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# Mount Vernon Gazette

Spring Fun

Page, 12

Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

March 29, 2018

## New Vision for Richmond Highway

Revitalization plan emphasizes history, livability, environment and diversity with 18,000 new residential units and 8 million square feet of nonresidential.

Ken Moore  
The Gazette

**M**ore than three-quarters of a billion dollars will be needed for the new vision for Richmond Highway. But enthusiasm for Embark Richmond Highway has already been cemented in place.

"We love the Embark. We think it's beautiful, we think it's well designed, it's environmentally great, we hope it wins an award," said Mary Paden, of the South County Task Force, during a Board of Supervisors public hearing on Tuesday, March 20.



Storck

"It's exciting for us who live in the Lee and Mount Vernon districts to see the potential for what our community can become as it re-develops. This plan amendment tells us that all of you see the potential, too," Catherine Ledec, president of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, told the Board of Supervisors.

"The staff did an amazing job," said Edythe Kelleher, of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

"The level of detail, all the threads they pulled together, all the public comments that they had to sift through over the course of two and a half years, the manner in which they made everything so transparent to the community so that everyone could follow what was happening, this is truly a model of how this type of project should move forward," she said.

"An amazing, amazing complex fabulous document," said Carolyn Gamble, of Friends of Historic

Huntley. The Board of Supervisors, following an hour and a half public hearing, approved the Plan Amendment for Richmond Highway on Tuesday, March 20.

"Much like we've invested in the Tysons, Dulles and Reston corridors, Richmond Highway is ripe to be the next major reinvestment in the county," said Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck.

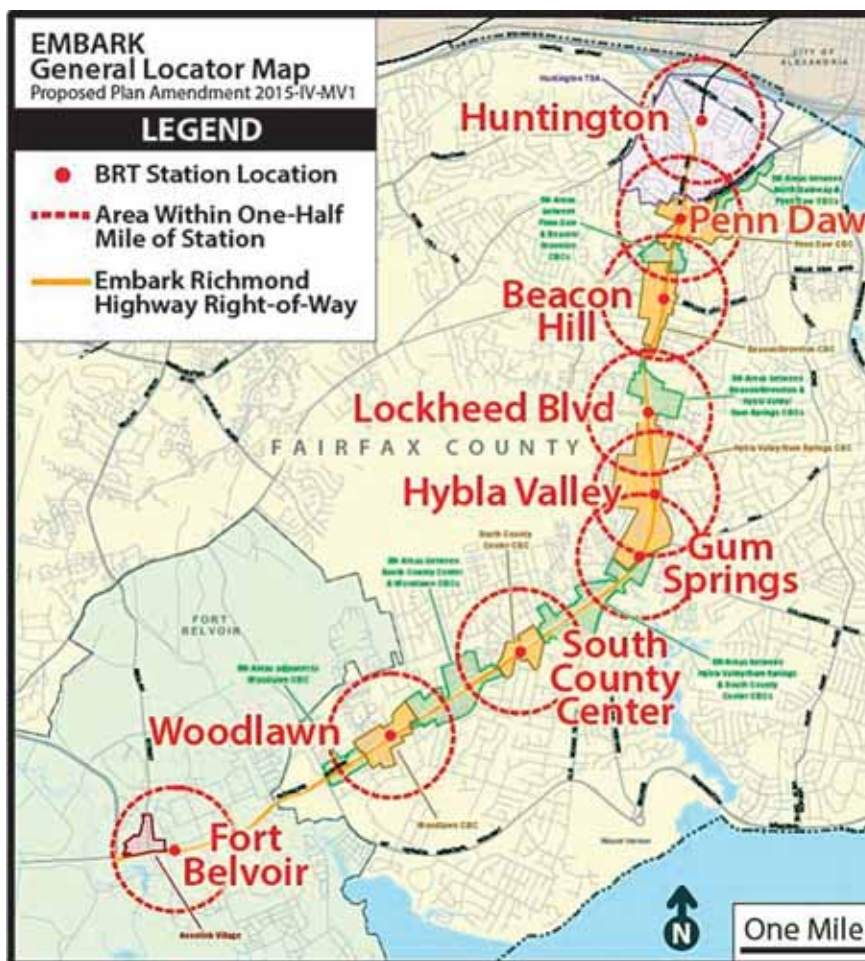
**THE PLAN CONCENTRATES** more mixed-use development, especially residential, within a half mile around nine planned Bus Rapid Transit stations.

There could be as many as 18,000 housing units and 8.5 million square feet in nonresidential development. Buildings could be as tall as 22 stories in the Beacon/Groveton town center.

There are six future business centers along the Richmond Highway corridor, with most of the future growth in four centers: Penn Daw, Beacon/Groveton, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, and would be a cultural corridor and tourist hub, including a hotel and conference center near the BRT station.

Woodlawn. The densest development will be focused in Beacon/Groveton and Hybla Valley, the locations for the two future Metro stations.

"This amendment clears the way for modern transit-oriented development in the Richmond Highway corridor to support a bus rapid transit (BRT) system, from the Huntington Metro Station to Fort



Belvoir, and ultimately a Yellow Line Metrorail extension," said Storck.

The Woodlawn hub includes historic sites, such as Mount Vernon, Washington's Grist Mill, Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House, and would be a cultural corridor and tourist hub, including a hotel and conference center near the BRT station.

The plan also emphasizes important environmental resources.

**ADVOCATES WANT** to ensure details in the plan, such as underground utilities and affordable housing and attention to common areas and green spaces.

"We just want to make sure that

in a house and on one side is a U.S. citizen from Ghana, on the other side, I have soldiers who work at Fort Belvoir, and next to them is a family from Bolivia. I think it's a great strength of our area and we don't want to lose it, we don't want to get gentrified."

Chairman Sharon Bulova and the board gave unanimous support for the project.

"This truly is a transformative project and truly is exciting," said Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity.

"It's a wonderful, wonderful corridor, it's a corridor full of environmental treasures and a corridor especially full of historic treasures," said Bulova. "And Embark recognizes that and incorporates all those things into the plan. I think this is exciting, I congratulate you both," she said to Storck and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay.

"If you take anything away from this, take the solidarity of the people that testified," said McKay. "This has been

a robust effort with a huge amount of community input."

"The number one thing I say we need is action, we need to secure money and we need to get money," said McKay. "Too many times, I've seen communities focus on a perfect plan and lose the opportunity right in front of them. We're not going to let that happen with Route 1."



Bulova

said Paden. "I'm proud that I live

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OPEN SAT 3/31, 2-4

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### Belle Haven | \$1,195,000

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### Stratford Landing | \$565,000

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OPEN SUN 4/1, 1-4

### Nethergate \$725,000

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### Warwick Village \$559,900

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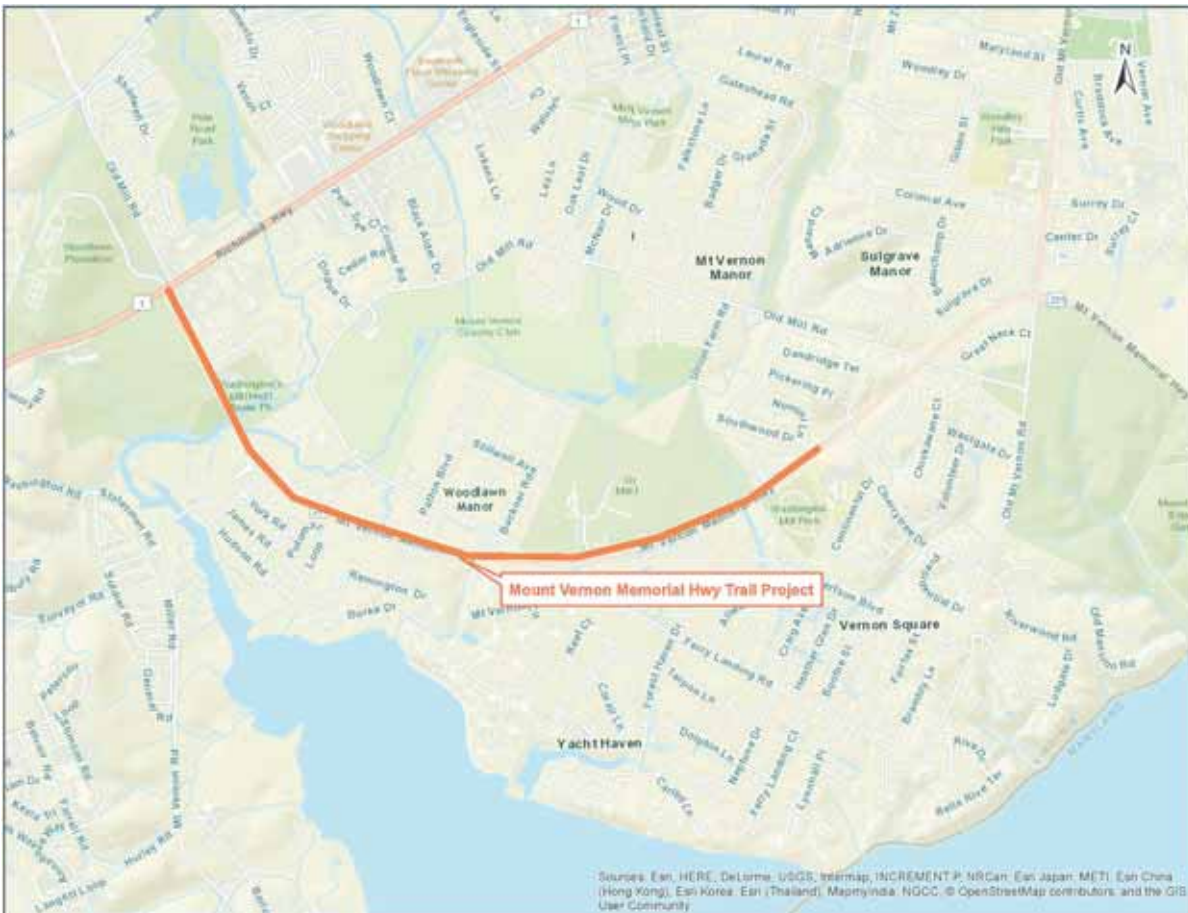


Photo by Mike Salmon/The Gazette

At Old Mill Park, the existing bike trail leads off from the east side of the access road but not the west side.

