citizens sometimes when we approach it as to what is the cost versus what is the return value. And I really have to say that we have done a lot of work to make certain that we try to be more efficient and more creative in the services that we provide.

“So I think there needs to be a balancing that we need to have here. We provided a meaningful option [in the meals tax]. And guess what? Our citizens didn’t support it. ...

“So I think it’s important that if we want to talk about how great Fairfax County is, we need to be prepared to figure out how to have the services that that draw people here and create a more balanced community in supporting what it takes to live in this county.

“So we’ll have a chance to have that discussion and maybe the opportunity to move forward, so my vote is yes.”

## **Kathy Smith, Sully**

“I think that we are at the beginning of the discussion with the public ...

“I’m not at the point of saying what I will vote for in this budget. This budget supports our employees, it supports the school system. We heard from a community group that suggested that we advertise at this rate...

“It is a fine balance between looking at the needs we have in this community and the services we want to provide and how we do that. So I’m supportive of advertising this tax rate.”

SEE THE CONVERSATION, PAGE 21

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**Photo-documentary Study.** Through March 25, arious 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 Colonus*." An afterchat is scheduled for Saturday, March 17, 3 p.m.

**March 150.** Through March 25, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery's popular annual exhibition and art sale, March 150, returns to the Torpedo Factory Art Center for the 8th year. This yearly all-media exhibition features nearly 200 works created by artists local to Alexandria and the greater D.C. region. The only requirement to be on view in the exhibition is that artists needed to use the gallery-supplied 10" x 10" panel. All work in the show is priced at \$150. Visit [torpedofactory.org/event/march150-8th-annual-special-exhibition-art-sale/](http://torpedofactory.org/event/march150-8th-annual-special-exhibition-art-sale/).

**Woodlawn Needlework Show and Sale.** Through March 31, 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/](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/annualneedleworkshow/).

**"Finishing Flourishes."** Through March 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 105 North Union Street, ground floor Studio 19. Artists have a ball with "Finishing Flourishes," as they put forth their finest, and elevating detailing as the high-point in design. Perfect punctuation on a pot makes tops twerk or handles twirl with grace. Edges flute and ruffle and feature lacy, racy cut outs. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

**"Drone Zone."** Through March 31, gallery hours in the Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Drones appeared in Beverly Ryan's artwork in 2015, inspired by questions about their use in warfare. Ryan explores questions related to this topic in her multi-media exhibit, "Drone Zone." Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 15

**Meet the Legends Reception.** 6 p.m. at Center for Design, Media and the Arts, 3301 Netherton Drive in Alexandria, on the NOVA Community College Alexandria Campus. Sponsored by Living Legends of Alexandria, the event introduces the 2018 Living Legend honorees. Visit [alexandrialegends.org/](http://alexandrialegends.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. "Doing Our Bit" (While Having a Bit of Fun): American Nurses in World War I," by Marian Moser Jones, a social historian and ethicist of public health who explores the institutionalization



**Photos (left to right): Sakura Cashmere Cardigan by Tamara Embrey; Enamel Pendant by Nan Lopata; Cherry Blossoms by Jamaliah Morais**



## Cherry Blossom Week

The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) is honoring the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival with their own Cherry Blossom Week. With a schedule of events that includes artist demonstrations, private tours, and in-studio specials, cherry blossom fun blooms at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. More than 50 of the 82 working artist studios at the Torpedo Factory Art Center will have cherry blossom-inspired art on display or for sale, and interactive events will occur all week. The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Complete details of the TFAA's Cherry Blossom Week (March 23-31), including studio maps, can be found at [torpedofactoryartists.com/cherry](http://torpedofactoryartists.com/cherry).

