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‘Play Ball’
The Marine Corps Color Guard from the Marine Barracks, Washington D.C. joined the Alexandria Potomac Little League on Saturday, April 14. The parent singing the National Anthem is Karen Moreno Sayles. More photos, page 3.

Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

Supervisors to vote on proposed budget, possible real estate tax increase on May 1.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

James Parmelee was the seventh speaker before the Board of Supervisors on the proposed budget.

Following school personnel, county employees and a speaker from the PTA, Parmelee was the first to oppose the proposed real estate tax increase.

“I figured somebody in the room should try to speak for the aver-

age taxpayer,” said Parmelee, a perennial opponent of taxes, when he gave his opinion of the proposed budget on the first of three days of public comment.

More than 150 speakers testified, 158 signed up to speak, during the three days the Board of Supervisors allotted to hear from the public on the FY 2019 budget and proposed tax rate. The public comments lasted more than 11 hours and 20 minutes.

Advocates voiced passion on topics ranging from the environment, health and human services, people with disabilities and who are aging, early childhood education, fire and rescue services, pay for public safety personnel, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing, diversity, mental health treatment, school bonds and capital improvements, the triple A bond rating, the arts, libraries, competitive pay for teachers, and more.



Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee standing with many union members, says that as a millennial, he cares very much about retirement benefits.

SEE VOTE ON BUDGET, PAGE 6

Their Own Words, A Glimpse

Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

“Fairfax County’s demographics are rapidly changing as you know. It is becoming increasingly diverse, and with these changes often come a unique set of challenges.

“The county’s revenue outlook is the most promising it’s been in years. However the rate of revenue increase is not reflected in the rate of investment in the poor and working class communities. The low income Fairfax residents, a disproportionate amount of whom are minorities, will not automatically benefit from the improved economy. Thousands will remain reliant on low-wage service sector jobs and many will not receive pay increases. Many of them will not be able to provide for their kids with pre-K

SEE THEIR OWN WORDS, PAGE 6

Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

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When John McEneaney opened for business, he had one simple goal in mind...attract the best real estate agents in the business to his firm so that McEneaney Associates could provide the highest level of service to our clients. For the past 37 years we have had the good fortune to see that wish come true. They are the reason so many clients trust McEneaney Associates. They are responsible for our enviable reputation. To put it simply...they are **McEneaney Associates**.



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www.TheGoodhartGroup.com



Old Town | \$1,975,000

Easy elegance defines this comfortable 3-level townhome in the SE Quadrant! The open floor plan is customized with high-level craftsmanship. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, an amazing patio and 2 off-street parking spaces!
Janet Caterson Price 703.622.5984
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OPEN SUN 4/22, 2-4

Wilton Hill | \$997,001

Stunning 9-year young home! This beautiful five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath NV home has views of Alexandria and the Masonic Temple. Features include a gourmet kitchen, high volume family room and amazing master suite. 5930 Wilton Hill Terrace
Sean McEneaney 703.635.8836
www.SeanMcEneaney.com



Alexandria City | \$839,000

Gorgeous brick colonial with portico, gourmet kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, crown molding, two brick fireplaces, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, finished rec room, private fenced yard with paver stone patio. Walk to Fairlington Shopping Center! HayesWoodHomes.com
Chris Hayes 703.944.7737
Gordon Wood 703.447.6138



OPEN SUN 4/22, 2-4

Beverley Hills | \$1,290,000

Fabulous 4-bedroom 3.5-bath Colonial on a half acre lot! Open floor plan, upgraded kitchen breakfast room, family room, formal dining room, home office, 2 fireplaces, hardwoods, relaxing master suite. Lower level rec room, bedroom & bath. 3106A Russell Road
Joy Sutherland 703.725.5061
Casey Sutherland 703.628.1386



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McEneaney Associates is proud to endorse **SCAN of Northern Virginia** during this year's campaign.

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OPEN SUN 4/22, 2-4

Old Town \$1,575,000

Just 50 yards from the waterfront! Gorgeous 4-level townhouse in immaculate condition. Spectacular living room with 12' ceilings opens to pretty garden. Separate dining room, spacious kitchen, 2 master suites, 2 further bedrooms, 3.5 baths, lower level family room. 1 car garage & driveway. 112 Quay St.

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Alexandria \$625,000

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Alexandria Potomac Little League Steps Up to the Plate

League begins new season.

Alexandria Potomac Little League (APLL), started its 15th season on Saturday, April 14, at Bucknell Elementary School. The league, formerly known as Bucknell Little League for its first 53 seasons, from 1951 to 2003, changed its name and began play as a “new” Little League in 2004.

Almost 400 players, coaches and parents were in attendance, along with state Delegate Paul Krizek (D-44), Little League Virginia District 9 Administrator John Donaldson, and Alexandria Potomac Little League’s first president and co-founder of



the Alexandria Aces Collegiate Summer Baseball Club Pat Malone, along with West Potomac High School’s junior varsity baseball team, to help kick off the league’s

2018 season. Brian Miller, in his third year as league president, was preceded in title by Michele Burgess (2014), Martin Long (2012 and 2013), Warren Payne (2010 and 2011), Michael Aitken (2008 and 2009), Paul Delaney (2006 and 2007) and Pat Malone (2004 and 2005). Malone was also the last president of Bucknell Little League, in 2003, before the league changed its name to Alexandria Potomac for their 2004 inaugural season.