# Bike Trail in Mount Vernon Eyed for Improvements

Links and bridge planned for segments southeast of plantation.

By Mike Salmon  
The Gazette

At Mount Vernon High School, on March 14, area cyclists looked at Fairfax County plans to complete a link in the Fairfax County bike rail network, patching together trail bits along Mount Vernon Memorial Highway to complete this bike trail in the southern part of the county.

Chris Wells, the Fairfax County bicycle and pedestrian coordinator, chaired the meeting, where they laid out plans that included a 10-foot shared use path connecting links of an existing trail with a pedestrian

bridge crossing Dogue Creek and improved pedestrian crossings with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant marked crosswalks and curb ramps.

This \$6.5 million, two-mile stretch is part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail between Richmond Highway (Route 1) and Southwood Drive and in accordance to the Countywide Trails Plan.

They are patching together pieces of an neglected roadside trail that has been there for years, and is falling apart in places, according to area cyclist John Pickett, who attended the meeting.

"On paper, we want to connect the dots," said Pickett. He noted that even with the

project completed, this stretch of trail would not be an ideal trail portion because the old parts that weave along Mount Vernon Memorial Highway are too narrow and riddled with tree-root lumps making it rough for bicycle commuters or serious riders. "It sets the stage to say 'let's fix the old stuff,'" Pickett said. With a team of consultants standing by the maps in the school cafeteria, concerns were raised about the steel and concrete design of the Dogue Creek bridge, sight lines for crosswalks, the condition of the decrepit existing trail segments, and drainage. The crossing at Old Mill Road was targeted as well.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan

Storck was also there. He hopes the trail project will be done in 2018, but realistically thinks it will be 2019.

Part of the plan requires third-party approval. "Coordination with the FHWA, the U.S. Army and VDOT is required for potential intersection improvement at Fort Belvoir's Walker Gate entrance," the slideshow read. This meeting was a first step in the county process, and will now move further along, but no hard dates were mentioned. Comments will be accepted through April 8 at <https://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/mount-vernon-memorial-highway-trail-public-information-meeting-march-14-2018>.

# County Honors Students with Peace Awards

Students from 23 Fairfax County schools recognized for promoting peace and conflict resolution.

By Steve Hibbard  
The Gazette

Students from 23 Fairfax County Public Schools were named recipients of the 2018 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, which were handed out in a reception held Sunday, March 11, at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

Since 2006, the awards have

recognized youth who introduce programs in their schools on many different issues that promote peace and conflict resolution throughout the county. In the 2017-2018 school year, the recipients each received \$200, plus another \$100 to be given to any non-profit organization of his or her choice.

"It's an honor to be here to help recognize you today for your out

See County, Page 6



Mount Vernon High School: Scarlett Elizabeth Reyes was honored for her work with Christian Relief Services that helps families in the U.S. and around the world find safe havens from violence and attain clean water, housing, medical assistance, and education. She is with U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11).



West Potomac High School: Kameron Clarke was honored for opening the conversation between students, local police, and community leaders to foster learning, communication, and understanding and foster safer interactions between students and the police. Pictured with U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11).

By Steve Hibbard/The Gazette



## ‘Nevertheless, She Persisted’

Commission for Women celebrates 2018 honorees at Women’s History Month reception.

By Andrea Worker

**M**arch is Women’s History Month, and the theme for this year’s celebrations is “Nevertheless, She Persisted,” referring to the now-famous phrase that was part of Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell’s rebuke of Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts in February of 2017 after a party-line vote to stop Warren’s speech against the appointment of Sen. Jeff Sessions as the U.S. attorney general.

“Sen. Warren was giving a lengthy speech,” said McConnell at the time. “She had appeared to violate the rule[s]. She was warned ... nevertheless, she persisted.”

Since then, that phrase has become a rallying cry for women’s rights advocates and others around the world, and is a fitting description for the women chosen by the Fairfax County Commission for Women as their 2018 honorees, according to Michelle Mueller, the county’s liaison to the commission, who led the program at the commission’s reception on March 6 at the Government Center.

The women selected as this year’s recipients for recognition by the county “have exemplified that persistence,” said Mueller in her remarks, especially in their work to “fight all forms of discrimination against women.”

❖ **Sheila Coates**, a sixth generation Virginian, Coates has been “persisting” for over four decades. The founder and president of Black Women United for Action since its inception in 1985, Coates has served on the board of the National Council of Women’s Organizations and as a delegate to the National Summit on Africa. She successfully lobbied for a minority-at-large position to the Fairfax County Commission for Women, as well as for the appointment of an African American woman to the board at George Mason University — a first for the institution which she attended and where she studied public administration and political science. Coates continues her work, serving on a number of boards, panels and committees, and advising and educating on women’s rights issues.



Photo by Andrea Worker

**At its March 6 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors presents a proclamation, declaring March 2018 to be Women’s History Month.**

❖ **Grace Wolf Cunningham** is serving her fourth term on the Herndon Town Council and is the first Korean American elected official in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Cunningham is an adviser to the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women’s Issues (WCCW).

The group’s name comes from the euphemism given to the more than 200,000 women trafficked as sex slaves during World War II by the Japanese military as “comfort” for the fighting troops and was started to call for acknowledgement of, and reparation to these victims.

In addition to their founding mission, today, WCCW continues to advocate for the rights of wartime victims and is dedicated to the “eradication and prevention of sex crimes.” Cunningham was the driving force behind the installation of the “Peace Garden,” unveiled at the Government Center in 2014, as a memorial to those “Comfort Women” and as a reminder of the need to remain vigilant and continue to fight human trafficking.

❖ **Laura Harris** is another veteran in the fight against discrimination and as a

champion for victims of domestic violence. Harris has worked for Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Services Unit for over 30 years and led the charge to bring county services and resources together in a coordinated response to domestic violence, instrumental in establishing the county Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council, as well as the Domestic Action Center. Among her achievements, Harris also helped to start the volunteer “Attorney for the Day Program” which provides pro bono legal services to clients seeking protective orders in domestic violence situations, but who cannot afford attorneys or who face challenges understanding their rights and the legal system.

❖ **Lidia Soto-Harmon**, the CEO of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital, believes in developing and supporting future leaders, assuring that all young women have the opportunity to succeed. To that aim, Soto-Harmon works to make sure that no girl or volunteer is excluded from full participation in Girl Scouts because of financial difficulties.

Adding to her resume of years of activism, Soto-Harmon currently serves as the governance chair for the Meyer Foundation, an organization that “works on pursuing and investing in solutions that build an equitable Greater Washington community in which women of color and economically vulnerable thrive.”

Assisting Michelle Mueller in presenting certificates to the honorees were Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins. At the regular Board of Supervisors’ Meeting which followed the reception, Bulova presented a proclamation, accepted on behalf of the Commission for Women by Cunningham, declaring March 2018 as “Women’s History

Month, and a time to honor all women who continue to fight and succeed in bringing positive change to the lives of diverse American Women.”

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE WOMEN** who sacrificed in the past to gain the opportunity for women of today to succeed, the reception also included a display of the planned Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, a garden-based memorial to be located within the Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton — once part of the prison grounds where women suffragists were incarcerated.

Executive Director of Turning Point Patricia Wirth was on hand to showcase the drawings of the memorial and remind attendees of the contributions of the women “who came before us.” Wirth says they still haven’t raised all the funds needed to build the national memorial, but declared that regardless of what phase of achievement has been reached by that time, “there’s going to be an unveiling event on Aug. 26, 2020.”

Cunningham vowed to “put pressure on my colleagues to donate to the fundraising efforts for the memorial. We are so fortunate to live in amazing Fairfax County,” said Cunningham, “where we have a woman as our Board of Supervisors chair, a woman chair for the public school board, mayors like Lisa Merkel of Herndon, women serving our area in the state legislature and so many more, unlike many other jurisdictions across our region and the country — and we wouldn’t have this opportunity without these women who sacrificed to get women the right to vote.”

For more about Women’s History Month and the Commission for Women, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cfw). The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association has a Facebook page and information on [www.suffragistmemorial.org](http://www.suffragistmemorial.org).