Free artist studio tours will begin at 1 p.m. on March 24, 25, 26, and 31. Interested visitors should meet on the first floor of the Torpedo Factory at the Information Desk. Artist demonstrations will begin at 2 p.m. on the following dates: Saturday, March 24 - Jennifer Brewer Stone, Resin & Painting, Studio 227 ♦ Sunday, March 25 - Tracie Griffith Tso, Ceramics & Chinese Brush, Studio 22 ♦ Monday, March 26 - Jamaliah Morais, Asian Brush Painting, Studio 25 ♦ Saturday, March 31 - Alison Sigethy, Glass, Studio 307

of benevolence in the United States. She will share experiences of specific nurses in World War I gleaned from journals and diaries, including two from Virginia. \$10 per person. Reservations recommended. Tickets at [shop.alexandria.gov](http://shop.alexandria.gov).

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 15-17

**"Must Love Music" and "WXYZ."** Thursday-Friday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Richard Kauffman Auditorium, The Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Original musicals starring actors with Down syndrome and autism. In "Must Love Music" Love and music are the only way to escape the spirits on a mysterious island. Then, the big city newsroom at "WXYZ" may be too much for rookie reporter from the country. Visit [www.art-stream.org/see-a-show](http://www.art-stream.org/see-a-show).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 16

**Opening Reception: Kevin Fitzgerald.** 6:30-9 p.m. at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Principle Gallery will feature landscape painter Kevin Fitzgerald in his Annual Solo Exhibition. This year, the exhibition has been paired down to 20 works, allowing each of the paintings space to breathe, increasing the impact of the work. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 16-17

**"The Addams Family."** Friday-Saturday, 7:30-10 p.m. in the Garwood Whaley Auditorium, Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. The Bishop Ireton Drama Department presents "The Addams Family." From costuming to choreography, more than 60 Ireton students have contributed to this production. Visit [www.bishopireton.org](http://www.bishopireton.org) or call 703-751-7606.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 17

**Art of the Book - Calligraphy.** 10-11 a.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Historic Huntley is offering three classes this winter that delve into different aspects of book

making. Register for any of the series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

### Friendship Firehouse Museum

**Tour.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse, 107 S. Alfred St. The Friendship Fire Company, established in 1774, was the first fire company in Alexandria. Join an in-depth guided tour and learn about the Friendship Fire Company's firefighting procedures and equipment, as well as the different roles the organization played in serving the community. The docent-led tour is for ages 10 and older. \$5 for adults; \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required, space is limited. Purchase tickets at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-3891.

**Family Fun: St. Paddy's Peas and Potatoes.** 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. St. Patrick's Day is the traditional day to plant potatoes. Learn the origins of this staple and its importance to Ireland. Listen to tales of leprechauns, sample spuds, and plant peas and potatoes in our garden. Ages 5-adult, \$7 per person. Register parent and child online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 101 3001 or call 703-642-5173.

**Downtown Fashion.** 1-3:30 p.m. at at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Caroline Hottenstein showcases two custom-made dresses that span the brief time period – 1912 to 1925 – portrayed in the TV show Downton Abbey. One is Titanic-era, one a 1920s Flapper design. For adults. Reservations required, \$42/person (program + tea); \$18 (program only). Programs are by reservation only. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

**Author Talk: Kimberly McLemore.** 3 p.m. at Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Kimberly McLemore's newest book is a memoir sharing her experience as a survivor of domestic abuse. Kimberly McLemore is a podcast host and founder and CEO of the Women's Small Business Initiative. Books will be available for sale and signing after the talk. Free. Contact [mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org](mailto:mzimmerman@alexlibraryva.org) or visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Country-Western Dance.** 6-9:30 p.m.

at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org).

### SSA 2018 Golden Anniversary

**Gala.** 6-10 p.m. at Westin Alexandria, 400 Courthouse Square. Join in what promises to be a memorable evening honoring the legacy of those who have helped build Senior Services of Alexandria, including founders, former honorees and former Board members. Visit [seniorservicesalex.org](http://seniorservicesalex.org) for raffle prize information. Tickets are still available at gala or call the office at 703-836-4414, ext. 110.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 18

**Ides of Bark.** 1-4 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. Supervisor Dan Storck invites all dogs and their companions to join him for an afternoon of play and learning at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ides of Bark Dog Festival. The event is free and open to the public, with games, gift baskets, prizes, food trucks and fun for the whole family. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ides-bark](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ides-bark).

