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Mount Vernon Gazette

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 10

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 12, 2018

What Next? Meeting elicits ideas for Original Mount Vernon High School Redevelopment Project.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

About 100 people attended an Open House on Thursday, April 5, on what to do with the 42-acre site composing the original Mount Vernon High School at 8333 Richmond Highway and the George Washington Recreation Center located at 8426 Old Mount Vernon Road. Hosted by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, the intent of the meeting was to seek input from residents on how to redevelop the historic school built in 1939 and the adjacent property.

In the first of many meetings to come, Storck, county staff, and developers from The Alexander Company and Elm Street Development shared project background and planning information while giving residents the opportunity to help set the project's vision and goals.

Storck urged those in attendance to "help us find and create the kind of community that we can be proud of not only 10 years from now but decades from now. Let's all work together to re-envision what this original Mount Vernon High School should be for the 21st century," he said.

"This is our opportunity to create something remarkable, to truly redevelop a 1939, depression-era building and make it something



The line was long for the Open House on the future of the Old Mount Vernon High School Redevelopment Project.

we can be proud of for decades to come," said Storck. "This is also a major opportunity for public investment in the Richmond Highway Corridor."

Dubbed the Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) Redevelopment Project, organizers discussed the vision, opportunities and process for the development of the master plan. Information tables were set up as well as community feedback stations. The plan will include adapting the historic structures into community spaces for use by a mix of public,

private, residential, educational, recreational and nonprofit uses.

"This is really the beginning of planning the site; what we've been doing up to this point is doing physical investigation of the site, understanding the constraints and the opportunities that the site physically has to offer, but we are starting in the process now of understanding what the community wants and what the community's concerns might be on this redevelopment," said David Vos, development project manager with The Alexander Company of Madison, Wisc.

Built in 1939 in Colonial revival architecture, the building was a county high school and middle school before being the home of the Islamic Saudi Academy for 31 years. It became available for redevelopment in October 2016. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors owns the 22-acre school property and the Fairfax County Park Authority owns the George Washington RECenter and parkland on the southeast side.

Fairfax County approved an agreement to create a master re-

development plan for the site. The Alexander Company and Elm Street Development were selected to work with county staff, the Park Authority and the Mount Vernon and Lee District communities to create a master plan.

According to Stefanie Smith of Elm Street Development of McLean, the county tasked the Revitalization Task Force to come up with possible uses for this facility. "Our role here is to develop the Master Plan for this site and the rec center and all that's in between — the 42 acres. So, what we're doing is validating what people told the task force that they wanted, validating that information, ensuring we can take that into account when we do the plans. The idea is to have a plan that fulfills the goals that Fairfax



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck addresses the crowd.



Stefanie Smith of Elm Street Development of McLean.

County has, which is everything from serving the entire community from early childhood all the way to senior citizens."

Stephanie Pankiewicz of LandDesign of Alexandria, landscape architects

SEE WHAT NEXT, PAGE 18



The Old Mount Vernon High School was built in 1939.

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The choir from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Mount Vernon, with its director, Mary Nelson.



PHOTOS BY MARY PADEN

The choir from Mount Vernon Unitarian Church with its director, Mark Zimmerman.

Paying Tribute to Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Recommitting to oppose racism.

BY MARY PADEN

Mount Vernon and Lee residents commemorated the life and influence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on

the 50th anniversary of his death at Bethlehem Baptist Church Saturday, April 7, at a ceremony that featured essay readings by local students and choir presentations including an original composition “Eulogy for Martin Luther King, Jr.,” by Mimi

Gonigam Stevens with lyrics based on Dr. King’s sermon “The Drum Major Instinct.” Stevens is a member of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church choir.

The event was sponsored by Ventures in Community (VIC), a local coalition of about 60 faith communities and nonprofits.

Interspersed with choir presentations,

three high school students — Grace Hobson, Victoria Laffittie, and Cassandra Burdick — read their essays answering the question, “How to End Racism in America: What Would Dr. King Do?”

The Rev. Dr. Kate Walker, pastor of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church and co-facilitator

SEE RECOMMITTING, PAGE 16

Mount Vernon Government Center Goes Native

Learning landscaping.

BY MARY PADEN

Scouts from Cub Scout Pack 888 left their legacy at the Mount Vernon Government Center last weekend with the help of the Fairfax Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists, Audubon At Home, and other volunteers who planted 37 species native to this area and suitable for a dry sunny site.

“When you come back 20 years from now, you can walk around here and say, ‘I helped plant that tree,’” Del. Paul Krizek told the Scouts when he stopped by to help plant an Eastern Redbud tree along the walk to the back entrance.

The volunteer effort will transform the landscaping around the government center from turf grass to a native landscape filled with diverse plants, trees, and shrubs that will attract pollinators.

The plants were paid for through a grant from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District’s Conservation Assistance program and will be maintained by volunteers.

Lead volunteer Cathy Ledec, who is also Mount Vernon District’s Tree Commissioner, said the point of the transformation was to demonstrate in a public place how turf can be transformed into a natural landscape that can conserve water, save energy, and reduce the amount of maintenance needed. Ledec explained how the plantings were positioned to shade the offices in summer, pro-



A workforce of Scouts and parents spread newspaper, hauled mulch, and planted native species around the government center last weekend. Cub Scout Pack 888 is led by Burt Wagner and Bryce Edwards.

vide a pleasant view as well as a privacy buffer for Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and his staff, absorb stormwater, buffer noise, and make the grounds more pleasing to visitors.

“What we are doing here can be easily replicated throughout the Mount Vernon District and beyond,” she said. “Visitors who are curious about the plants can ask in the office for a plant list of the trees, shrubs or plants used that gives their names and notes on how to grow them.”

The first job was to smother the turf grass without digging it up. That was accom-

plished by spreading newspaper over the grass in the target areas and then putting down a few inches of mulch on top. After a while the grass dies, the newspaper dissolves and the mulch sinks into the soil providing a rich planting bed ready for native plants that will thrive in the conditions at this site.

Beds were prepared along the front and side of the building and at the front entrance. Sassafras, Scarlet Oak, Serviceberry, and Eastern Redbud trees were strategically planted for shade and screening. Shrubs included American Beautyberry, Red Choke-



Del. Paul Krizek helped the Scouts plant an Eastern Redbud tree on the grounds of the government center.

berry, Common Elderberry, and New Jersey Tea. Many flowers and grasses such as Black-Eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Foxglove, Bee Balm, Wild Bergamont, Purple Lovegrass, and Southeastern Wild Rye, were planted to provide color and texture in various seasons.

The plants used at the site were provided by Earth Sangha, Nature-by-Design, and Merrifield Gardens.

This project is a demonstration site where native landscaping practices can be seen by visitors to the Mount Vernon Government Center and others who pass by.

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Confusion, Anger, Agenda Difficulties

Public safety committee meeting focuses on ICE, without ICE at the table.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust asked a series of questions to try to elicit an answer from county law enforcement about whether Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers sometimes detain and arrest people on civil warrants when assisting county officers on criminal investigations.

"Fairfax County gang task force does not have a member of ICE participating on it, is that correct?" said Foust.

Chief of Fairfax County Police, Col. Edwin C. Chief Roessler, answered first. "We're part of the Northern Virginia gang task force and there is a criminal element of ICE associated with that task force," he said, "so to answer the question, we do associate with ICE in that task force for criminal investigations."

Foust continued: "My question is, what role does ICE play on the gang task force? If a crime is committed, you don't need ICE there to enforce the law, correct?"

"We can investigate on our own," Roessler said, but "these gang members don't adhere to boundaries, so to conduct an investigation we have to cross boundaries. So, at times it's prudent to use the task force and a criminal investigator from ICE or the FBI or other federal agencies to hunt these criminals

down and arrest them."

"If there is an ICE officer on your gang task force, and I understand criminal side, do you have a standing policy that says that they shall not make an arrest for a civil detainee while participating on your task force?" asked Foust.

Roessler said, "It's our goal and our general orders dictate what our police officers in Fairfax County can and can't do for the civil side of that, And it's not my goal as your chief to go out and enforce the civil portion of that.