**From left: Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova; honorees Lidia Soto-Harmon, Laura Harris, Grace Cunningham, and Sheila Coates; Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins; and Michelle Mueller, county liaison to the Commission for Women at the Women’s History Month 2018 Reception.**





## Living Stations of the Cross

On Friday, March 30, Saint Rita Catholic Church, 3815 Russell Road, and Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, will offer Living Stations of the Cross (or Via Crucis en Vivo) at 6 p.m. The living stations consist of a visual portrayal of Jesus on the way to his crucifixion.

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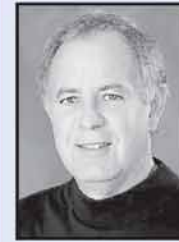


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**8534 Riverside Road**  
Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split w/DBL carport in Stratford Landing Elementary District. Numerous updates including Kitchen, Baths, tankless HWH, DBL Pane windows, exterior siding, beautiful hwd floors on main level and lovely laminate (like hard wood) floors throughout lower level. Fenced back yard w/a wood deck and brick patio. Short walk to Stratford elementary. This is a keeper!!



**Alex/Waynewood \$724,900**  
**1120 Waynewood Blvd.**  
Waynewood's popular Mayfield model w/ 4 finished levels & a spacious 5th level w/good ceiling height waiting to be finished. Steps to Waynewood Elementary. This lovely light-filled home has 4BRs, w 2.5 BAs, a 3 season porch, & a lovely fenced bkyd w/a brick patio & an attractive shed. Quality replacement windows, 6 panel doors. Beautiful newly re-finished hwd floors. FPL in Living rm, eat-in kitchen w/gas cooktop & double oven. Separate Dining rm w/French doors to porch. Family rm on lower level w/half bath.



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$589,900**  
**8543 Mt Vernon Highway**  
Newly remodeled 3 lvl colonial w/4 BRs, 2.5BAs, huge oversized garage, all on a lovely .41 acre lot. New baths & stunning new open kitchen w/white cabinetry, granite counters, SS appliances, recessed lighting & an island w/breakfast bar. Large, bright Living rm w/fpl, separate Dining rm w/sliding glass doors to deck & Family rm w/sliding glass doors to screened porch overlooking beautiful & flat bkyd. Gorgeous hwd flrs, newly refinished. New carpeting & paint. Lower lvl Rec Rm w/fpl. One mile to GW Parkway, Potomac River & Mt. Vernon Estate. It's a 10!



**Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000**  
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**Mt. Vernon Grove \$574,900**  
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# County Honors Students with Peace Awards

From Page 3

standing work to promote peace throughout Fairfax County and beyond. Your areas of focus cover a wide range of topics and methods, but all unite in one common goal, and that is to encourage and to strengthen peace and unity among all of us," said Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors chairman. "In Fairfax County, we consider our diversity to be our greatest asset. It is what makes us special."

Special guests included Bulova; U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11); state Del. Ken Plum (D-36); School Board Member Ilryong Moon; School Board Chair Jane Strauss; School Board Member Ryan McElveen; and Guest Speaker Janessa Gans Wilder, founder and CEO of the Euphrates Institute, who flew in from California for the event. The host and organizer was Margaret Fisher.

Carmen Mazyck, 18, of Alexandria, who attends Hayfield Secondary, was honored for her role in the Hayfield Black Student Union. "With the Hayfield Black Student Union, our motto was to educate, serve, and inspire the community to embrace African-American culture and other cultures to bring people together of all races," she said.

Bryce Liquerman, 16, of McLean, a Junior at McLean High School, worked with Special Olympic athletes by coaching softball and soccer teams. "I help spread the word in the community that people shouldn't be awkward around them and people should be very accepting of people who are different mentally and physically," he said. "We're all people; it doesn't really matter, we're all the same .... I've led a lot of activities like doing tournaments and team events with many different Special Olympic athletes who have partnered a lot with other kids in our community."

Sarah Osman, 18, of Lorton, a senior at King Abdullah Academy, worked with "RefAmerica," which welcomed high school Syrian refugees who recently moved here. "As American high school students, we got to interact with each other and understand one another's cultures," she said. "We actually got to go to Congress and speak to congressional leaders on the matter of welcoming Syrian refugees into our country. I spoke about the plight of the history and how welcoming them into this country keeps the Pilgrim's legacy alive because the Pilgrims of 1620 came into this country in hopes of starting a brand new land where there would be freedom of speech and religion."

Arnaz Carter-Newman, 17, of Reston,

who attends Cedar Lane High School, worked with a Positivity Project. "We just hope to pass on the message that no one should be having a bad day. Everyone should be having a better day; everyone should be in a better mood," he said. "When you produce negative energy, then other people around you want to produce negative energy. When you produce positive energy, you start spreading positive energy and then everyone around you gets more happy."

Breshna Haider, 17, of Centreville, who attends Westfield High School, works with the school's Muslim Student Association. "We work really hard to partner with other organizations like the Adams Center of Sterling, and we want to promote more positive energy; we want people to be aware of what we do and get rid of the bad connotations from being a Muslim," she said.

Kimberly Schmaus, 18, of Chantilly, who attends Chantilly High School, helped to promote peace in the community. "I raised awareness about diversity in the community to try and promote peace. I urged others in the community to do the same because it's like a ripple effect; if one person starts it, it will have an effect on everyone else," she said.

Alvin Kim, 17, of Annandale, who attends Annandale High School, worked with NAKASEC - The National Korean and American Service and Education Consortium. "I lobbied and worked towards immigrant rights and immigrant opportunities and also helping to improve the community around Annandale," he said. "I did stuff like protesting for DACA, which was an Executive Order by President Obama back in 2012, and I also went to our U.S. senators such as Mark Warner and Tim Kaine to ask for their help in our cause .... We went around our school and our neighborhoods asking for petition signatures so that our representatives, both senators and House members, that they know that we care and that it is important to us that these needs are met." Janan Iranbomy, 17, of Falls



**Quander Road School: Gina Scapellato was honored for instituting a peace project that encourages classmates to be more aware of how their actions and communication affect others, and for her work to help the homeless. She is with U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11).**

tional group along with Allison Janowski. "We worked really hard this year to do a 'Write for Rights Campaign' at our school, which is one of Amnesty International campaigns to get prisoners of conscience released from prison internationally," she said. "And we also led some debate days which we tried to promote healthy discussion within our school from many different groups of people in the school to create a healthy debate and a safe space for people to speak their mind."

Kameron Clarke, 17, of Alexandria, who attends West Potomac High School, initiated a Police Relations Seminar at the school. "Me and my Combatting Intolerance Class are planning it. We're hoping to get two police officers from the Fairfax County Police Department and a defense lawyer to come and talk to students about how to interact with the police safely to prevent police brutality and just better relationships between students,

the community and the police officers," she said.

Bryan Brito, 21, of Centreville, who attends Mountain View High School, does volunteer work relating to immigration and Latin culture. "I've been pretty involved in it because I myself was an immigrant and undocumented in many different aspects. I had the same situation that many of the people that I'm helping now. I'm on the board of directors of the CIF - Centreville Immigration Forum. I am like the voice of them - I acknowledge the needs of my community and things that we can do and projects that we can accomplish," he said.

Nahom Dagnachew, 16, of Springfield, who attends Annandale High School, works with NAKASEC to promote immigrant rights. "When DACA was repealed, we did a lot of actions and sit-ins in Congress in order to promote DACA. In the last Virginia election, we also did a lot of voting promotion. We're trying to get the voter turnout high. We managed to increase Asian turnout by 195 percent for the 2017 Virginia election. Right now, we're working on getting a clean Dream Act approved," he said.



## Bank Robbery

A man entered the SunTrust bank at 5922 Richmond Highway on March 23 at 12:28 p.m., displayed a note to the teller, implied he had a gun and demanded money. The man was given an undisclosed amount of cash and left the bank. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as a white male, 40-50 years old, wearing a black stocking hat, a tan jacket, and a blue shirt with a striped tie. He also had a band-aid on the right side of his face.

## Crime Report

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

**ROBBERY:** Arlington Drive and Vernon Square Drive, March 25, 11:55 a.m. A boy reported being approached by two men in ski masks while walking in the neighborhood. One of the men tackled the boy and then stole his phone.

**HIT-AND-RUN/ARREST:** Sherwood Hall Lane / Fordson Road, March 20, 4:41 p.m. A Fairfax County Public Schools bus was rear ended while sitting in traffic. There were students on board, but no one was taken to the hospital for injuries. The driver of the car that hit the bus ran from the scene. Officers were then informed someone matching the driver's description had arrived at a nearby hospi-

tal. The driver was identified as 25-year-old woman from Alexandria. She was charged with felony hit-and-run, and also had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear in court on a drug charge.

**FRAUD:** 7901 Richmond Highway, March 20, 5:30 p.m. An employee noticed damage to the ATM at this location. A technician verified that a skimming device was used at this location, inserted in the part of the ATM with damage done to it.

**ROBBERY:** 8100 block of Keeler Street, March 20, 8:30 p.m. The victim reported that he was attempting to sell a pair of shoes to a subject on an app. The suspect arrived, displayed a handgun and fled with the shoes. The suspect was described as a black, 5 feet 6 inches tall, late teens, 120 pounds.

The suspect was wearing a black jacket, and grey pants.