**Amazing Plants for Shade.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn about shade and about the incredible, diverse selection of plants that have adapted to the limitations, as well as advantages, of lower light conditions. \$10/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 185 6501 or call 703-642-5173.

**Virginia Bronze March Handbell Concert.** 4:5-5:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Celebrate the glories of springtime and throwback to an era of sock hops and poodle skirts with a potpourri of tunes including Song of the Flowers, What a Wonderful World, Crocodile Rock and Fly Me to the Moon. \$10.

Call 888-824-2541 or visit [vabronze.org/](http://vabronze.org/).

## SUNDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-31

**Fairfax County Parks.** Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055).

On Sunday, March 18 – At **Hidden Pond Nature Center**, children age 3 to 12 can create a spring mobile of favorite pond animals from plastic eggs. All materials will be provided. \$6 per child. **Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is hosting a Woodland Wildlife Egg Hunt for children age 3-8. Meet costumed woodland characters along a trail, collect eggs with non-candy treats and discover how different animals raise their young. \$8 per child.

**Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 25, 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake Park** is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age one to nine. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child – cash only at registration.

## MONDAY/MARCH 19

**Garden Buds.** 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Meet in the Children's Discovery Garden. Children will enjoy different sensory materials N. the garden, rain or shine. Dress for the weather and explore. 2-3 years, \$5 per child. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 102 8621 or call 703-642-5173.

**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 Van Napier Farms Jams & Jelly tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

## TUESDAY/MARCH 20

**Creating Family History.** 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Board-certified genealogist Tom Jones will provide insights into creating a family history that future generations will cherish. His talk is called "Creating a Family History of Lasting Value." Free. Call 703-768-4101 or visit [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

**Mount Vernon Pyramid Choral Concert.** 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School will host the Mount Vernon Pyramid choral concert for the 15th year. Choristers from Fort Belvoir, Riverside, Washington Mill, Woodlawn, and Woodley Hills elementary schools will join with the Whitman Wild Cat singers and the Mount Vernon Melodious Majors to perform songs celebrating peace. Admission is free. Visit [mountvernonhs.fcps.edu](http://mountvernonhs.fcps.edu).





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## ENTERTAINMENT



**2018 Arlandria Eggstravaganza set for Saturday, March 24.**

### TUESDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 20-25

**Spring Book Sale.** At Charles E. Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Friends of the Beatley Central Library will kick off their Spring Book Sale with a Members' Preview on Tuesday, March 20, 4-8:30 p.m. (\$15 memberships available at the door). The sale continues Wednesday, March 21, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Thursday, March 22, 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; Friday, March 23, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Sunday, March 25, 1-4:30 p.m. \$3 or less, unless specifically marked: hardbacks, paperbacks, children's books and media items. All genres. \$1 Day on Sunday. Call 703-746-1702 or visit [www.beatleyfriends.org](http://www.beatleyfriends.org).

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

**"Livable Communities for all Ages."** 9:30 a.m.-noon at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. SSA is sponsoring a listening session for Alexandria's seniors. Representatives of Alexandria's Commission on Aging will talk about the latest progress for making Alexandria a livable community for all ages. They want to hear from seniors about what is most important to remain active and independent. Visit [seniorservicesalex.org](http://seniorservicesalex.org).

### WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 21-24

**Used Book and Art Sale.** Thursday, 1-5 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Used book and art sale fills two buildings at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. Gently used art, children's books, rare/old books and individually priced books will be in the church building. Saturday is half price in the church and \$5 a bag in the mansion. Visit [mvuc.org](http://mvuc.org).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**Local Author Thursday.** 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by John Adam Wasowicz, "Daingerfield Island." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**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. "Sowing the Seeds of Victory: The Women's Land Army of America in Virginia and

Washington DC, 1917-1920," by Anna Kiefer. In 1917, the Women's Land Army of America began recruiting women who would work the land while America's farmers served in the Great War. \$10 per person. Reservations recommended. Tickets at [shop.alexandria.gov](http://shop.alexandria.gov).