"That's not the business that we're in," he said.

"That's what I'm trying to get at," said Foust. "Because what I perceive is you're out in the community with one or more ICE agents who are arresting people while participating on your task force for non-criminal conduct."

"And that's what we don't want," said Roessler.

THE BOARD'S PUBLIC SAFETY committee met Tuesday, April 3, to discuss these issues together.

"Our board was looking forward to a frank and open discussion with ICE about their enforcement activities in Fairfax County, which is what ICE had agreed to originally. It is unfortunate that this opportunity was derailed," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

ICE didn't take a seat, although Adonnis T. Smith
SEE PUBLIC SAFETY, PAGE 16



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From Mount Vernon to Key West on a Bicycle

One man's solo adventure.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Taking a long trip after retiring is a quest of a lifetime for some, and for Mount Vernon resident John Pickett, the adventure of riding his bicycle to Key West was an experience he will not regret.

Although his total ride was 2100 miles, the topography along the coast is fairly flat and, as he would find out the first day near Fredericksburg, climbing the biggest hill on the trip by the Rappahannock River was as bad as it was going to get.

"It's pretty darn flat from here to Florida,"

Pickett said.

He biked 88 miles on the first day and "it got easier after that," he said.

He mapped out the route with help from "Adventure Cycling," a company that maps out long cycling trips, packed up his tent and sleeping bag in four saddlebags on his 1991 bike and didn't look back. "The original plan was to go from coast to coast," he said.

Adventure Cycling Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire and empower people to travel by bicycle, according to its website. Its maps cover 46,000 miles of potential bike routes for adventurers, and membership is open to anyone.

Pickett has lived in Mount Vernon since 1989 and uses the Mount Vernon trail on a regular basis. He's taken long trips before, and learned lessons from each on routes, repairs, food and weather. He once was hit by the remnants of Hurricane Katrina in Ohio, rebuilt a rear wheel rim in Pennsylvania, and bounced from hostel to campground while biking through Indiana.

He left for Key West in September 2017, and had a string of motels, hostels, friends and relatives houses mapped out all the way south. He even met a few people along the way that turned out to be saviors with food, lodging and camaraderie. A cell phone was the only map he carried but there were folks along the way that seemed to go out of their way to help. Another website called "Warm Showers," lists helping hands along the way, and he used it once and met "the nicest people in the world," he said. "They fed me, let me do my laundry."

When repairs were called for, there were always the



John Pickett in Key West at the Southernmost Point Buoy with the paint taken off by Hurricane Irma.

bike shops. "Bike shops are great for bicycle tours, they drop everything to help you out," he said.

There was rain and hours of riding by himself to along the way, but these were elements he did not mind. In South Carolina, he ventured to a campsite to a spot known as a hiker-biker site in the campground world, but "as soon as I got past the tree line, I was covered with mosquitos," he said.

While Pickett was preparing for his ride, Hurricane Irma had just wreaked havoc in Florida, and he was a little concerned about that. Once in Florida, the storm debris was everywhere. Pickett rode into Miami Beach just as it was getting dark and stayed in a hostel for \$25. "My meal cost more than that," he said. While in Miami, he hit "king tide," which is a large high tide famous in Miami, and the water came up to the middle of his tires.

From Key Largo at the top of the Florida Keys, he rode all the way to Key West, 100 miles in one day. In many places, storm debris took away the bike trail on the side of the road but the drivers gave him space as they passed. "I got to the buoy," he said,



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

John Pickett leaving a friend's house in West Palm Beach after riding over 1,000 miles.

referring to a buoy on Key West that marks the southernmost point in the continental United States.

The paint on it had worn off from the hurricane that just passed through.

His return trip coincided with the baseball playoffs, and the Washington Nationals were playing the Chicago Cubs. He biked back up through Key Largo, then through the Everglades, and ended up in Fort Myers, hopscotching from one motel that was showing the baseball game to another. In Fort Lauderdale he caught an Amtrak train back to Union Station in Washington, D.C. and unloaded his bike. "I rode home down the Mount Vernon trail," he said.

Next month he's heading off on a cross-country trip to Los Angeles on the same bike. He's looking at the northern route through Ohio, or southern through Texas. "Don't quite know the route yet," he said. A visit to a friend's place in Oregon is one stop he has scheduled, and the rest is still undecided. One thing that will be different on this trip is the camping gear he's packing. He will bring a bear bag this time, to hang his food in trees so it's there when he wakes up in the morning.



The debris piles along US 1, the highway to Key West, were ominous, and the bike trail to Key West was rendered useless by the debris.

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OPINION

Expansion of Health Care in Virginia?

After years of hoping, it's possible Medicaid expansion will come on April 11; say a prayer.

The most important, impactful accomplishment of the Virginia General Assembly session for 2018 is set for Wednesday, April 11, after our newspapers' presstime. In agreeing on a budget, assembly members are expected to approve expanding Medicaid which would provide health insurance some 200,000 to 400,000 Virginians who have been living without coverage, and consequently mostly without health care.

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County do not have health insurance.

The benefits are huge. A celebratory press release goes out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that finally accepting the available federal money

EDITORIAL

to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act would generate about 30,000 jobs.

It will make all of us who live and work in Virginia healthier by ensuring that our fellow residents have access to healthcare, to medications to treat contagious illnesses, to vaccinations, to preventive and acute care. We don't want the people who ride with us on the Metro or wait in line at motor vehicles to be sick without a reasonable way to be treated. We want the people around us to be healthy. It makes everyone healthier.

Virginia has bypassed about \$10 billion by not having expanded Medicaid since it was possible.

Now is the time.

So many advocates have pressed for this for

so long, that it seems almost surreal as the possibility approaches. While I don't often pray for particular outcomes, I think a prayer for hundreds of thousands of people to receive life-affirming health care is in order.

Del. Ken Plum of Reston wrote in his weekly column: "By the time you are reading this column I will be back in Richmond for the serious work of the legislature of passing a budget for the next biennium. The outstanding issue to be resolved is the expansion of Medicaid to nearly 400,000 Virginians who do not have health care even though taxes are being collected in Virginia to pay for the program. I support the Governor in his insistence that we approve the expansion. Thanks to all the citizens who have been calling and writing supporting the program. I will be back with details on the budget issue as soon as it is resolved."

Fingers crossed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Review County Retirement System

To the Editor:

The following open letter is addressed to Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Kathy Smith, Sully District supervisor.

My wife and I have been homeowners and taxpayers in Fairfax County since 1968. Again, we protest the increases in the overall county budget and real estate taxes. As usual, the

board plans to raise the county budget and the real estate rate along with the assessment increase more than twice the inflation rate for FY 2019. The FY19 General Fund Disbursements will increase \$181.48 million or 4.42 percent over the FY2018 Adopted Budget which will be \$4.288 billion. According to Kiplinger's News Letter February 2018, the official consumer price index (inflation rate) increased 2.1 percent for calendar year 2017. With the rate increase and the real estate assessment increase, the overall increase in real estate taxes is projected to be almost an average of 5 percent. For the last five years, real

estate taxes have increased 26 percent which is almost three times the inflation rate for that period.

The Educational Employees Supplementary Retirement System of Fairfax County (ERFC) is an additional supplemental plan that applies to Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) employees who are on the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and are paid the same amount of Social Security (SS) that he or she would receive at age 66. So if a teacher retires at 55 with 30 years of service, that teacher receives 75 percent of his or her retirement based on the highest three years of service and includes the SS supplement as if they were already on SS until they reach the SS age. No other county or city in the metropolitan area offers this very generous ERFC system. The proposed budget for ERFC is \$94.6 million for FY 2019. This program should be phased out for those FCPS employees less than 40 years of age and terminated for all new employees.

The Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) allows employees retirement payments prior to actual retirement. DROP allows the employee to continue to work and receive their salary for a period of up to three years. During the DROP period, the pension plan accumulates the monthly benefit in an account balance identified as payable to the member only at the end of the DROP period. The monthly benefit that is credited to the DROP participant's account balance is calculated using service and final compensation as the date of entry in DROP, and the employee does not earn service credit toward retirement trust funds during the DROP period. In FY 2017, approximately \$43.6 million in retirement benefits were paid out of the retirement trust funds as DROP lump sum payments. For FY 2019, the DROP budget is approximately \$37 million. It is time to drop the DROP!