**BURGLARY:** 4900 block of Lawrence Street, March 19, 9:45 a.m. A resident called police after finding a window of their house open. When officers arrived, they apprehended a boy running out of the home.

**WARRANT SERVICE / ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT:** 8723 Cooper Road, March 19, 9:00 p.m. Officers received information that there was a juvenile at this location who was wanted. As the officers attempted to arrest the boy, he elbowed one of the officers and ran away. The subject was

See Crime Report, Page 17

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# Opinion

## 'Channeling Outrage into Activism'

By Adam P. Ebbin  
State Senator (D-30)



*Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.*

I'm Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an "F" rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I've been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a gun.

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a gun.

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elected leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it's time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated.

Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices — loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours.

I'm here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don't have to be a voter yet to shape the debate.

Speak up by calling your elected officials.

Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.

Get involved at election time.

Register to vote as soon as you are eligible.

Stay informed and stay

active.

Vote.

Repeat until no school in America has to wonder "Who's next?"

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an end to gun violence.

The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn't be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is travelling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target.

When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes

to blink, shredding tissue in a process known as cavitation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange.

A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute. Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds. Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned. Don't tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls and concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don't tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don't tell us we shouldn't be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don't let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough.

We're telling the NRA times up, we're telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline.

We're telling the corporate gun lobby we're done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back.

We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

Commentary

## One Major Hurdle Cleared

### Several more to go in Richmond Highway revitalization.

By Dan Storck  
Mt. Vernon District Supervisor



tersections, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and the Huntington Metro Station, where more than 10 years ago the federal, state and county governments made significant infrastructure investments. Today, you can see the many benefits

of this public investment and the private investment it has brought, from better traffic flow and new housing to improved parks.

We now begin the next steps in implementing our vision along the Richmond Highway corridor, and that means securing the funding to make it happen. The highway and transit improvements included in the Embark Plan are critical to bringing private investment, new housing and development to both sides of the highway. This development, in turn, is critical to the success of BRT, and ultimately Metro, along the corridor.

The Richmond Highway transportation projects are estimated to cost \$700 million, with less than \$100 million allocated to these projects to date. Securing the additional \$600 million in funding will be a huge challenge and must come from many federal, state, regional, county and local sources. Making matters even more challenging, if the current State budget proposals to fund Metro pass as written, a sig-

nificant portion of the new Metro funding will come from diverting local and regional transportation funds from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). With \$377 million in funding for Richmond Highway improvements projected to come from future NVTA allocations, the funding of Embark is in jeopardy. We need your help advocating now to secure this much needed investment in the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor. You can start by contacting the Governor and your state representatives today to tell them to find new funding sources for Metro. Check out our website for more information on contacting your representatives about this important issue. Then, stay tuned as we engage the region in continuing to fight for this critical transportation funding which will bring exciting revitalization to the Richmond Highway corridor.

### Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:  
Letters to the Editor • The Gazette  
1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Letters

## Benefits for Surviving Children

To the Editor:

If you are a surviving spouse of a civilian federal employee and your child was denied pension benefits after Social Security ended, keep reading.

OPM is misinterpreting the law! The governing statute is 5 U.S.C. §8443(a), which states: (a) (1) If an employee or Member dies after completing at least 18 months of civilian service which is creditable under section 8411, or an annuitant dies, each surviving child is, for any month entitled to an annuity equal to – (A) the amount by which the applicable amount under paragraph (2) for such month exceeds the applicable amount under paragraph (3) for such

month, divided by (B) the number of children entitled to a payment under this section for such month.

(2) The applicable amount under this paragraph for any month is the total amount to which the surviving child or children (as the case may be) of the annuitant, employee or Member would be entitled for such month under subchapter III of chapter 83 (including any adjustment based on section 8340) based on the service of such annuitant, employee, or Member, if the service of such annuitant, employee, or Member were creditable under such subchapter. (3) The applicable amount under this paragraph for any month is the total amount of child's insurance benefits which are payable (or would on proper application be payable) under title II of the Social Security Act for such month based on the wages and self-employment income of such annuitant, employee, or Member.

Ruling: In 5 U.S.C. §8443(a) (2) Congress referred to “child or children.” In paragraph (a) (3), Congress only referred to a singular “child’s” benefits. If Congress had intended for child to be plural in paragraph (a) (3) as it was in (a) (2), it would have stated “child’s or “children’s” benefits. Instead, Congress only referenced one child when discussing the amount of SSA benefits to be subtracted from the potential FERS award. OPM’s implementing regulation changed paragraph (a) (3) to “all children” which is erroneously canceling out pension benefits for older children as they age out of SSA. I have tried to bring this injustice to both my congressman and senator on numerous occasions.

If you are a surviving spouse – fight OPM! It is illegal for you to use SSA benefits in the name of one child for the benefit of another child. OPM’s calculation of including younger children’s SSA benefits to offset older children’s pension benefit violates SSA. It is also discriminating against the older child as they will not qualify for the same benefits as a younger child using OPM’s current calculation.

Insist OPM obey the statute as written when calculating your benefits.

**Barbara Wiley**  
Alexandria

## In Praise Of School Librarians

To the Editor:

In honor of School Library Month (April), I first want to recognize all of our school librarians out there in Fairfax County. Thank you for all you do every day for our students. Additionally, a loud shout-out goes to state delegates who support highly qualified, certificated librarians in our public schools. In these times we live in, it is more important than ever to have knowledgeable librarians who are committed to guiding students through the responsible use of digital platforms, critical analysis of all types and sources of information, and, of course, the search for the perfect book.

Part of the librarian’s job is to collaborate with the instructional staff in his or her school to teach these skills. If we don’t have certificated librarians in our library, the quality of the whole education program suffers.

Students in our schools show achievement in the following ways: thinking, creating, sharing and growing. Librarians, through the following shared foundations — inquiry, inclusion, collaboration, curation, exploration and engagement — foster an environment for this evidence of learning. Just this month, Dr. Scott Brabrand, superintendent of FCPS, in a meeting with over 200 school representatives, mentioned the need for digital literacy lessons for our students — the very lessons that librarians have the expertise to provide.

So, the next time you’re picking up your kids from their school, regardless of grade level, stop by the school library to greet the librarian, and check out all the amazing things going on there.

**Michelle G Johnson**  
Alexandria

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Virginia Department of Transportation

DRPT

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

## Public Hearings

### Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

**Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:**  
*A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.*

<b>Monday, April 16, 2018</b> Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	<b>Thursday, April 19, 2018</b> Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	<b>Tuesday, April 24, 2018</b> Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
<b>Monday, April 30, 2018*</b> Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030  *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.	<b>Thursday, May 3, 2018</b> Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402	<b>Monday, May 7, 2018</b> Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
<b>Tuesday May 8, 2018</b> Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408	<b>Thursday, May 10, 2018</b> Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	<b>Monday, May 14, 2018</b> Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: [Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov), or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: [DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov), Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

*The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).*

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Mount Vernon Gazette ♦ March 29 - April 4, 2018 ♦ 9



# Embark Ushers in a New Phase for U.S. 1

By Scott Surovell  
State Senator (D-36)

**L**ast week, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the Embark Route 1 comprehensive plan revision, a step that lays the groundwork for development over the next 30-40 years for the seven miles of U.S. 1

between the Huntington Metro Station and Fort Belvoir. This plan, reflecting several years of community input, has significant implications for both Fairfax and Prince William counties.

When I was elected to the House of Delegates in 2009, efforts to reach consensus for a Fairfax County, U.S. 1 road design had fro-

zen during work on the U.S. 1 Centerline Study, issued by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in January 2010 after a 15-year process. Prince William County was planning a series of U.S. 1 redesigns while Fairfax County's decision-making had stalled after disputes arose about incorporating transit into

## Commentary

redesigns and right-of-way impacts. Then-Congressman Jim Moran had secured \$180 million to expand U.S. 1 to six lanes in Fort Belvoir, but that expansion would create a bottleneck at Jeff Todd Way.

After consulting VDOT experts, then-Virginia Sen. Toddy Puller and I introduced legislation requiring VDOT to conduct a new study

focused on Fairfax County's segment of U.S. 1. Gov. Bob McDonnell and Virginia's Secretary of Transportation at the time, Sean Connaughton, had Mt. Vernon roots, were sympathetic and helped free up \$2 million in state funds. Senator Puller partnered with Prince William Sen. Chuck Colgan who put \$2 million in the state budget and the Route 1 Multimodal Alternative Analysis was born.

Between 2011 and 2014, officials held numerous public meetings and at their conclusion, the consultants recommended that U.S. 1 be widened to a consistent six lanes incorporating sidewalks and multi-use paths along the entire 14-mile stretch. Transit was the hard part.

I adamantly insisted that a Yellow Line Metro Subway extension be incorporated. The consultants determined that a Metro extension was feasible to Hybla Valley, but to create an environment to support such a large investment and obtain federal funding, the county would have to boost commercial and employment density. The consultants also recommended constructing bus rapid transit (BRT) from the Huntington Metro station to Woodbridge to facilitate the growth necessary to support Metro.

The study's executive committee approved these recommendations in October 2014 and the Board of Supervisors adopted the study's conclusions in early 2015. Then the county initiated the Embark Route 1 process for phases I and II through Fort Belvoir, a process needed to incorporate these recommendations into the county's Comprehensive Plan. This is what the Board of Supervisors adopted last week.