**Vegetable Gardening Part 3.** 7-8:30 pm, Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Manage and Maintain Your Vegetable Garden. Discover simple, earth-friendly and smart gardening practices, like crop rotation and intercropping, to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects and to control common garden pests. Learn to identify diseases and how to manage them. Also pick up tips on space-saving techniques for small gardens. Free. Advance registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or [emailmgaralex@gmail.com](mailto:emailmgaralex@gmail.com).

**Lost Towns of Fairfax County - Mount Vernon Region.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society presents Fairfax County historians Heather Bollinger and Jeff Clark speaking about some of Fairfax County's lost towns and communities — vibrant areas which featured schools, churches, shops, and civic centers. This talk will focus on communities in the Mount Vernon area, such as Colchester, Accotink, and both the white and African-American communities of Woodlawn. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/lost-towns-fairfax-county-mount-vernon-region](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/circuit/lost-towns-fairfax-county-mount-vernon-region).

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 22-24

**"Must Love Music" and "WXYZ."** Thursday-Friday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Richard Kauffman Auditorium, The Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Original musicals starring actors with Down syndrome and autism. In "Must Love Music" Love and music are the only way to escape the spirits on a mysterious island. Then, the big city newsroom at "WXYZ" may be too much for rookie reporter from the country. Visit [www.art-stream.org/see-a-show](http://www.art-stream.org/see-a-show).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**Garden Talk: Vegetable & Herb Gardens.** 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. There is nothing more delectable than a homegrown tomato or fresh herbs and now is the best time. Master Gardeners demonstrate how to plan, plant and harvest a fabulous vegetable and herb garden. Adults. \$10/person. Register online at

## Eggstravaganza

This annual family-friendly event is one of the most EGGciting spring events in the Alexandria/Arlington area. This year's event features entertainment by the Rainbow Rock Band, Groovy Nate, and Uncle Devin. The day also features plenty of food, activities, and games for the whole family. Multiple egg hunts for children under 11 with a special area for those 3 and under. Free. Saturday, March 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. For more, visit [www.arlandriaeggstravaganza.com](http://www.arlandriaeggstravaganza.com).

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 182 2701 or call 703-642-5173.

**March150 Art Party.** 7-10 p.m. at at Torpedo Factory Art Center's Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery is partnering with the Factory Society, an independent young-patrons group that supports the Torpedo Factory, for the March150 Art Party. Guests have an opportunity to mingle with other art enthusiasts and meet many of the artists who have artwork on view in the show. All art is priced at \$100 exclusively during the Party. Tickets are \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door. Visit [torpedofactory.org/event/march150-8th-annual-special-exhibition-art-sale/](http://torpedofactory.org/event/march150-8th-annual-special-exhibition-art-sale/).

**Musical Offering: Via Crucis (The Way of the Cross).** 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. The 14 Stations of the Cross will be prayed in a musical setting for choir and organ by Franz Liszt. The Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir will sing with organist Quinn Moss. Email [jmccrory@blessedsacramentcc.org](mailto:jmccrory@blessedsacramentcc.org) or call 703-998-6100, ext. 103.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 23-31

**"Cherry Blossom Week."** Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) is honoring the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival with their own Cherry Blossom Week. With a schedule of events that includes artist demonstrations, private tours, and in-studio specials, cherry blossom fun blooms at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. More than 50 of the 82 working artist studios at the Torpedo Factory Art Center will have cherry blossom-inspired art on display or for sale, and interactive events will occur all week. Complete details of the TFAA's Cherry Blossom Week, including studio maps, can be found at [torpedofactoryartists.com/cherry](http://torpedofactoryartists.com/cherry).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**World Day of Puppetry.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. The National Capital Puppetry Guild and the Office of the Arts will present the 2nd Annual "Celebrate the World Day of Puppetry" with family-oriented puppet performances, hands-on workshops, exhibits and sales tables. Nine puppetry performances will feature Bob Brown Puppets, Dinorock, Silly Goose and Val, Goodlife Theater, and more. \$5. Visit [bit.ly/2FKc9ph](http://bit.ly/2FKc9ph).