It is time for county officials to look at the costly defined benefit retirement systems and carefully review what the Federal Government

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Celebrating Spring

Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living residents Eileen Serice (left) and Noreen Gilmour, and many of their friends, did not let the rain and low temperature stop them from celebrating the first day of spring. Everyone celebrated indoors by planting a variety of plants of their interest; their favorites are Lavender and Italian Mint. Despite the rain, the fragrance of the plants made it feel like spring.

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OPINION

State of the Station

BY DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR

In February, Mount Vernon District Police Captain Matt Owens and his team presented the “2018 Mount Vernon State of the Station” to me, as well as at a meeting of the Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee. Their preliminary findings from the presentation have been reinforced by the release of Fairfax County Police Department’s Statistical Report for 2017. The good news is that statistics show an overall decline in crime and an increase in police and citizen engagement in 2017 in the Mount Vernon Police District, which includes both sides of Richmond Highway from the Beltway to Fort Belvoir in both the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts.

County wide, crimes across all categories had an overall decrease of 1.60 percent in 2017, as compared to 2016. In the Mount Vernon Police District, we saw a decrease of 4.40 percent over the time period. The statistics for the District show:

- ❖ Arrests, incidents and citations are down.
- ❖ DUI Enforcement arrests are up.
- ❖ Fatal crashes remain the same.
- ❖ Non-fatal opioid overdoses are down, but fatal overdoses increased slightly.

Across the county and here in the Mount Vernon Police District, officers noted an increase in calls for service. They attribute this to the community feeling more connected with officers, allowing individuals to feel more comfortable in making these calls. This was echoed in a statement from Chief of Police Ed Roessler Jr.: “The entire community worked with their police department to achieve these results for 2017. Community engagement, information sharing, accountability and public trust energize our partnerships that keep Fairfax County the safest jurisdiction of its size in the United States.”

I am very encouraged to see the many improvements in our local crimes rates. New community connections, including our new Community Liaison Officer Monica Meeks; continued outreach efforts such as Worship Watch and Neighborhood Watch, 39 National Night Out neighborhood events, and the Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride, are providing many more opportunities for our residents to engage with our police force in and around our community. These opportunities to build



Officer Seth Masterson, with Supervisor Storck, wearing his new body camera.

bonds and work together are leading to better understanding, more confidence and an increased sense of community. My many police neighborhood bike patrol and car ride alongs have helped me to experience the value of those interactions.

New public safety and engagement efforts in 2018 are anticipated to continue to build the police – community connection. Perhaps the most significant is the body worn camera pilot program which just launched this month. I worked to make sure the Mount Vernon Station was selected to participate in this pilot and research study, and truly believe it will enhance and improve safety and accountability for both our officers and our residents. You can read more about the body worn camera policy here: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/images/chief/generalorders/sop18_056.pdf.

Please join me in thanking Captain Matt Owens, Lieutenant Jerry Watts and our outstanding station officers for their hard work and continued efforts to safeguard our community. If you would like to show your appreciation for our local officers, join us during National Police Week, May 13-18. Stop by Mount Vernon Police Station to drop off a card, shake an officer’s hand or treat them to commercially packaged goodies. Or, if you would like to make a bigger difference, consider making a donation to the Mount Vernon Station Gift Fund. These funds provide support for the station officers and community engagement efforts throughout the District.

The full Fairfax County Police Department Statistical Report for 2017 can be read here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/chief/crimestatistics>

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Dee Mackie-Smith

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ENTERTAINMENT

Historic Garden Week Celebrates 85th Year

Five Alexandria homes on tour.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Take a walk through history with the Old Town Historic Garden Week tour featuring gardens and courtyards blooming with Carolina Jasmine, roses, peonies and perennials. This tour includes five Alexandria homes including homes predating the Civil War. The Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria are joining the Garden Club of Virginia's (GCV) 85th Historic Garden Week in a week-long event that includes 25 statewide tours. This event is expected to attract 1,500 visitors to Alexandria and 25,000 statewide.

The Alexandria tour is scheduled on Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It includes five historic homes and gardens including 201 South Lee St., 415 Prince St., 412 Prince St., 213 South Fairfax St. and 209 South Saint Asaph St. with refreshments served at St. Paul's Church at 228 South Pitt St.

Tickets also include admission to five nearby historic public properties including Gunston Hall, Mt. Vernon, River Farm, Carlyle House, and Lee-Fendall House.

Diane Hynes, co-chair of this year's Historic Garden Week with Ann McMurray, says they started over a year ago with the first step to get the houses. The chairs have already been chosen for 2019. "It is a really big job that starts with a boot camp in Richmond for new chairs. " Since this is a statewide event, they want to be sure everyone is on the same page.

This is a walking tour, so once they have the first house, they try to get houses that are nearby. Hynes says it is getting harder to get people to allow their houses to be part of the home tour. The garden tour can't feature the same house in a 10-year period.



This garden at 209 South Saint Asaph St. was professionally redesigned in 2016 and includes gardenias, roses and climbing perennials.

"There are a lot of lovely houses in Alexandria and people are proud of their homes but very protective. A lot of people come through. It's a big deal, and we're very appreciative."

Hynes says there are hundreds of details involved to make this a successful event. "Getting hostesses is one of the biggest deals. We have one in every room for the safety of the those touring as well as the rooms."

She adds that this takes a huge number of volunteers so members have to recruit their friends.

In addition, there are fresh flower arrangements created by the Garden Club members, mostly from their own gardens. Hynes says they try not to spend money on



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT

Boxwood edging and a limestone fountain outline the garden in this outdoor room at this 1852 home located at 412 Prince St.

flowers so they can send as much of the Garden Week proceeds as possible to Richmond for the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes.

"We have some incredibly talented arrangers. Coming to see the arrangements is worth it." Hynes says they do a walk through of each home. Do they need runners? What is the best traffic flow to get the crowds through in the easiest way? "Where do we want to place the arrangements? And we look at the art and the colors in the home so the arrangements compliment the atmosphere." The arrangers pour through books looking for something different.

Another detail is getting the history of the

homes and the ads for publishing in the guidebooks. This takes place way back in the summer. For example, this year's tour includes a property at 213 South Fairfax St. dating to 1781 with a flounder wing, flat on one side, and the front portion of this Federal home constructed in 1812. It has been updated and expanded but kept its 19th century charm.

Another at 201 South Lee St. dates to 1749 when Augustine Washington (George's half brother) purchased two lots at auction. In 1780 when a home was built by the first mayor of Alexandria, it was the largest structure in the city. It later became a large Georgian home, a bank, rental apartments and finally an updated 21st century residence.

The home at 415 Prince St. was originally constructed in 1807 to house a bank. Architecturally it is an early American "skyscraper," about as high as you could build without reinforced masonry. In 2010 it was purchased and extensively redesigned to convert it to a family residence.

Hynes says all kinds of things can happen during Garden Week. "The last two years we have had torrential downpours, but people still came." She says they go through seasonal cycles and some years the tulips may be gone but there is something else blooming. These gardens all have a variety of different plants in their gardens. "It's like the cherry blossoms; you never know."

The history of this event extends back to 1929 when the Garden Club of Virginia began its preservation efforts of the state's historic public gardens. Proceeds from the tours continue to fund the restoration and preservation of 40 historic public parks and gardens, a research fellowship and an initiative with Virginia State Parks.

Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 the day of the tour. The may be purchased at www.vagardenweek.org.

CALENDAR

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

APRIL 12-28

"Outside the Lines." Play performances at 10, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Tickets are \$9. The story is about two pen pals, Bud and Vi, who brighten each other's lives from afar. Bud lives in a straight-line world of tall, tall buildings. Vi lives in a curvy-line world of roly, roly hills. Bud and Vi have never met, but they create a world together by exchanging lines...through the mail. Tickets at www.artsonthehorizon.org/outside-the-lines.html.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Cocktails by Candlelight. 6-9 p.m. at George Mason's Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Sip on period cocktails and learn to make 18th century mixed drinks and snacks; enjoy a candlelight tour of George Mason's historic home. Tickets are \$35/\$25; sold online at

bit.ly/2Bd5iYI. Contact Mary Kristen Craver at 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or mkravcr@gunstonhall.org.