The Embark plan will bring a new street grid to facilitate parcel interconnectivity and keep cars, bikes and people off U.S. 1 and create thousands of new jobs. Projects will "daylight" long-buried creeks, getting them out of sewer pipes and coupled with modern storm water control facilities, become community assets. Sustainable development approaches will reduce individual energy consumption. Similar to the Arlington Metro Corridor, this project will take cars off the roads.

For residents in Woodbridge, Phase III will connect bus rapid transit to the Woodbridge VRE, expand the Occoquan River bridge to six lanes, improve the commute into Fort Belvoir, facilitate better

See Embark, Page 18

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## Opinion

# Truth about Sports Scholarships

By Bob Gardner  
Executive Director, National  
Federation of State High School  
Associations  
And Billy Haun  
Executive Director, Virginia High  
School League



Gardner



Haun

**M**any parents are trying to live the dream through their sons and daughters — the dream of landing a college athletic scholarship by specializing in a sport year-round. Unfortunately, most of these dreams are never realized.

The odds of a sports scholarship paying for even a portion of a student's college education are miniscule.

The College Board, a not-for-profit organization comprised of 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions, reports

that a moderate cost for college students who attend a public university in their state of residence is \$25,290 per year. The annual cost at a private college averages \$50,900.

Meanwhile, the most recent data from the NCAA reveals that the average Division I athletic scholarship is worth only \$10,400. More significantly, the same study shows that fewer than two percent of all high school athletes (1 in 54) ever wear the uniform of an NCAA Division I school.

Even if the dream is realized, parents likely will spend more money for club sports than they ever regain through college athletic scholarships. Thanks to the costs of club fees, equipment, summer camps, playing in out-of-state tournaments and private coaching, youth sports has become a \$15 billion-per-year industry.

There is an option, and it's a financially viable one: Encourage your sons and daughters to play sports at their high school.

In education-based high school sports, student-athletes are taught, as the term implies, that grades come first. The real-life lessons that students experientially learn offer insights into leadership, overcoming adversity and mutual respect that cannot be learned anywhere else. Unlike club sports, coaches in an education-based school setting are held accountable by the

See Sports, Page 18

## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

Fairfax County invites you to a Community Open House to learn more about the Original Mount Vernon High School Redevelopment Project.

### Original Mount Vernon High School Redevelopment Project

Thursday, April 5th 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Original Mount Vernon High School Cafeteria  
8333 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, VA 22309

Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/original-mount-vernon-high-school> for more information.

To request reasonable ADA accommodations, 72 hours prior to the meeting call 703-324-5800 and TTY 711.



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## Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Public Information Meetings



### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**  
West Potomac High School  
(Cafeteria)  
6500 Quander Rd  
Alexandria, VA 22307

and

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018**  
Mount Vernon High School  
(Cafeteria)  
8515 Old Mt Vernon Road  
Alexandria, VA 22309

Agenda for both meetings  
6:30-8:30 PM - Open House  
7:00 PM - Presentation / Q&A

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) invites the public to an informational meeting to learn about a project to implement a **Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** system along Richmond Highway and North Kings Highway from Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir.

**BRT systems** are high-quality public transportation systems designed to be fast, reliable, and more convenient than traditional bus routes.

**Join us at a meeting to learn about** the project background and related studies, features of BRT systems, and how to stay involved. You can also **give your input** on the project.

**Translation:** Spanish translation will be available for the presentation and meeting displays. If you would benefit from translation to another language, those services can be requested free of charge by contacting FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711.

### PROJECT WEBSITE

[fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation)

Keyword: "Richmond Highway BRT"

**Transportation and On-site Child Care Assistance:** Transportation is offered from Sacramento Neighborhood Center, South County Government Center, and Hybla Valley Elementary School. Requests are accepted until April 12 by contacting Maria Franco-Nativi at 703-704-6700, TTY 711, or by email at [maria.franco-nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:maria.franco-nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov).

FCDOT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need this information in an alternate format, contact FCDOT at 703-877-5600, TTY 711. You may also mail project comments to FCDOT, Richmond Highway BRT Project Manager, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA, 22030.



# Spring Fun



**High-fire stoneware hand painted woodpecker ware by Laura Nichols of Great Falls, Va.**



**Raku-fired sculpted crackle-glazed polar bears by Heidi Schramm of Arlington, Va.**



**High-fire sea otter and raccoon mugs by Peggy Reichard of Accokeek, Md.**



**Stoneware high-fire crackle contrast penguins by Klaudia Levin of Silver Spring, Md.**

## 'Beasts Beyond Boundaries'

Kiln Club artists highlight "Beasts Beyond Boundaries: Cultural Creature-centric Connections," corralling critters on gallery shelves. Hang with hip hippos and party with polar bears as artists express imagination in original sculpture. Looking for a little fleeting fun, artistry attracts insects like sweet bees, lovely ladybugs or an utterly beautiful butterfly. Go fishing for good fortune and catch a school of smelt, a plate of salmon or Maryland crabs. Plan to playfully eat kung pao from a kitty bowl and mu shu from a platter of mutt. April 2-29, daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

## Calendar

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

### ONGOING

**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/).

**"Cherry Blossom Week."** Through March 31, 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).

**"Finishing Flourishes."** Through March 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., 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.

**"Outdoors In."** Through April 1, various times at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Outdoors In" showcases the ways artists see nature and depict it in paintings, sculptures, textiles, mixed media, and drawings. Before the camera, much of what we knew about nature came from artists and others who drew and painted what they saw and experienced. Artists include local students. visit

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

**Art Exhibit: Renewal.** Through April

15, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Gallery artists producing themed work may draw on any aspect of "renewal" for inspiration. This show will highlight the work of gallery artists Debra Lee, Cheryl Roesel, and Julia Stephens. visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

**"Before the Spirits are Swept Away."** Various times at the Alexandria Black History Museum,

902 Wythe St. This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria's African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria Black History Museum. These paintings are part of Sanabria's "Sites of Conscience" series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. Free, but donations are appreciated. Call 703-746-4356.

**Pick-Up Hockey.** Ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ice Skating, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Play hockey with other hockey buffs, hitting slap shots and learning puck handling skills that the pros use. Players must have full equipment. 16 and older. visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/) or call 703-768-3224.

**The Monday Morning Birdwalk** takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Call 703-768-2525.

### CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For a schedule, visit [TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://TheDelRayArtisans.org).

**The Harmony Heritage Singers** (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. visit [HHSingers.org](http://HHSingers.org), or call 703-352-5271.

### THURSDAYS/SATURDAY/MARCH 29-31

**Fairfax County Parks.** Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

## Rus Uz to Bring Taste of Russia, Uzbekistan to Carlyle

By Hope Nelson

**H**ungry cinema-goers in Alexandria's Carlyle district will soon have a new option to try. Rus Uz, a fusion of Russian and Uzbekistan cuisine, is opening its doors over the summertime directly adjacent to the AMC Hoffman Theater at 210 Swamp Fox Road, taking the place of the departed Ruby Tuesday.

A spinoff of an Arlington restaurant with the same name, Alexandria's Rus Uz will take the majority of the original eatery's menu and styling but add some twists, says general manager Ibrokhim Rakhmatullaev.

**Appetite** "It's going to be the exact same (as the Arlington location)," he said. "The only difference over here is we're trying a new concept: We're going to have a tea room. ... We're going to have a small, special tea room full of desserts — we have a pastry chef from the region that's going to be working with us, so it's going to be an upscale tea room."

And the new location for Rus Uz isn't the company's first foray into Alexandria. Indeed, the business began in town, but on a smaller scale, Rakhmatullaev said.

"When we first started off, we were a catering company. ... We were in Alexandria, but it was a very small (place)," he said.

Now, though, the restaurant is returning to Al-

exandria after a years-long respite, hardier and more robust. And Rakhmatullaev is pleased with the spot they've chosen.

"The Hoffman is a great area, and I think there is a lot of improvements going on and will be coming soon for the Hoffman Town Center," he said.

In another twist of coincidence, Rus Uz's longtime Arlington neighbors have also moved to the Carlyle area in the last little while.

The National Science Foundation "used to be right next to our restaurant in Arlington," Rakhmatullaev said. "We used to have a lot of their corporate private events in our restaurant."

In terms of the food, expect a hearty blend of both Russian and Uzbek dishes, says Rakhmatullaev. On the Russian side of things, "expect a lot of caviar ... stroganoff, borscht, a lot of vodka obviously," he laughed.

Representing Uzbekistan, leading the way is the plov. "It's the national Uzbek dish," says Rakhmatullaev. "Rice, raisins, carrots, chickpeas ... lamb, everything in cooked in one pot with turmeric. It's one of my favorite dishes on the menu right now."

The Rus Uz team has begun renovations and expects to have the restaurant in good order soon. Barring struggles with permitting, Rakhmatullaev aims to have the restaurant open by July.