**Japanese Garden Design.** 9:30-11

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# ENTERTAINMENT

a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Japanese garden design is an art form thousands of years in the making. Stone, gravel, water, bridges, paths and plants all hold significance. Horticulturalist Bevan Shimizu will teach you the essentials in creating a Japanese style garden. Adults. \$22/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 285 7201 or call 703-642-5173.

**“Beyond the Battlefield.”** 10 a.m. outside the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The Lee-Fendall House will offer “Beyond the Battlefield,” a guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town. The tour will last approximately two hours and cover a route of 1.75 miles. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes. Advance tickets are \$15 through the museum’s website, or \$20 the day. Space is limited. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org), or call 703-548-1789.

**Arlandria Eggstravaganza.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. This annual family-friendly event is one of the most EGGciting spring events in the Alexandria/Arlington area. This year’s event features entertainment by the Rainbow Rock Band, Groovy Nate, and Uncle Devin. The day also features plenty of food, activities, and games for the whole family. Multiple egg hunts for children under 11 with a special area for those 3 and under. Free. Visit [www.arlandriaeggstravaganza.com](http://www.arlandriaeggstravaganza.com).

**Women’s Civil War Day.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Civil War reenactors will interpret the dress, skills and contributions of women during the Civil War period with on-going

displays and activities. The program features a quilting demonstration, interpreters portraying the role of women in camp, on the battlefield and engaged in soldier relief efforts, and displays of period clothing and accessories. Free. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov).

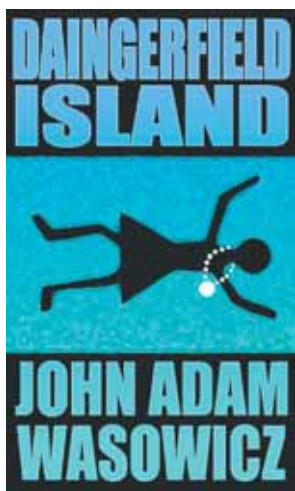
## SUNDAY/MARCH 25

**Women’s History Month at Ivy Hill Cemetery.** 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Authors H.L. Brooks, and Dea Schofield conduct readings and a book signing. They will read from their new books, amid a haunting atmosphere in the vault. This reading event is not recommended for children under 15. Space is limited, R.S.V.P. at 301-395-9541 or 703-549-7413 ext.1112 or email [info@ihchps.org](mailto:info@ihchps.org).

**Live Music: Maggie.** 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Since 1973, Terry Leonino and Greg Artzner have brought their unique sound and remarkable versatility to audiences everywhere, featuring traditional and vintage Americana to contemporary and stirring original compositions. Tickets are \$18 in advance at [www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets](http://www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets) and for members, \$20 at the door.

## MONDAY/MARCH 26

**Common Sailors and the Braddock Expedition.** 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 121 N. Fairfax St. In this lecture, Kyle Dalton will explore the lives and experiences of common sailors in the eighteenth century through the lens of the Braddock Expedition. A little known detachment of 33 Royal Navy sailors



## Author Event: John Wasowicz

Introducing Elmo Katz, Esq., an attorney who is to Alexandria what Sherlock Holmes is to London: a sharp-witted problem solver engrossed in solving a complicated criminal case. Meet Mo Katz in his law office at fictitious 771A Duchess Street in Old Town as he solves a mysterious murder that occurs on Daingerfield Island, below Reagan National Airport. Author John Wasowicz will be signing copies Thursday, March 22, 4-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St.

trudged through the wilderness and fought at the disastrous battle on the Monogahela. Admission is free, donations are welcome. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com) or call 703-549-2997.

residents and \$210 for out-of-county campers. Registration is at [go.usa.gov/xneTw](http://go.usa.gov/xneTw).

Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park).

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/MARCH 26-31

**Spring Break Camps at Huntley Meadows Park.** Elementary school age children can discover what life was like for the first people to use what is now Huntley Meadows Park. Program attendees will need to bring a snack, lunch and drink.

❖ **The Pioneer Survival Camp** is for 6-12-year-olds. Camp hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. \$295 per child for county residents and \$310 for out-of-county campers. Register online at [go.usa.gov/xneTd](http://go.usa.gov/xneTd).

❖ **Animal Babies in Spring** is for 4-6-year-olds. Camp hours are 9 a.m.-noon. \$195 per child for county

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

**William Ramsay and Business in 18-Century Alexandria.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Alexandria Historical Society and the Office of Historic Alexandria present Dr. Nancy Davis, curator emeritus at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, discussing Alexandria merchant William Ramsay and his 1753-1756 ledger books. \$5 for non-members, and free to members of the Alexandria Historical Society. Memberships can be purchased at the

door (open at 7 p.m.). Visit [www.alexandriahistorical.org/](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org/).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 30-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Friday, 3 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.; Sunday, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Activities include games, crafts, refreshments, and photos with the Easter Bunny. Every participating child will receive an Easter egg. \$12 children, \$5 adults. Call 703-548-1789 or visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**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 Dimitri Olive Oil & Vinegar tastings. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**A Treasury of Tea.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Discover myths and facts behind the history of tea and the many tea types. Hear about social impacts of tea, changing fashions of the tea table, and teatime traditions and etiquette, and learn how to brew teas to perfection. Adults. Reservations required: \$32/person (program + tea), \$12 (program only). Call (703) 941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

**Live Music: Cleve Francis.** 7:30-10 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. An evening of eclectic music with Cleve Francis and his large band performing their own brand of country, folk, blues, light rock and jazz. \$35 plus fees. Email [muzicdoc@gmail.com](mailto:muzicdoc@gmail.com) or visit [www.clevefrancis.com](http://www.clevefrancis.com).

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Target Gallery is the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center is managed by the Alexandria Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities.





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Public Information Meeting

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018**  
**6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**  
**Presentation starts at 7 p.m.**

Mount Vernon High School  
Auditorium/Cafeteria, use entrance 4  
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road  
Alexandria, VA 22309

**Find out** about plans to widen Richmond Highway (Route 1) from four to six lanes between Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road.

The project includes separate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on both sides of the road, safety enhancements, as well as preserving the median width to accommodate Fairfax County's future Bus Rapid Transit plans for dedicated bus-only lanes.

The meeting will also provide information about the Environmental Assessment (EA), currently under preparation to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 23 CFR 771. To inform the EA, VDOT is conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

**Stop by** between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and preferred design alternatives. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. and project staff will be available to answer your questions.

**Review** project information at the VDOT project website ([www.virginiadot.org/richmondhighway](http://www.virginiadot.org/richmondhighway)), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2734 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **May 4, 2018** to Mr. William Dunn, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [RichmondHighway@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:RichmondHighway@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "April 4 public information meeting" in the subject line.

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State Project: 0001-029-205, P101, R201, C501, UPC: 107187

## News



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

From left: Dr. Tangy Millard, Dr. Scott Brabrand, Judy Harbeck, Stan Koussis, Joel Bernstein, and Karen Corbett Sanders at the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce meeting.

# Brabrand Addresses Chamber

FROM PAGE 1

ment is going up. We're trying to close the Excellence Gap. We're seeing good progress in that. We're seeing more underprivileged and minority students availing themselves in opportunities in honors and AP classes."

Terrell, who oversees 2,100 students at Mount Vernon High School, added: "We are an International Baccalaureate School, which means our students are judged by an international standard and we're very proud of that. We are a comprehensive high school; we have something for every student who comes in our doors," he said. "We sent two kids to Harvard last year and everything in between that as well as getting students ready for careers. I know that's very important to the people here."