The Georgetown Saxatones. 6:30 p.m. wine and cheese reception; 7 p.m. program at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Tickets \$15. The Georgetown University Saxatones' repertoire includes everything from alternative to pop to soul. Proceeds to benefit the Saxatones' charity, The John McNicholas Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Buy tickets at www.nvfaa.org/events/.

Opening Reception: 2018

Emerging Artists. 7-9 p.m.; artist talk at 7:30 p.m. at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. This inaugural year's exhibition features the work of Katie Barrie, Ronald Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

Scrap City - Family Activities. 7-9:30 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. This event is offered in celebration of Virginia Architecture Week.

Architects from AIA Northern Virginia will be on hand to help participants design and build a "Scrap City." Families are encouraged to stop and participate. Reservations are not required. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

APRIL 13-14

Spring Garden Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 E. Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. More than 40 vendors will offer plants, vegetable seedlings, natives and pollinator favorites. Parking is \$10 (cash only) per car; waived for AHS members showing a current membership card or other proof of membership such as an online receipt. Call 703-768-5700 or visit www.ahsgardening.org/gardenmarket.

APRIL 13-15

"Charlotte's Web." At Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Join MVCCT for a musical portrayal of the beloved classic, "Charlotte's Web." Tickets are \$14. Show times are April

13 at 7 p.m. and April 14, 15 at 3 p.m. Sensory kits available. Sign language interpretation on April 14. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MVCCT.org.

APRIL 13-29

"High School Musical." At George Washington Middle School auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Fridays at 7 p.m.; Saturdays at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Presented by the George Washington Middle School Theater Department. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us/Domain/10.

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

The Old Dominion Boat Club Tour. 9-10 a.m. at 200 Strand St. This tour, led by Michael Winstanley, AIA, with Michael Winstanley Architects & Planners, the architects for the project, will explore the new three-story Old Dominion Boat Club (ODBC) completed in late 2017. This event is offered in celebration of Virginia Architecture Week. \$10. Attendance is limited and advance

reservations are required. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

"We Love Old Town" Clean-Up

Day. 9-11 a.m. at Oronco Bay Park, 100 Madison St., Alexandria. The group was formed to partner with local business owners and City Hall staff to help keep Old Town clean, attractive, and well maintained. Activities will focus on identifying crumbling, loose or missing bricks, identifying tree wells in need of mulch or sprucing up, picking up trash, and other identified clean-up tasks. The rain date is Sunday, April 15, at the same time and location. Visit www.weloveoldtown.com or call Marjorie Scott at 703-625-2428.

Sympatico Concert. 10-11 a.m. at the Farmers Market at Market Square, 301 King St., Old Town Alexandria. Sympatico, a musical program through the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and Coldwell Banker, is presented by children in grades K-5 at John Adams Elementary School. Greenstreet gift cards will be sold as a fundraiser for this program, benefiting the musical and life skills of participating children. Visit the

ENTERTAINMENT

'Swimming Up the Sun'

A Pipeline Playwrights' stage reading on April 16 at MetroStage.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Playwright Nicole Burton will be presenting a reading of her play, "Swimming Up the Sun," as part of Pipeline Playwrights' second-annual play reading series on Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage in Alexandria.

"Swimming Up the Sun," directed by Carol Cadby, explores playwright Burton's journey at age 25 to find her English natural parents, a Jewish father and a mother believed to be an artist. The adventure leads to a kaleidoscope of relationships with one dark secret at its center. The play is adapted for the stage from Burton's 2008 book, "Swimming Up the Sun – A Memoir of Adoption."

"The play focuses on adoption and reunion from the adoptee's perspective," said Burton. "So often, we think of adoptees as 'children' but adoption affects adoptees their whole lives. Finding and reuniting with biological kin is a huge factor in becoming a whole person for many adoptees but it's a complicated affair, a dance of family blending with much emotional challenge and nuance."

She continued: "As an adoption reform activist, I spent several years touring and speaking about the book and reunion, but I'm really a playwright so I adapted the story for the stage to bring it to new audiences in an even deeper way."

As far as challenges, she said she had no idea how difficult adapting the book would be. "First, it's autobiographical and personal, and second, after the main character meets her natural parents, their relationships develop over a long period of time and at geographical distance. I've had to craft the essence of the main character's relationships with her mothers, fathers, and siblings, and that's taught me a lot about playwrighting craft. Luckily, I've had the opportunity to work with wonderful directors, playwrights, and actors in the process," she said.

As far as audience takeaways, she said: "I'd like



Nicole Burton

the audience to see that separating people from their biological kin is really harmful, even traumatic, and that we should focus on preserving families and helping those who have been separated to reunite and rekindle their bonds. In a just world, a world in which mothers are truly respected, adoption should be almost un-

necessary."

The play features actors Dina Soltan, Emily Marsh, Lisa Hodsoll, Elliott Bailes, Claire Schoonover, Mark Lee Adams, and Clayton Pelham.

Burton's other plays include "Fred & Frieda," "Dirty Questions," and "Starman, Wish Me Luck." They've been produced at Source Theater, The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Metro Stage, the Greenbelt Arts Center, the University of the District of Columbia, House of Ruth Homeless Shelter, and the U.S. Capitol. As resident playwright of Everyday Theater, she co-authored six plays about gentrification and crime in Washington, D.C. A member of the Dramatists Guild and Pipeline Playwrights, Burton lives in Riverdale, Md.

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia, working together to support, present, and promote each other's work with the goal of moving their plays into the local and national theater pipeline. Each of the current Pipeline Playwrights — Jean Koppen, Ann Timmons, Nicole Burton, and Patricia Connelly — is presenting a reading of a new full-length play in the 2018 spring reading series at MetroStage.

The play will be presented on Monday, April 16, at 7:30 p.m., at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St. in Alexandria. Suggested donation is \$10. After the reading, enjoy refreshments and informal conversation with the playwright and actors. For more information, visit www.nicolejburton.com.

CALENDAR

event page on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/events/205782539782227/.

Skyline Yoga. 10-11 a.m. at 2311 Wilson Blvd., Rooftop Terrace. Enjoy a free yoga class with local architects in an architecturally inspiring place with sweeping views of the metro area. Organized by the AIA Northern Virginia Young Architects Forum, this event is free and open to the public. Please bring a yoga mat. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

"Riding with George" Java Jolt Lecture. 10 a.m.-noon at the Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327, Alexandria. Free. Philip Smucker will discuss his new book, "Riding with George: Sportsmanship & Chivalry in the Making of America's First President." Reservations required. Email archaeology@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4399.

Puppet Shows. 10 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Featuring Sandy Feulner's Puppets and More. Reservations per show are \$5 for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. To purchase tickets online, visit www.alexandriava.gov/

webtrac and select the activity number.

Architecture Scavenger Hunt for Children. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., begins at the AIA Northern Virginia Chapter House, 1101 Duke St. A fun self-guided activity for children and their families, organized by our Architecture Lab Committee. Start by checking in at the Chapter House. There participants will receive a map identifying 12 places that are synonymous with Old Town Alexandria. After completion of the activity, bring the map to the Torpedo Factory to receive a small prize. Children must be accompanied by an adult to participate. Free event, but pre-registration is required. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

Huntley's Discovery Day. 1-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Free. Sleuth through documents, maps, artifacts, and architecture to discover which Founding Father once owned Huntley Meadows Park. Discover the hidden history of Historic Huntley by making (and tasting) homemade butter or cranking fresh ice cream. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

huntley-meadows-park/.

The U.S. Air Force Strings. 1:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Sixteen pieces will join in an afternoon for a traditional orchestra and strolling segment. To RSVP, email admin@nvfaa.org.