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



## Spring Fun

# Hersh Conducts ASO Season Finale

By Melinda Kern  
Alexandria Symphony Orchestra

**D**uring the 74<sup>th</sup> season, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has been featuring its four candidates for music director. The finalists have conducted symphonies from Xalapa, Mexico to Lucena, Spain — from the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the Washington National Opera. One candidate will be chosen later this spring as the ASO's next music director, and special events and appearances are planned to introduce him to Alexandria and the surrounding community during the ASO's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season in 2018-2019.

The fourth and final candidate, Nicholas Hersh, will conduct Saturday, April 7, 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, and Sunday, April 8, 3 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. The program features Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D Major, C.P.E. Bach's Symphony in E-Flat Major and Astor Piazzolla's "Tangazo: Variations on Buenos Aires."

"The connective thread for this program is three composers from three different eras pushing the limits of musical form," said Hersh. Bach's Symphony bridges the Baroque and Classical styles by using classical form with innovative harmonies and unexpected timbres. "Piazzolla composed 'Tangazo' in classical form as well, but he also summons the fiery tangos of his homeland within Bach's structure — including a fugue," comments Hersh.

"Brahms' Second is often described as the sunniest of his symphonies, yet the composer called it so melancholy it should be printed on black-bordered paper," observes Hersh. "For this reason — and its timeless melodies — it remains utterly fascinating



**Nicholas Hersh**

tory Orchestra and Southern Great Lakes Symphony.

Concert attendees, musicians and community members are invited to provide feedback after the performance. The ASO will announce the new music director later this spring.

The Alexandria Symphony is a fully-professional orchestra drawing from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region's wealth of musical talent. ASO musicians perform with other orchestras and top military bands. The ASO performs Saturdays at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center and Sunday matinees at the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Adult tickets are \$20-\$80, with \$5 youth, \$10 student and military, senior and group discounts available. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

nearly 150 years after its premiere." Nicholas Hersh serves as associate conductor of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra and artistic director of the Baltimore Symphony Youth Orchestras. As guest conductor, he has appeared with the New World Symphony, New Jersey Symphony, National Repertory Orchestra and Southern Great Lakes Symphony.

## Calendar

throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055).

**Hidden Oaks Nature Center** is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 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.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 29

**Easter Egg Hunt.** At Cameron Run Park, Alexandria. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3

online service fee. visit [apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks](http://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks) for details and to register.

### 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.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 31

**Hike Thru Wildflowers.** 10 a.m.-noon at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Huntley Meadows naturalist and artist Margaret Wohler leads a spring hike focusing on spring wildflowers. Learn techniques to sketch these flowers and how to enhance your observation skills. Cost is \$9/person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

### Women's History Month

**Luncheon.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Presented by Old Dominion Chapter, The Links Inc. in partnership with the Old Dominion Foundation Inc. Luncheon to benefit the foundation's scholarship program. Keynote speaker is Dr. Johnnetta Betsch Cole. Register at [odcodfnw.eventbrite.com](http://odcodfnw.eventbrite.com) or visit [www.ODCLINKS.org](http://www.ODCLINKS.org).

**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).

### MARCH 31-MAY 20

**Art Exhibit: 2018 Emerging Artists.** Daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday until 9 p.m. at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, introduces a new annual exhibition series featuring the work of emerging artists of the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald



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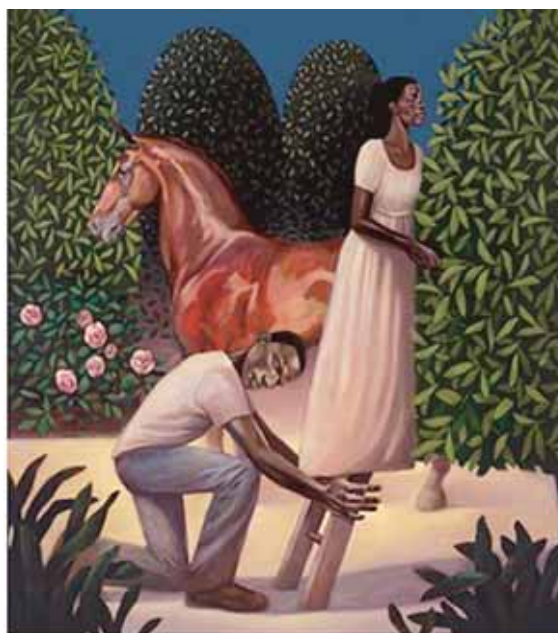
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## Spring Fun



Ronald Jackson, "Couple in the Garden with a Horse," 2016, oil on canvas.



Holly Trout, "Trophy," 2017 – plastic animal legs mounted on wood.

## 2018 Emerging Artists

Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, introduces a new annual exhibition series featuring the work of emerging artists of the D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. They were selected by a jury panel consisting of Ksenia Grishkova, director of Touchstone Gallery; Blair Murphy, independent curator; and Jack Rasmussen, director and curator at the American University Museum at the Katzen Arts Center. The exhibit runs March 31-May 20 at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Opening Reception: Friday, April 13, 7-9 p.m. and Jury Panel Talk: Thursday, May 10, 8 p.m. Visit [torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery).

## Calendar

Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. Visit [torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery).

registration requested at [mgmv.org](http://mgmv.org). Call 703-228-6414 or email [mgaralex@gmail.com](mailto:mgaralex@gmail.com).

### APRIL 2-29

**Art Exhibit: Beasts Beyond Boundaries.** Daily 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays until 9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Kiln Club artists highlight "Beasts Beyond Boundaries: Cultural Creature-centric Connections," corralling critters on gallery shelves. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 3

**Yoga in the Park.** 8-8:55 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Eight-week Hatha yoga class on Tuesdays. Cost is \$93 for series. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

**Discussion with Brian Stolarz.** 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Featuring criminal defense attorney Brian Stolarz on the exoneration of Alfred Dewayne Brown who spent 10 years on death row in Texas for a crime he did not commit. Sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum, the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, the Alexandria Society for the Preservation of Black Heritage Inc., and the Queen Street All American Bible Study Ministry. For reservations, call 703-746-4356.

**Plant Selection, DIY Sustainable Yard Series, Part 4.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. There's a perfect selection of plants that will thrive best in the conditions of any site. Learn how to select appropriate plants, what is meant by a native plant versus a cultivar, and some best practices for planting and maintenance. Free. Advance

### APRIL 4-MAY 6

**Art Exhibit: A Study of Manhattan.** Gallery hours at the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, in the Torpedo Factory. Paintings by Robert Gilbert: A Study of Manhattan: Power, Dominance, and Excitement. Opening Reception takes place Thursday, April 12, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 5

**Local Author Thursday.** 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by Craig Roach, "Simply Electrifying: The Technology that Transformed the World, from Benjamin Franklin to Elon Musk." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit [www.TheOldTownShop.com](http://www.TheOldTownShop.com).

**Author Talk with Ann Bausum.** 7 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St., Alexandria. Free. The author of Sergeant Stubby will read from her books as part of All Alexandria Reads, facilitated by the Alexandria Library. Call 703-746-5405.

### APRIL 6-29

**Art Exhibit: A Touch of Magic.** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans "A Touch of Magic" exhibit is inspired by the subtle, simple, complex, or bold magic that creates life's special moments, fulfilled dreams, rare experiences, and fosters the recognition of beauty. Opening Reception is Friday, April 6, 7-9 p.m. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 7

**Garden Gate Plant Shop Reopens.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Green Spring

Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. You will find shrubs, native plants, wildflowers, ornamental grasses and unusual perennials and annuals. All proceeds from the shop benefit the gardens at Green Spring. Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) receive a 10 percent discount. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/shops](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/shops).

**Playwriting for Young Audiences Workshop.** 9 a.m.-noon at National Art Education Association, 901 Prince St., Alexandria. Guest playwright Martha King DeSilva will discuss writing and developing new plays for younger audiences. Registration fee: \$45; early bird fee \$35 (before March 30). Email [PipelinePlaywrights@gmail.com](mailto:PipelinePlaywrights@gmail.com) for registration information.

**The "Grandest Congress" - The French and Indian War in Alexandria.** 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Free. Visitors to the Carlyle House will experience Maj. Gen. Edward Braddock's visit there and the French and Indian War firsthand through costumed interpreters. Visit [www.novaparks.com](http://www.novaparks.com) or call 703-549-2997.

**50-Year Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** 2 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road. To remember the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's death on April 4, 1968, a local coalition of faith communities and nonprofits, Ventures in Community (VIC), will sponsor a tribute to him. An informal cookie-and-punch reception will follow. The event is free and open to all. Visit [www.bethlehemofalexandria.org](http://www.bethlehemofalexandria.org).  
**Country-Western Dance Lessons.** 6-7 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Open dancing 7-9:30 p.m. with a DJ who provides music. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free.

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## Spring Fun

# Pub Crawl To Benefit Foundation

## Nonprofit provides scholarships.

By Ashley Claire Simpson  
Gazette Packet

While not everyone can serve in the Armed Forces or combat domestic danger as a first responder, it is possible for civilians to be heroes in their own right. Beer Army Foundation — a non-profit organization that fuels acts of heroism in local communities — holds events all year that both honor local heroes and turn its participants into such local heroes.

This Saturday, March 31, the inaugural Heroes Charity Pub Crawl in Old Town, Alexandria, will benefit Beer Army Foundation, which every year awards 10 scholarships to degree-seeking students in the United States.