He added: "We partner with West Potomac High School and the Academies so students leave with licenses and certifications and real-world applications that they can use right after graduation, so we're very proud of that."



Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Scott Brabrand with Matt Ragone, principal of South County High School.



From left: Scott Stroh, chairman of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber; Scott Brabrand, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools; Sonja Caison, chamber president; Anthony Terrell, principal Mount Vernon High School; and Matt Ragone, principal South County High School.



# The Conversation Begins

FROM PAGE 16

**John Foust, Dranesville**

"I too will be supporting advertisement of the tax rate. I think it is important to provide the flexibility that two and a half cents increase provides. Equally important that we spend a lot of time over the next two months looking at how we can bring that down. I know that I am absolutely committed to doing that."

"We need to address the fact that our teachers are below the market and we are losing them."

"We need to address the fact that over the last several years we have not been consistent and have not fulfilled the obligations and commitments that we have made to our own county employees."

"Those two things are driving this budget. Those two priorities, and I think that regardless of what we do the next two months, we have to commit ourselves to funding those two things. Other than those two things, everything else is on the table. I will be very surprised if we're not able bring that tax rate increase down."

**Jeff McKay, Lee, Budget Chair**

"I appreciate everyone's comments. Clearly, we are going to work to generate savings but as many have spoken, you would be cutting off conversation if we didn't advertise this tax rate."

"The lion's share of all new revenue goes to ... employee pay and teacher pay. And there is no way you could come up with enough cuts in this budget and do the type of pay increases that our employees and teachers deserve. The numbers just don't work."

"Every member of the board has the opportunity to bring forward a package of cuts that balances the budget to the tax rate that they so desire. I look forward to having that conversation as we move forward. ...

"To me it would be irresponsible to decide how we are going to vote on the budget without hearing from members of our community and how they feel about it."

**Sharon Bulova, Chairman**

"This is a budget that does address the board's highest priorities, Diversion First, addressing the opioid crisis, gang prevention, early childhood education, funding compensation for our teachers as well as our county employees ...

"I did also want to just say something for people who believe that people are fleeing Fairfax County to other parts of the region. Since 2015, Fairfax County's population has actually increased by 26,700, which is actually the size or a little bit more than the size or the population of the City of Fairfax. So we've been growing."

## STAY INVOLVED: COUNTY BUDGET MEETINGS

- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m., Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center, First Floor Multipurpose Room, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 7:30pm, Braddock District Council Annual Budget Meeting, Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke
- ❖ Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m., Mason District Budget Town Meeting, Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- ❖ Monday, March 19, 7 p.m., Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall, Whitman Middle School, Lecture Hall, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria
- ❖ Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m., Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
- ❖ Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
- ❖ April 10-12, Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form) to sign up.

More at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget)

# Adjourning without a State Budget

FROM PAGE 10

directed to WMATA. I expect Governor Northam will amend the bill to preserve the \$154 million while using less funding directly from NVT. This would free up money for additional transportation projects.

Seven of my bills passed the General Assembly and await Governor Northam's consideration. SB920 addressed the struggle experienced by the Tarantino family of Alexandria and will reduce the onerous 10-year waiting period for them to adopt a child due to an eight-year-old drug possession conviction — regardless of Mr. Tarantino's record of honorable service in the military and his wife's years of service with local nonprofits. Congressman Donald Beyer brought to my attention that predatory teachers who sexually abuse students have been recommended away to another school district by fellow employees to avoid scandal and lawsuits. SB605 will prohibit public school employees from "passing the trash." SB918 will repeal a provision of the Code of Virginia authorizing the revocation of professional licenses from people who fall behind on their student loans. Student loan debt affects 44 million people in the United States, and I am thankful that Delegates Eileen Filler-Corn (D-Fairfax) and Schuyler VanValkenburg (D-Henrico) led the House effort to address this issue.