Discovery Day. 1-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. \$5 donation. Enjoy activities for the whole family while discovering how this 19th century villa changed over time: sleuth through Huntley photos, maps and artifacts; tour the federal-style house; participate in old-time Huntley activities such as ice cream- and butter-making. Call 703 768-2525.

"Chocolate Through Time." 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. An interactive presentation led by food historian Joyce White will focus on how chocolate has changed through time. The presentation will be followed by a chance to taste an assortment of chocolate recipes. Tickets are \$15 through museum's website; \$20 day of program. visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.



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Mount Vernon Gazette

WeLive Crystal City. 2-3 p.m. at 2221 South Clark St., #413, Arlington. Perkins Eastman, the project Architect of Record, transformed a 1960s Crystal City office building into a co-living, micro-unit residential building, part of the shared workspace provider WeWork. Tenant amenities include media lounges, a library, professional kitchens, co-working space, a laundry-arcade, yoga studio and a courtyard with tables and grills. Free. Register to ensure space. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

Writing Training. 2:15-4:15 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Learn how to write a letter to the editor. Bring an article about an issue that's important to you. Contact Stephanie Burns at sdburns13@gmail.com.

Firm Tour – Winstanley Architects & Planners. 3-4 p.m. at Winstanley Architects & Planners, 107 North West St. Tour an architecture firm located in a renovated warehouse, see impressive architectural models for projects worldwide and learn about the firm's award winning Potomac Transportation Framework Plan. The tour is free and reservations are not necessary. Visit aianova.org/architectureweek.php.

UCM Spring Gala. 6 p.m. at U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, Madison Building Atrium, 600 Dulany St., Old Town Alexandria. Join United Community Ministries for a special event of celebration, benefiting local families in need. Event emcee is NBC4 News 4 Anchor, Adam Tuss. Bruce and Joanne Malkin will be honored with the Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award. Tickets \$200 per person; \$140 under age 40. Sponsorships starting at \$500 still available, including seats and publicity. Details at www.ucmagency.org or email info@ucmagency.org.

Springtime in Paris Ball. 7-10:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Cost is \$150. Enjoy a "joie de vivre" atmosphere with music by Doc Scantlin and Chou Chou. French cuisine, libations and silent auction. visit www.gadsbytaavernmuseum.us. Contact Kay Zerwick, Ball Co-Chair at kay.zerwick@gmail.com.

Gatsby's Speakeasy. 8:30 p.m. at Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square, Alexandria. Sponsored by the Orchestra League of Alexandria (SOLA) to benefit the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Ticket prices range from \$50 for the 8:30 p.m. opening (includes casino, bourbon tasting, signature cocktail (2), dancing, live music.) to full access from \$200 per person to \$5,000 for a table for 10, which begins with the Patron's Reception. visit www.501auctions.com/sola.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 14-15

Annual Daffodil Show. Saturday, 2-7 p.m.; Sunday, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Alexandria Scottish Rite Temple, 1430 West Braddock Road. Show features different daffodil forms and colors including trumpet, large-cup, small-cup, double, split-cup, and miniature. Show also includes a design category and a multi-category photography contest, with photographs to feature daffodils. Free. visit www.thewashingtondaffodilsociety.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Parallel Lives Gallery Talk. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Join a Gallery Talk with the artists in Parallel Lives and exhibition curator Brigitte Reyes. The talk will be moderated by Laura Roulet, independent curator. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Jazz at Meade Concert. 4-6 p.m. at

'I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)'

MetroStage presents Jewish comic, musician and writer Deb Filler.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

As part of MetroStage's Spring Solo Series, Deb Filler, a Jewish comic performer, musician and writer from Canada by way of New Zealand, will be performing "I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)," which she also wrote, from April 13-29.

With a guitar and a raft of lovable characters, she has charmed audiences in Toronto, London, Sydney, Jerusalem, NYC and Los Angeles with stories of her encounters with the three Lennys: Leonard Bernstein, Leonard Cohen and Lenny Kravitz.

"I tell some of my most treasured stories and some classic dirty Jewish jokes," said Filler. "Like the ones I told Leonard Cohen when I drove him in a car service to LaGuardia Airport in 1984. Something hilarious, uproarious and incredible happened on that drive. And later we became buddies. He was so uncynical and he helped me, a young musician, beyond words. A model of generosity and kindness in his performance and in his soul."

"I play a whole whack of characters including Mick Jagger singing in Yiddish — I think you get bang for ya buck! And because music can touch us so deeply, I'm psyched to be bringing some great music to the terrific audiences in Alexandria and D.C.," she said.

Filler added: "This show is about connections between all types of people, young and old, rich, poor, whatever. Nostalgia is a powerful thing. And so is storytelling. I have a rich life's tapestry to draw from, so now I am passing it on. Bring the kids? Sure! We all love a great story"

According to Carolyn Griffin, producing artistic director at MetroStage, "More than a decade ago (Filler) graced our stage with her remarkable 'Filler Up!' where she literally baked a loaf of challah and received a Helen Hayes nomination for Outstanding Lead Actress. I have been interested in her return ever since."

She continued: "A natural born storyteller, a musician, a comic, who can play and literally become multiple characters in all of her solo shows, she is a treasure who we are delighted to showcase on our stage. Because that is what MetroStage does — we showcase remarkable talent who tell memo-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Deb Filler will be performing her show April 13-29 at MetroStage in Alexandria.

orable stories."

Included in the production is the short film entitled "Mr. Bernstein" by director Francine Zuckerman, and written by Filler and Guy Hamling, which has been screened in film festivals around the world. It won the Best Drama at the Toronto International Short Film Festival, The Best Short Film, Screen Guild in New Zealand, and the Film Movement Short Film Award, San Francisco Jewish Film Festival.

Although home is Toronto, Filler is considered New Zealand's only Jewish comic (a Ki-brew-a Kiwi Hebrew). She has performed in television series and on stages worldwide, with productions of "Filler Up!," "Punch Me in the Stomach," and now, "I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)."

Griffin said Filler has a fascinating history as a musician, almost becoming a folk singer, has studied acting with the best in New York, performed in political theatre groups, and ultimately became a solo performer with her stories, personality and talent.

She said: "Always with humor but as a daughter of a Holocaust survivor there is always a poignant underpinning to her stories. This is what I love about Deb — her talent as an entertainer but also the heart and soul supporting all of her work. She is unforgettable, and she will be at MetroStage for three weeks in April."

Performances for "I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)" are April 13-29. Show times are as follows: Thursdays, Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$45. The venue is MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

322 N. Alfred St., Alexandria. Featuring jazz saxophonist Marshall Keys at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church. Suggested \$20 donation for jazz and buffet. Visit www.meadechurch.org or email jazzatmeade@meadechurch.org.

Metropolitan School of Arts'

Annual Showcase. 5 p.m. at Ernst Community Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Alexandria's Metropolitan School of the Arts Performing Arts Academy is hosting its Anniversary Annual Showcase, 10Plus 1, an innovative choreography of MSA students in tap,

jazz, contemporary and hip-hop. \$20 per person. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 17

FamilySearch.org Changes. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Free. Mount Vernon Genealogical Society's Carol Kostakos Petranek will discuss the recent changes to FamilySearch.org, the world's largest free family history website. For more information, visit www.genealogy.org or www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-

768-4101.

APRIL 17-MAY 20

Mathematics Show. at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Featuring the work of Mary Ann Robinson and Sylvia Saborio. The beauty of mathematics will be on display: hyperbolic geometry, fractal art, the golden ratio, the Fibonacci series — all serve as rich sources of inspiration for this theme. Call 703-548-0935 or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

"Sunflowers" Exhibit Reception.