"We're a 501(c)3 non-profit community outreach organization that promotes education, volunteerism and economic impact," said Matt Smith, deputy director of Beer Army Foundation, said. "Every year, we give out 10 scholarships to degree-seeking students of every kind in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Oregon; anywhere we have a fundraising event, we give back to that community and offer scholarships for people in the area. We are probably the most liberal scholarship program out there. We don't care how old you are, your background, or what kind of academic program you're pursuing. We just want to help people get where they want to go."

Founder Dustin Canestorp, a retired United States Marine, established Beer Army Foundation to unite fellow beer enthusiasts with a passion for giving back.

"My tagline for this organization is, 'We drink beer for a purpose,'" Smith said. "Our founder, Dustin, is a retired Marine and tries to create things that benefit the community. We do a lot of things to honor everyday heroes who don't necessarily enjoy the limelight of being called a hero. We hold a lot of events to toast anyone who makes a positive impact in someone's life or their community."

Canestorp launched the organization in 2007, after his close friend and fellow Marine was killed in action in Iraq.

"I still had very mixed emotions with processing and compartmentalizing the loss of Todd ... His loss was the key reason for me to begin Beer Army," Canestorp wrote on the Beer Army Foundation website. "I just knew that I was ready to move on from the Marine Corps and do something in the beer industry ... it was time for me to pursue my American Dream which encompassed the lovely liquid that we call beer."

Canestorp took the energy from fellowship forged

with his friends during beer and poker nights in Jacksonville, North Carolina — the home of the Marine Corps base Camp Lejeune — and turned it into a charitable army of community heroes.

Beer Army Foundation, now in its 10th year, contributes to community charities and continues to grow its scholarship program through its own restaurant, Beer Army Burger Company, and a host of beer and brewing related events. These include festivals and pub crawls like the Heroes Charity Pub Crawl in Alexandria this weekend.

"It's our way to reach the community," Smith said. "Last year, we gave out \$13,000 in scholarships. All applicants have to do is write an essay, and an independent panel stacks and ranks all the essays we receive. We don't care if you're going to culinary school,

college, a four-year university, or business school. You just have to write a 'thank you' letter if you win."

The community giveback doesn't stop with these scholarships either.

"Every dollar we earn goes right back into charity," Smith said. "The more money we have, the more money we raise and the more scholarship dollars we can give out."

Our impact has grown every year, too. In total, we've had \$3.9 million of economic impact between the scholarships, events and donating to charities."

This Saturday, the Heroes Charity Pub Crawl will begin at Murphy's Alexandria Grand Irish Pub, and will end at Chadwicks. Each bar will host its own happy hour special, and all ticket proceeds will go to Beer Army Foundation.

Mike Wimer, Alexandria resident and organizer of the Heroes Charity Pub Crawl, said he couldn't turn down the opportunity to help out the organization, many of its volunteers being his own friends.

"I have some friends retired from Alexandria fire department who work and volunteer for Beer Army Foundation," Wimer said. "I'm a retired Alexandria firefighter of 11.5 years and before that, I was in the Army for eight and a half years. That's how I got involved. I took one look at their website and thought, 'If they're helping all these people, I can at least help the cause this year by setting up this event in Alexandria.'"

Wimer began organizing this event six months ago, and has planned for some of his favorite Alexandria haunts to be a part of it.

"I asked 20 to 30 restaurants knowing that you need six to eight restaurants in the same general vicinity. Otherwise, it's too spread out. Each of the participating are each running specials, most of them their happy hour specials, which is really special for a Saturday. These are all top end restaurants in Old Town and the event will go from noon to 5pm. It's all about raising a pint for heroes."

To purchase tickets in advance for \$15, visit [www.beerarmy.org/herohunt](http://www.beerarmy.org/herohunt). Tickets on site at Murphy's the day of the event for \$20.



## Calendar

BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org).

**Alexandria Symphony.** 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Nicholas Hersh's program focuses on contrasting styles, featuring Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D Major, C.P.E. Bach's Symphony in E-Flat Major and Astor Piazzolla's Tangazo: Variations on Buenos Aires. Tickets are \$20-\$80/adults. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 8

**Alexandria Symphony.** 3 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Nicholas Hersh's program focuses on contrasting styles, featuring Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 2 in D Major, C.P.E. Bach's Symphony in E-Flat Major and Astor Piazzolla's Tangazo: Variations on Buenos Aires. Tickets are \$20-\$80/adults. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

### MONDAY/APRIL 9

**Ballroom Dance Classes.** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Led by Gary Stephans, ballroom dance instructor. Learn the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. No partner needed. Cost is \$30/person; \$55/couple. Email [garystephans@me.com](mailto:garystephans@me.com) or 703-505-5998.

April 4-May 6, 2018. Visit

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## Bulletin Board

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

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

### SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Easter Sunrise Service.** 7-7:45 a.m. at The Circle at George Washington Mount Vernon. 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Ahnna Lise Stevens-Jennings, director of Youth Ministries, Aldersgate UMC presents "When Morning Meets Our Eyes." Hosted by the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon assisted by Boy Scout Troop 993. Bring a lawn chair. All are welcome. Free. Email [mikej1013@verizon.net](mailto:mikej1013@verizon.net) for more.

### MONDAY/APRIL 2

**Scholarship Deadline.** Scholarship for research of local Civil War history — The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville, a 501 (3) c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides either in Fairfax County. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. Information and application instructions can be found at [bullruncwrt.org](http://bullruncwrt.org).

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

**Public Meeting: Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road. Join a third public information meeting hosted by Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about plans to widen Richmond Highway from four to six lanes between Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. A brief presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Visit [www.virginiadot.org/projects/](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/)

[northernvirginia/richmond\\_highway.asp](http://northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 5

**Original Mount Vernon High School Redevelopment Project.** 7-9 p.m.

Original Mount Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Highway. Supervisor Dan Storck, County staff, the Alexander Company and Elm Street Development will discuss the overall vision and process for the redevelopment master planning. Community attendance and input is encouraged. The Open House will convene in the cafeteria. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/original-mount-vernon-high-school](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/original-mount-vernon-high-school).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 6

**Scholarship Nomination Deadline.**

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for their 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region.

### TUESDAY-THURSDAY/APRIL 10-12

**FY 2019 Budget Meetings.** April 10, 4 p.m.; April 11-12, 1 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center (Board Auditorium), 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The advertised budget plan can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advised-budget-plan](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advised-budget-plan). Sign up to speak at the public hearings on the FY 2019 budget at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form) or call 703-324-3151.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 11

**FCPSOn Community Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road. Learn more about FCPS' plans to extend student learning and increase equitable access to technology. FCPSOn provides a device for each student and allows students opportunities for deeper understanding of content and skills outlined in the Portrait of a Graduate in order to be successful in the workforce of the future. Visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/technology/fcpson](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/technology/fcpson).



## Widening Presentation

**VDOT is hosting a third public information meeting regarding the US 1 widening between Costco and Fort Belvoir on Wednesday, April 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A brief presentation will begin at 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Mt. Vernon Road.**

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)



Last year's tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at Bethlehem Baptist Church.

## Gather for Tribute to King

To remember the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's death on April 4, 1968, a local coalition of faith communities and nonprofits, Ventures in Community (VIC), will sponsor a tribute to him at 2 p.m., Saturday, April 7, at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road, Alexandria

The event features essays by high school students answering the question, "How to End Racism in America: What Would Dr. King Do?"

Three church choirs will perform, and all in at-

tendance will be asked to recommit to ending racism. An informal cookie-and-punch reception will follow. The event is free and open to all.

VIC is a community group of about 60 faith communities, nonprofits, and county agencies in the south county area formed 45 years ago provide volunteer support to the hypothermia shelter at Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church. It holds monthly meetings and sponsors other events. See Ventures in Community – VIC on Facebook.



West Potomac High School wrestling coaches, Bruce Huester, Doug Clark, and team.

## Memorial Donation Supports Team

At West Potomac High School's winter sports banquet on March 6, the wrestling team was presented with a donation in honor of Dr. John William King.

King died suddenly on Christmas Eve and his family and friends wanted to make a donation to something special to him. This effort was spearheaded by three of his closest friends and Fort Hunt High School

classmates, Doug Clark, Louis Dupart and Bruce Huester. A member of the Fort Hunt High School wrestling team from 1964 to 1968, King was an accomplished student athlete and respected orthodontist in the Richmond area. This donation will help continue the West Potomac wrestling team's tradition of excellence.



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**Crime**

From Page 6

apprehended shortly after. In addition to the original warrant, he was charged with resisting arrest and assault on a law enforcement officer.

**DRUNK IN PUBLIC/ARREST:** Andrus Road and Sherwood Hall Lane, March 16, 7:12 p.m. Officers responded for a man taking his clothes off and screaming. When officers arrived, the man was acting disorderly and was given several commands to stop. He refused and an electronic control weapon was used to take him into custody. A 40-year-old man of no fixed address was charged with drunk in public.

**PURSUIT:** Janna Lee Avenue/Woodhue Place, March 15, 11:15 p.m. A patrol officer attempted a traffic stop on a Ford Fusion. The driver did not stop. Officers pursued the suspect, while in the area of the 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, the suspect got out of the vehicle and attempted to run away. The suspect was taken into custody after a brief search. A 26-year-old man from Alexandria was charged with reckless driving, disregarding police signal to stop, four outstanding warrants, and possession with intent to distribute a schedule I substance.