An interim committee will be established to consider a large volume of legislation regarding election reform in the wake of several incidents arising

in the 2017 election and to consider the implementation of no-excuse absentee voting. Five of my bills were referred to this interim committee including SB602, which would provide for "no-excuse absentee voting."

Outright hostility from Republicans toward all gun violence prevention efforts resulted in a disappointing year. Over 60 gun violence prevention measures were put forward and defeated, including my bills to ban bump stocks (SB1), institute universal background checks (SB5), and prohibit carrying firearms while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs (SB2). Despite the current legislative stalemate, I am inspired by the movement taking shape in the wake of the terrible tragedy in Parkland, Florida. Young people across the country are taking action to demand gun sense reforms, and I urge like-minded supporters to join me in standing with them.

On Wednesday, April 18 we will reconvene for our one day "veto" session, when the General Assembly is to consider Governor Northam's amendments and vetoes.

Now that session is over, I'm reporting to constituent groups and doing my homework for 2019. If your group wishes to request a legislative update, email my office at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov). Also, please consider following me on Twitter (@AdamEbbin) and Facebook.

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

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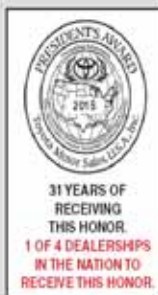
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and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace  
cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance  
reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF  
PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/18.

## VARIABLE DISCOUNT

**\$5.00 OFF** when you spend \$35.00 - \$49.99  
**\$10.00 OFF** when you spend \$50.00 - \$99.99  
**\$15.00 OFF** when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99  
**\$20.00 OFF** when you spend \$200.00 - \$499.99  
**\$50.00 OFF** when you spend \$500.00 or more

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**INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION**

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Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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





# CHRIS WHITE

*Planning to sell in 2018?*

*Now is the time to call Chris & Peggy White!*

*Leading the Area in Real Estate. **SOLD!!!***

LONG & FOSTER  
REAL ESTATE

CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



4200 Robertson Blvd  
\$575,000

**Contemporary Design!**

Super unique center courtyard style home in Mt. Vernon. Circle drive leads to 2 car garage. 3 bed/ 2.5 bath home with lower level rec room. Fully fenced back yard

with unique center courtyard accessible from all interior rooms. Bring the outdoors in with this rare contemporary opportunity! Won't last long!

**COMING SOON**



9421 Old Mt. Vernon Rd.  
\$729,500

**Rare Opportunity!**

Rare mid-century design with private pool scene makes for ideal setting. Many updates to this 4BR/ 3.5 BA home include kitchen, roof, water heater, basement finished

and in-law suite added with full kitchen, pool work, all bathrooms updated including stunning master bath and closet. Don't miss this one!

**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.

**COMMUNITY WATER ACCESS**



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!**  
\$775,000

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**



9104 Chickawane Ct.  
**Main Level Master!**  
\$719,500

Exceptionally spacious 6 BR home with rare first floor master suite. Major rooms on main level accommodate one level living. Other features include: three finished levels, full walk out level, cavernous storage space, freshly painted, newly finished hardwood floors, and two car garage. Prime location on large lot with pool on quiet cul-de-sac.

**CONTRACT**



5411 Grist Mill Woods Way  
\$1,050,000  
**Backs to Forest!**

Truly spectacular Property! Stunning three level Colonial in premier setting on gorgeous large lot fronting quiet cul-de-sac in premier Mt. Vernon location. Special Features Include: open floor plan, high

ceilings, many major updates, finished fully walk out lower level, and 2 car garage. Walls of windows and large deck capitalize on wooded private lot!

**CONTRACT**



9509 Ferry Harbour Ct  
\$849,000  
**Many Updates!**

9424 Mt. Vernon Circle  
\$940,000  
**Fully Updated!**



3909 Rive Dr.  
\$725,000

**Pristine Condition!**

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

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

**SOLD**



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

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



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

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



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

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



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