5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce office, 6821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. An exhibition of Nina Tisara's mosaic art, "Here, Now," will be exhibited from April 18-June 15. For reservations by April 11, email ninat@ninatisara.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Local Author Thursday. 5-7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Book signing by Mary Jane O'Laughlin, "Ruby and Baby... and unlikely Friendship." Light refreshments. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

Spring2Action Fundraiser. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Light Horse, 715 King St., Alexandria. Presented by ACT for Alexandria. A fundraiser for the Lee-Fendall House Museum to continue repairs to its foundations. The goal is to raise \$3,000 to complete another section of foundation work. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Vegetable Gardening Series, Part 5: Square Foot Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Using this system, originated by Mel Bartholomew, grow more fresh produce in a small space, and save time with less watering, weeding, and tilling. Learn the simple principles of square foot gardening that give a high yield, easily maintained intensive garden. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

APRIL 19-JUNE 3

Art Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two Solos: Brian Williams and Sophie Blondeau. Williams' paintings on metal want viewers to consider if humans can adapt without catastrophe. Blondeau's canvasses explore memory and perception through the lens of her formative years in France. Visit www.nvfaa.org/events/.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Poetry Month Reading. 6:30-8 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Wendi R. Kaplan, Poet Laureate, City of Alexandria invites you to read poetry. "DASHing Words in Motion" Poets will also read their winning poetry that will be on the DASH buses and Trolleys in April and May. Visit the Office of the Arts' website at www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, email the Poet Laureate at poet@alexandriava.gov, or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Rocket Run for Autism. 9 a.m. at Rose Hill Elementary School, 6301 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Includes a 5K Run-Walk and a Fun Run for Kids. All proceeds go to the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, which builds community for over 5,000 individuals and families affected by autism through education, advocacy, and support. Online registration is available. Contact Laura Osborne at lc Osborne@fcps.edu.

Marketplace at The Athenaeum.

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Free. Stop by the Athenaeum as part of a great day touring gardens and homes in Alexandria. The Hunting Creek Garden Club has curated a selection of vendors who will display their wares among the art in the gallery. NVFAA Members Pre-sale 8:45- 9:30 a.m. Visit nvfaa.org.

Learn About Native Plants. 10 a.m.-noon. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Cost is \$8/person. Native plants are critical to the survival of Virginia's animals. Learn what makes a plant invasive and why it should be

ENTERTAINMENT

A Sense of Déjà Vu

BY HOPE NELSON

Step into the new champagne and wine bar along the first block of South Royal Street and you're liable to feel a sense of déjà vu. The location feels so familiar, but the name – BRUT – is new and ambiance has changed.

It's a common occurrence, says owner Dustin Lara.

After becoming a partner with Grape and Bean owners David Gwathmey and Sheera Rosenfeld, Lara changed the focus and vibe of the erstwhile Grape and Bean outpost, pivoting to a champagne bar with wine and small plates. In a move that is close enough to the original concept while striking out in a different direction, Lara says visitors often come in, look about, and feel they've been here before. That's because they have, albeit under a different name and a different menu.

After working with Gwathmey and Rosenfeld for a decade – “since Day One,” Lara says – the team decided to make a move.

“We thought 10 years was a good time to talk about partnership,” he said. “I was really grateful, and David and Sheera have just been fantastic.”

BRUT has continued its predecessor's tradition of being a neighborhood hangout; the vast majority of the bar's customer base is local. Lara prides himself on continuing to be a go-to spot for food, drink and conversation — even when snow closes the government.

“We're in a federal city ... I have OPM (alerts) on my phone. When the fed's closed, I know we're going to be open,” he said.

Longtime Grape and Bean customers will notice a change, but nothing earth-shattering.

CALENDAR

removed. Wear work clothes, gloves and sturdy shoes. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Kite Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. With children's activities, crafts, historical characters, and guided tours. Visitors can also speak with a kite maker, specializing in 18th-century kite construction. Cost is \$10/adults; \$8/children (ages 6-18). Contact Mary Kristen Craver at 703-550-9220, ext. 240 or mkcraver@gunstonhall.org.

Garden Day Herb & Craft Sale. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Free. Tour Carlyle House and purchase herbs, plants, and flowers raised in Mount Vernon's greenhouses. Enjoy live musical entertainment throughout the day, a bake sale, book sale, white elephant table, and more. Admission to Carlyle House Museum is \$5/adults; \$3/children. Visit www.novaparks.com.

Raptor Rapture. 10 a.m.-noon at Belle Haven Park, South of Old Town. You can see and photograph live raptors like barn and barred owls, hawks and more up close. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia and the National Park Service. visit www.fodm.org.

Poetry in the Garden. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Celebrate National Poetry Month by walking the gardens with a naturalist to find plants that have inspired poets of the

past. For ages 5-adult. Cost is \$6/person. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Meet the Speaker. 3-4:30 p.m. at Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St., Arlington. Encore Learning Lecture presents Mary Beth Sheridan, a correspondent on “Life at the Washington Post from Foreign Correspondent to the Foreign Editor's Desk.” Call Encore Learning at 703-228-2144.

Acoustic Eidolon Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Featuring Rob Gould; sponsored by FocusMusic. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20/door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

George Washington Parkway Classic. 8 a.m. start time. 10 Miler or 5K Race. The 34th annual race starts at Mount Vernon Estate and ends in Old Town Alexandria. For registration information, race route details and event day activities, visit www.runpacers.com/race/parkway-classic/. Race starts at 8 a.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Cost is \$78-10 Miler, \$48-5K, \$10-Sugar Shack Kids Dash.

Brunch Pop-Up. 8-11 a.m. at Hotel Indigo Old Town, 220 S. Union St., Alexandria. Hosting a brunch pop-up and poster making station for the GW Parkway Classic race, on Sunday April 22. They've partnered with Café 44 to offer \$5 rose and prosecco Chambongs, mini “Sunrise on the go” biscuit sandwiches with bacon egg

“They will experience a shift in our wine into champagne,” Lara said. “I wasn't hesitant at all to think that it would go really well — it's going very well, actually.”

Gone is the coffee bar; in its place, dozens of sparkling wine and champagne bottles have entered the scene (Lara aims to reach 100 different sparkling and champagne bottles in short order). And a renewed food menu rounds out the offerings.

One of the stars of the show: Raclette. Lara was introduced to the grilled-cheese delicacy while touring London and has brought the dish home to BRUT. He's sourced his cheese from Spring Brook Farm in Reading, Pa., and is more than satisfied with the result.

“It just melts perfectly, it cuts perfectly, it scrapes perfectly,” he said.

Choose a meatless version with roasted potatoes, arugula and

cornichons, or go all-in with salame, cappicollo and more.

And vegans won't be left out, either: Cheesy raclette isn't the only game in town. Lara aims to keep several menu items dairy-free at all times, including all of the soups. From butternut squash over the cooler months to white gazpacho for summertime, vegans will certainly have more than a head of lettuce to keep them occupied.

Up next: Some champagne and wine tastings as well as some wine classes, Lara says. And don't expect much pretense with any of it.

“We love wine and we love champagne, and we don't like the attitude that some people have with it. We enjoy it. And we don't use that skill to make ourselves better than anyone else,” he said.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

and cheddar, as well as some other light brunch bites. Visit hotelindigooldtownalexandria.com.

Philharmonic Orchestra Concert. 3 p.m. at GW Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic presents an afternoon of music. Symphony No. 5 by Shostakovich was written in rebellion of the Russian government. The concert also features local composer Anthony Iannaccone's theme on Boccherini's famous Menuet, Divertimento for Orchestra. \$20, adults; children 18 and under, free. Visit www.wmpamusic.org.

Artist Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. For Two Solos: Brian Williams and Sophie Blondeau. Williams' paintings on metal want viewers to consider if humans can adapt without catastrophe. Blondeau's canvasses explore memory and perception through the lens of her formative years in France. Visit www.nvfaa.org/events/.

Mozart Sacred Works. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 Campus Drive, Alexandria. Presented by New Dominion Chorale. Thomas Beveridge, Artistic Director, will conduct the 175-voice chorus, soloists and orchestra in a selection of Mozart's works. Tickets at www.newdominion.org or at the door. Ticket prices are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, \$15 for students and children. Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$20 per ticket. Call 202-244-7191.

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Public Safety Committee Focuses on ICE

FROM PAGE 5

Sr., Washington Field Office Enforcement and Removal Operations, was listed on the agenda along with Barbara M. Gonzalez, assistant director, Stakeholder Engagement – Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE).

“There was a lot of disagreement about federal participation today,” said Public Safety Committee chairman and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook.