**WARRANT / ARREST:** 6300 block of Richmond Highway, March 15, 7:30 p.m. While conducting an investigation the location of the suspect was known to officers. Officers were able to apprehend the suspect and confirmed he was responsible for numerous diamond thefts in Fairfax county and surrounding jurisdictions. The 20-year-old man from Arlington was charged with one outstanding warrant, two counts of grand larceny, and two counts of larceny with intent to distribute.

**BURGLARY:** 5400 Claymont Drive, March 13, 10 p.m., A resident reported an unknown male opened her window while she was sleeping. She woke up, and saw a man with a mask on, blue jacket, and blue jeans. The suspect jumped out of the window when the resident woke up and ran away. There were no injuries. No items taken from the residence.

**ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** 3500 block of Buckman Road, March 9 at 9:55 a.m. An 18-year-old man from Burke was arrested after resisting arrest following a traffic stop. An officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in which the suspect was the passenger. He and the driver were asked to exit the car due to suspicion of narcotics. The suspect physically assaulted one officer and was arrested for assault on a law enforcement officer, obstruction of justice, and possession of marijuana.

**ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:** 2511 Parkers Lane (Mount Vernon Police Station), March

9 at 7:30 p.m. A 25-year-old man from Alexandria was arrested for assault on a law enforcement officer after initially being arrested on a domestic related incident. He was being escorted to the magistrate when he became disorderly and started spitting on an officer and then at deputies.

**TRAFFIC PURSUIT:** 8000 block of Richmond Highway, March 10, 8:10 p.m. An officer on patrol observed a vehicle driving recklessly on Richmond Highway. The officer attempted to stop the car, but it continued driving towards the Maryland state line. Due to traffic, the pursuing officer lost sight of the vehicle. The Prince George's County Police Department located the vehicle abandoned near National Harbor.

**ROBBERY:** 6711 Richmond Highway (Rite Aid), March 11, 6:45pm. A man entered a convenience store and displayed a handgun to an employee. The suspect took cash and fled on foot. There were no injuries. The suspect was described as a black man, appearing to be in his 20's, about 5'9" and wearing grey sweats and sunglasses.

**BURGLARY:** 3200 block of Napper Road, March 8 between 12 p.m. and 3:46 p.m. A home was entered and jewelry and personal items were taken.

**ROBBERY:** 6717 Richmond Highway (Walgreens), March 4, at 9:35 p.m. A community member was walking away from the Walgreens when he encountered three men. A brief conversation ensued and the three men assaulted the man and robbed him of his money.

**TRAFFIC PURSUIT / DWI ARREST:** 2600 block of Arlington Drive, March 4, at 1 a.m. A 30-year-old man from Alexandria was arrested and charged with DWI, hit and run, disregarding an officer's signal to stop, and multiple other traffic violations following a traffic pursuit. An officer observed a vehicle with an apparent equipment violation. The officer activated the emergency lights and siren on his police car to signal the driver to stop. The suspect failed to stop and continued to drive. He eventually stopped his car, got out, and attempted to run away. Officers caught him after the brief foot chase.

**MARCH 26 LARCENIES**

3000 block of Doeg Indian Court, license plate from vehicle

6400 block of Dorset Drive, packages from residence

9300 block of Fairfax Street, credit card from residence

2500 block of Parkers Lane, wallet from residence

6600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

8300 block of Richmond Highway, license plate from vehicle

Richmond Highway/Dawn Drive, license plate from vehicle

7700 block of Ridge Crest Drive, credit cards from residence

**MARCH 23 LARCENIES**

1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, merchandise from business.

2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from business.

6700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

**MARCH 22 LARCENIES**

8900 block of Camden Street, electronic device from vehicle.

8200 block of Claremont Woods Drive, documents from vehicle.

2300 block of Huntington Avenue, beer from business.

4600 block of Odessa Drive, property from residence.

2500 block of Parkers Lane, property from business.

6600 block of Richmond Highway, credit card from business.

6800 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business.

**MARCH 20 LARCENIES**

2900 block of Arlington Drive, merchandise from business

6800 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business

7600 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

**MARCH 19 LARCENIES**

8200 block of Claremont Woods Drive, license plate from vehicle

8400 block of Madge Lane, wallet from residence

5900 block of Richmond Highway, medications from residence

6100 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business

6700 block of Richmond Highway, shoes from business

7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

**MARCH 16 LARCENIES**

3000 block of Furman Lane, wheels from vehicle

6300 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business

**MARCH 15 LARCENIES**

7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

**MARCH 14 LARCENIES**

Dorset Road and Telegraph Road, money for cab ride.

8428 Fort Hunt Road (Sandburg Middle School), cell phone from school.

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, food from business.

**MARCH 13 LARCENIES**

3400 block of Buckman Road, property from business

**Employment**

**Employment**

**Executive Director**

Mount Vernon At Home is a successful grassroots volunteer driven nonprofit organization established in 2007, seeking an experienced, innovative and goal oriented Executive Director to lead our organization through an upcoming period of growth. The ideal candidate will provide strategic direction to support and develop membership, volunteer recruitment, programs and services for the organization. The Executive Director would work closely with the Board of Directors, staff and members of the organization. Our organization operates in a close-knit community and we place a high priority on communication, recognition and collaboration with strategic partners. We are in search of an Executive Director who is aligned with our village culture and will continue to enhance it through positive leadership. Knowledge and involvement of the Mount Vernon community.

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



## The Daze Continue To Go Bye

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April 27.

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure; made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in."

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to others.

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available."

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

"Get busy living or get busy dying," as Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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## Opinion

### Embark

From Page 10

access to Metro and generate more jobs. Phase IV will extend Metro.

I am proud that many people worked together to get this done, but now the hard work begins. Thus far, we have only identified a fraction of the \$2.1 billion necessary to implement this plan. The 2013 Virginia transportation tax increases will help. Federal transit grants are expected to cover about half of the cost, but Fairfax County must rewrite its affordable housing ordinance to facilitate no net loss of affordable housing in our corridor — a federal requirement to receive \$1 billion in federal transit grants.

U.S. 1 is central to the quality of life for all the people of eastern Fairfax and Prince William counties. Its future affects jobs, housing, retail, our environment and everyone's property values. Embark Route 1 is the next step to make our community the best place to live in Northern Virginia.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Email me at scottsurowell@gmail.com if you have any feedback.

## Sports

From Page 11

guiding principles and goals of their school district. And the cost of participating in high school sports is minimal in most cases.

While there is a belief that the only way to get noticed by college coaches is to play on non-school travel teams year-round, many Division I football and basketball coaches recently have stated that they are committed to recruiting students who have played multiple sports within the high school setting.

In addition, by focusing on academics while playing sports within the school setting, students can earn scholarships for academics and other talents — skill sets oftentimes nurtured while participating in high school activities. These scholarships are more accessible and worth more money than athletic scholarships. While \$3 billion per year is available for athletic scholarships, more than \$11 billion is awarded for academic scholarships and other financial assistance.

Without a doubt, your sons and daughters will have more fun, make more friends and be better prepared for life beyond sport by participating in multiple sports and activities offered by the high school in your community.

## Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to: Letters to the Editor • The Gazette 1606 King St. • Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



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**9313 Old Mansion Rd.  
\$850,000**

**Park Like Back Yard!**

Riverwood gem! Impeccable 4 BR/ 3.5 Bath home in park like setting on quiet cul de sac next to Potomac River! Recently renovated kitchen, family room off kitchen with fireplace, fully finished basement with guest room, full bath and rec room. Oversize two car garage allows for extra storage space. Unique rear covered patio overlooks beautifully manicured back yard.

**COMING SOON!**



**8634 Gateshead Rd.  
\$699,000**

**Incredible Pool Scene!**

Completely refreshed 4 BR, 2 Full/2 Half Bath home with full interior paint and hardwoods on main and upper level just refinished. Oversize two car garage. Jaw dropping sun room addition off family room/kitchen overlooks relaxing private pool scene. Ideal home with Spring and Summer right around the corner! Won't last long at this price!

**COMING SOON!**



**8708 Sudbury Dr.  
\$590,000**

**Pristine Condition!**

4 BR/3 Bath 4 level home on private half acre corner lot. Full interior paint, new carpet, and all hardwoods just refinished make this home ready for your personal touches! 350 sq ft sunroom addition with fireplace over 2 car garage gives you views over beautifully landscaped half acre lot. Absolute bargain for this much space!

**COMING SOON!**



**4405 Ferry Landing Rd.  
Recently Renovated!**

Recently renovated and expanded 4 BR, 3.5 BA split level on a huge half acre lot in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates. 700 sq ft sunroom addition brings the outdoors in and brings light to every corner. Recently renovated kitchen and baths make this home completely turn key. Circular driveway and one car garage provides ample parking. Here's your chance to get into Yacht Haven Estates!

**COMING SOON!**



**9421 Old Mt. Vernon Rd.  
\$698,500**

**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!

**NEW PRICE!**



**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.  
\$625,000**

**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!**



**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!

**CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!**



**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 IN 1st WEEKEND!**



**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**



**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**

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