ICE officers spoke from the audience to say that they were present and ready to speak at two points during the meeting.

“We appreciate you being here,” said Bulova. “There were a lot of organizations that actually asked to have a seat at the table, including ICE and including VOICE. There were others [immigrant advocates] who believed that this was going to be a public forum or a public hearing which it is not. This is a committee meeting of the Board of Supervisors.”

Bulova said later on Facebook: “ICE then

asked that a representative from the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) Office be at the table as well. Since VOICE’s mission (giving voice to victims of crimes by illegal immigrants), while admirable, was not germane to the subject of this meeting, I asked they not be a part of the discussion. ICE then presented us with an ultimatum — hear from all of us or none of us. ICE representatives chose instead to sit in the audience,” Bulova wrote.

“Prior to this meeting my office also heard from pro-immigrant rights groups who wished to have a seat at the table during the meeting. They were told ‘sorry’ for a similar reason — their issues were off topic and this was a Board Committee Meeting and not a public forum.”

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity disagreed. “I think they are our law enforcement partners and I think they should be able to participate, but I’ll respect the decision of the chairs,” said Herrity.

Still, ICE and its partnership with local

law enforcement continued as the topic of the meeting.

FOUST QUESTIONED Col. Douglas W. Keen, Chief of Police, City of Manassas, and chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.

“Do you allow ICE agents participating on the task force with your officers to make arrests for non-criminal conduct?”

Keen answered: “There are no ICE agents assigned to the task force. It is a local and state task force. We will work with ICE, just as the captain said, as another tool just like the FBI, DEA, Secret Service or any others. There are times we may ask for ICE assistance and they will help us on that criminal investigation.”

“I think we’re all comfortable with the criminal side,” said Foust. “What you seem to be evading is, do they take into custody while participating on your task force persons presumed or assumed to be in violation of non-criminal immigration rules.”

“I don’t dictate what ICE does,” answered Keen. “That would be their policy. When they are a member of the task force, they are there for criminal apprehension purposes.

“ICE, it would probably be best if they explained, if they had an opportunity, they have two different divisions, they have a criminal division and they have a civil division. The criminal division is working with us,” said Keen.

Roessler said: “We don’t want the community to be looking at us as if we’re using a criminal as a proxy to get into a house and say, ‘You, you and you, come with me.’”

“I hope that’s exactly accurate because that is not consistent with what I was led to believe, which was that these ICE agents do indeed take people into custody while on raids with you for violations that are not criminal activities,” said Foust.

ICE had been active in Route 1 area, said Roessler, and the FCPD asked ICE to alert them when and where they are conducting raids in the county so that police know if they get a call for example for a home invasion or robbery, they won’t respond.

“Obviously, they are federal law enforcement officers and they have absolute right to go into that community, I as a chief cannot override that federal right and that’s where the confusion is in the community. It’s not your police department in Fairfax County that’s conducting the civil raids, it’s ICE, and that’s their job.”

SHERIFF STACEY A. KINCAID informed ICE in January that the Sheriff’s Office would terminate its intergovernmental service agreement (IGSA) with ICE on May 23, following the required 120-day notice.

The “Sheriff’s Office will no longer hold inmates past their release date unless an ICE administrative request to detain the inmate is accompanied by a criminal detainer issued by a court,” according to Kincaid.

The City of Alexandria, on May 23, will be the only one of 123 jurisdictions in Vir-

ginia to maintain its intergovernmental service agreement with ICE, said Kincaid.

“Our compliance with Code of Virginia will not be compromised,” she said. “Our conclusion to terminate this agreement was done after a thorough very intensive process.”

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay asked if the decision would impact criminal investigations of the gang task force.

“Little to no impact on the gang task force,” answered Keen.

“Little to no impact, make sure everybody heard that,” said McKay, “because facts matter and facts really matter when you are dealing with people’s emotions. And when you’re trying to scare people in Fairfax County into believing things that are happening that are not happening.”

THE MAJORITY of the board supported Kincaid’s decision.

“When you terminated the ISA, it was undoubtedly predictable on your part that there would be those who would try to make a political issue out of this, would try to scare people. I appreciate the courage you showed, you did the right thing,” said Foust.

“It was the right decision to make,” said McKay.

“I’ve got to tell you, from all the officers that I’ve talked to and from my years on this board the number one most powerful tool we have in Fairfax County is a community that can trust and will talk to law enforcement to solve our crimes,” said McKay. “What’s happening at the federal level and the misinformation that’s being put out ... about the decision the Sheriff made is making that a lot harder.

“We’re one of the safest jurisdictions in the country because our people trust, believe, and speak to us and help us solve crimes,” McKay said. “And if we scare people that’s not going to happen.”

Bulova commented that it is very confusing to the immigrant community and damaging to the trust in county police that ICE agents are conducting raids in the county wearing uniforms that say “POLICE” in large letters across the back. It confuses and scares people when they see a uniform that says police and it’s not police at all. It’s ICE,” said Bulova. “It may say ICE somewhere on that uniform but people see police and think it’s our Fairfax County police who are actually serving as members of ICE.”

HERRITY SPOKE for the minority. He was not in support of Sheriff Kincaid’s decision to terminate the agreement with ICE.

“I think we need to continue cooperating with ICE to the fullest extent possible,” he said.

“This is about protecting our immigrant community,” said Herrity. “It’s human trafficking, it’s drugs, it’s murders, it’s crime and we ought to be doing everything we can to get them off the street,” he said.

“I’m very disappointed that we invited them here, we have them on the agenda, and they’re not able to speak,” said Herrity.

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Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and the Rev. Abraham Smith Jr., pastor of the First A.M.E Church, with three students who read their essays on racism at the service: Grace Hobson, Victoria Laffittie, and Cassandra Burdick.

Recommitting To Oppose Racism

FROM PAGE 3

of VIC, read a statement from VIC opposing racism and asked the audience to recommit to oppose racism. The statement read, “This community organization of churches, nonprofits and government agencies, recognizes the continued existence of racism in our community and country. Based on the long accepted principles of universal dignity, liberty, equality, and basic human rights, we recommit ourselves to the eradication of racism in all of its insidious forms.

“As people of faith who believe all people are valued, we pledge to look for systemic and individual oppression, and speak up and take action when appropriate. We reaffirm our commitment to respect and encourage unity in diversity — of race, ethnicity, culture, faith and worship, economic status, education, household structure, gender, age, or viewpoint.”

For the finale, two choirs — Mount Vernon Unitarian and the Church of the Latter Day Saints — combined to lead the audience in the Civil War abolitionist song, “Battle Hymn of the Republic.”

Also officiating at the ceremony were the Rev. Abraham Smith Jr., pastor of the First A.M.E Church, and Keith Davey, president of the Mount Vernon Stake, the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints. A number of local elected officials attended including Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay, state Sen. Scott Surovell, Del. Paul Krizek, and Del. Mark Sickles.

VIC was formed 45 years ago to provide shelter for local homeless people. Its members now provide volunteers to staff the hypothermia shelter at Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church from December through March. It holds monthly meetings and sponsors other events. See Ventures in Community – VIC on Facebook.

OPINION

Returning for 'Veto Session'

By PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Next week I join my colleagues in the General Assembly to return to the Capitol for the 2018 Reconvened Session, also known as the "Veto Session." According to the Rules of the House the purpose of the Reconvened Session is to specifically, and exclusively, consider only the Governor's recommendations to amend, and vetoes to, the legislation we passed during the 2018 Regular Session.

He had until this past Monday, April 9, to complete his bill review and return all the bills to the Clerk of the House who serves as the Keeper of the Rolls of the Commonwealth.

Governor Northam has signed 811 bills into law, which is 93 percent of the 874 bills we passed. So, we will have one day to act on the rest of the legislation during the Reconvened Session on April 18. The Governor vetoed just eight House of Delegates' bills, and made 35 recommendations, including one awful bill to ban "sanctuary cities," a law that the Governor called "unnecessary and divisive."

It would turn our local police into immigration enforcement officers, which is currently the responsibility of the federal government. This action would have a chilling effect on reporting small crimes and domestic violence in the immigrant community, because calling police in emergencies could trigger deportation. This would be detrimental to community policing and keeping civilians safe.

Governor Northam also vetoed two particularly bad bills: HB158 and HB1270. He said HB158 would allow the General Assembly too much latitude to alter legislative districts outside the constitutional process so they correspond with local voting precinct boundaries. This would allow members of the General Assembly to adjust districts at their own discretion, threatening Virginians' rights to equal ap-

portionment.

HB1270 would forbid state participation in adopting important regulations on carbon dioxide cap-and-trade programs. The Governor explained that the bill if enacted into law would limit Virginia's ability to tackle climate change and to provide additional clean energy jobs. I support efforts to participate in a regional carbon cap-and-trade program.

The Governor also vetoed two Senate bills and made recommended changes to another 25 bills from that body. The House will con-

sider these bills only if the Senate votes to override the Governor's vetoes, or in the case of the recommendations, the House will act on the Senate bills provided that the Senate has agreed to the Governor's recommendations.

We do not anticipate this veto session to be as long and arduous a day as last Session where Governor McAuliffe vetoed 26 House bills. Governor Northam and his staff spent a lot of time analyzing this legislation before he made the tough decisions to veto or recommend changes. It takes a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate to override a veto.

The list of bills that Governor Northam signed include three of my own: HB48, HB80 and HB81. HB48 implements an important fix to provide more transparency to the state reporting of charitable solicitation statements. HB80 cuts red tape and reduces barriers to professional development so that high-quality teachers coming from other states can teach in Virginia. The Virginia Educators Association supported this bill. They also supported HB81, which gives public school systems an extra 180 days to fill the school superintendent position.

Meanwhile I am in Richmond this week for the Special Session (including an Appropriations Committee meeting on Friday) to fight for a state budget that would expand affordable healthcare to nearly 400,000 hard-working Virginians that can't afford insurance on the private marketplace. I look forward to going back to work on behalf of the residents of the 44th district.

certainly not least, is the Fairfax County Unfunded Pension Liability of \$5.6 billion which seems to be ignored by the County Board.

I look forward to your written responses.

Charles and Linda McAndrew
FCTA Board Member
Oak Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

did over 30 years ago when they went to a hybrid system called the Federal Employees Retirement System. In addition, the county should raise the retirement age to 67, which is the SS age to retire, for all new employees which is the same position of the Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance (FCTA). Last, but



lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.
2. not appreciated or understood.
3. no longer owned or known

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Some Restrictions Apply

It's A Miracle (Not a Cancer Column) ...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



... that the green, cotton, chino-type casual-Friday pants I often wear on -in-the-office-Thursdays, lasted as long as they did. Given the number of years I've been stuffing myself into them (not every Thursday mind you, but very regularly), and the weight I've gained, especially since the ultra low point during heavy duty chemotherapy nine years ago, the miracle is that these pants hadn't split wide open on any number of previous occasions.

As it actually happened yesterday, the split was gradual, not along a seam and not offensive to anybody, least of all, me.

And though the tear was understandable, given the psi (pounds per square inch) of pressure they were under, the loss however expected was sad nonetheless. For someone who exults in a limited wardrobe as much as I do, the reduction in available garments I choose to wear – repeatedly, is impactful.

Hardly do I have too many other go-to-pants in the closet. Considering my lack of interest, lack of need and lack of properly fitting alternatives hanging in the balance, when a split occurs, such as the one I've described "heretofore," (Ben Affleck in "Good Will Hunting"), not only is the loss palpable, it is downright inconvenient. Now what? Not that my appearance is ever a priority, but I'd rather not dress for failure.

The problem is, when your clothing options can be characterized as "either or," you're in a bind which, given the pounds that have been added over the winter (let's be honest; more like the preceding fall, summer, spring, winter and fall), you're constantly challenged, especially when attempting to zip up your fly and/or button your pants. Talk about a pointless effort.

If there was a cash reward for such failure, I'd be basking somewhere warm, in semi retirement – with an elastic waistband to do my bidding.

"But alas, poor Yurick." No such reward exists, but thankfully, elastic waistbands do, and not just on underwear, bathing suits, shorts and sweatpants. The question becomes then: How committed do I want to become to such elasticity? Isn't it kind of a slippery slope to rubberize my waistline? My fear is, once I go elastic, I may never go back, and in never going back, I'm also afraid there may be no stopping me, if you know what I mean? And if I'm not to be stopped then am I prepared to live with myself, my ever-expanding self, that is?

I imagine my oncologist wouldn't approve. And I know my internal medicine doctor wouldn't approve (I've already received some electronic advisories to that effect); and I know with 100 percent certainty that my wife, Dina wouldn't approve. She might have married me "in sickness and health, and thick and thin," but she'd much rather I be thin than thick.

Granted, I may be mixing metaphors here, but I trust you get my point. She liked me the way I was, and sort of likes me the way I am, but I'm doubtful she would like me nearly as much if I were to morph into another being.

Ergo, the future is now. Do I continue to pack on the pounds and have less and less clothing that fits – and fewer and fewer excuses as to why that old thing seems to be that same old thing, again; buy new clothes that reflect and lock in my girth, or bite the bullet – not the Entenmann's Pop'ems, Hostess CupCakes, Oreos Mega Stuf cookies or M&M's plain/peanut butter candy and try to lose weight and save some face, literally?

I believe I know the answer. I'm just not sure of the start date. It better be soon because the underwear I bought myself for Christmas is beginning to lose its shape and I'm pretty sure I know the reason; and it's not a manufacturer's defect.

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

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NEWS

What Next?

FROM PAGE 1

on the team, added: "Our role tonight is listening to hear from the community about their hopes and aspirations for the project and we'll be translating that into the land planning for the project throughout the summer and spring as part of the timeline process."

Some of the potential uses for the site include: public and private uses and spaces; open spaces and facilities for recreation; connecting local employment referral sources and providing opportunities to small and local businesses; housing for a broad range of age and income levels; non-profit and incubation spaces; adaptive reuse of the historic structure; multimodal access connecting the site to the larger community; educational facilities and opportunities, public and or private; coordinated and integrated phasing of development; high-quality building and site design complementing the historic nature of the site; or complementing the services provided at the South County Government Center.

The timeline for the project includes: Spring 2018 – Community Open House; Spring/Summer 2018 – Redevelopment Master Planning, including community outreach and engagement; Summer 2018 – County Evaluation of Redevelopment Options; Fall 2018 – Community outreach of the proposed master plan; and in the Future – Funding, land use actions, design and implementation of redevelopment master plan.

According to Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon School Board representative: "It's so exciting to be back in this building where I went to middle school and was able to chair the original visioning task force and now to see the county invest in this building and make it the center of the Mount Vernon community. It's a great opportunity for both economic and social renewal."

Added state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36): "I'm excited to see the building return to community use. The building is a local historic landmark and it's important that the historic integrity of the building remain. Whatever the project is, it will be a nice complement to the Embark Process and the Bus Rapid Transit station that's going to be out in front."

He said: "The only piece that I'd like to see more of is more recreational fields incorporated as part of whatever the final plan is. We have a real shortage of recreational fields in this part of Fairfax County. This site has potential for some high-quality, multi-use soccer, football, softball and baseball fields, which I think would be a shame if we missed that chance."

According to Storck: "We had a fabulous turnout; we've got an energized public. We have people who are thinking and offering ideas in ways that we can improve and enhance this gorgeous historic public asset, and I'm totally thankful that we have that kind of civic engagement and commitment from our community."

The public is encouraged to email their ideas to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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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!

JUST LISTED!



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!

JUST LISTED!



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!

JUST LISTED!



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!



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



4800 Tarpon Ln. \$555,000

Pristine Condition!

Unique opportunity! Two level brick home with many features on magnificent 1/2 acre lot. Just steps from River and Yacht Club. Special features include:

open floor plan, thermal windows, hardwood floors, updated kitchen & baths, sun room, deck, and garage. All this for what you would expect to pay for just the lot!

CONTRACT IN 1st WEEKEND!



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!



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.

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.

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