With 67 years of baseball history, Alexandria Potomac Little League is the oldest member of Little League’s Virginia District 9 (<http://vad9.org>), which includes, Fort Hunt Little League, Central Springfield Little League, West Springfield Little League, Woodlawn Little League, Fort Belvoir Little League, South County Little League, Dale City Little League, Woodbridge Little League and Dumfries/Triangle/Quantico (DTQ) Little League.



Coach Brett Eanes leads the T-ball River Cats followed by Quinn Smile, Caleb Meszaros, Thomas Palmer, Henry Agnini and Bryce Eanes.



From left: Elijah Reisetter followed by Matthew Clapton and Matthew’s dad Chuck Clapton in the Red Sox shirt.



From left: Chester Newbury, Sasha Furtney, and Anthony Cubias.



The Nationals, from left, Sicily Faith, Wesley Winkler, and Taylen Jones.



Ethan Jones and Seth Neveln of Team Mets



From left are Brian Miller, Sr. (president APLL), Pat Malone (first president of APLL - 2003, 2004, 2005), John Donaldson (Virginia Little League District 9 commissioner), Barry Benton and Ian Lipner (both APLL coaches and board members).

PHOTO BY BRIAN MILLER, JR.



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TJHSST Admissions Statistics for Class of 2022

	Applicants	Percent	Admitted	Percent
Reduced Fee or Waived Fee Paid	336	10.6%	7	1.4%
GENDER				
Male	1,683	53.3%	278	57.3%
Female	1,477	46.7%	207	42.7%
Total	3,160		485	
ETHNIC				
White	870	27.5%	111	22.9%
Black	220	7.0%	10	2.1%
Hispanic	276	8.7%	23	4.7%
Asian	1,633	51.7%	316	65.2%
Multiracial/Other*	161	5.0%	25	5.2%
Total	3,160		485	
SCHOOL TYPE				
Public	2,996	94.8%	460	94.8%
Private/Home	164	5.2%	25	5.2%
Total	3,160		485	

* This category includes students who checked "Multiracial" on their application and/or students whose ethnic designation numbered ten or fewer.

Breakdown of TJ Class of '22

Admissions to TJ continue to exclude poor and black students.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has offered admission to 485 students for the Class of 2022 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).

A total of 3,160 students applied for admission.

❖ White students made up 870, or 27.5 percent of the applicants, and 111, or 22.9 percent of accepted students.

❖ Black students made up 220, or 7.0 percent of applicants, but only 10 black students were admitted, making up 2.1 percent of the incoming class.

❖ Latino students made up 276, or 8.7 percent of applicants; 23 Latino students were 4.7 percent of the incoming class.

❖ Poor students made up 336, 10.6 percent of applicants, with seven students who receive subsidized meals admitted, for 1.4 percent of the incoming class. About 28 percent of Fairfax County Public School students, or more than 51,000 students qualify for Free or Reduced Meals, a measure of significant poverty.

❖ Asian students made up 1,633, or 51.7 percent of the applicants and 316, or more than 65 percent

of the incoming class.

Approximately 71.9 percent of the students offered admission reside in Fairfax County and 28.1 percent are from Arlington, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the City of Falls Church.

Approximately 94.8 percent of students offered admission are currently attending public schools.

Established in 1985, TJHSST is a governor's school offering a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology, and is often cited in rankings as the top high school in the country.

Specialized technical laboratories, including a technological computational center, enhance the academic curriculum and provide students with experience in state-of-the-art technology, opportunities for independent research and experimentation, and interaction with professionals from the scientific, technological, engineering, and industrial communities.

The selection process for admittance to TJHSST involves a holistic review of each candidate's semifinalist essay, teacher recommendations, and student-authored information sheet, as well as consideration of grades and test scores on the admissions examination. A summer round of admissions for eighth graders newly moved to a participating district after Sept. 30 of the previous year will add to the 485 offers at the end of June.

For more information, contact the TJHSST Admissions Office at 571-423-3770.

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Alex/Riverside Estates \$499,900
8601 Mt. Vernon Hwy
Lovely Mt. Vernon home in Riverside Estates w/5BRs, 3BAs & a large carport on a .41 acre lot. Double pane replacement windows w/ tilt-ins. 2014 HVAC, 2015 hot water heater. Recessed lights, crown & base molding. Living room w/ large picture window flanked by additional windows & built-book shelving overlooking the large fenced flat backyard. Nice Family room w/ wood burning fireplace. Double pane replacement windows w/tilt-ins. Great price!



Alex/Wessynton \$664,900
3301 Wessynton Way
Beautiful home in Wessynton, Mt. Vernon's sought after contemporary community, just a stone's throw to Mt. Vernon Estate & George Washington Pkwy, & is adjacent to Little Hunting Creek. Large kitchen w/breakfast area, & a separate Dining Rm. Beautiful hwd floors. FPLs in the lovely Living Rm & Family Rm. Situated in a natural, wooded setting the home's bountiful windows bring to outdoors inside. Enjoy the natural landscaping on your deck. 1 car garage. Community amenities include boat ramp, swimming pool, tennis courts.



Alex/Waynewood \$699,900
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.



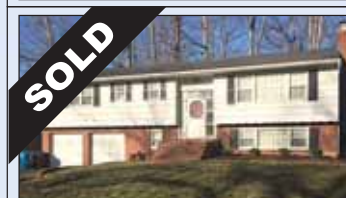
Alex/Riverside Estates \$679,900
9343 Boothe Street
Check out this large, beautiful updated Colonial on a stunning lot, a short walk from the Potomac River. Updated Kitchen & Baths w/ DBL pane windows. 5BRs, all on the upper level-beautiful hardwood floors on main & upper levels. Large partially finished basement & 2 car garage w/side entry plus circular driveway. 5 minute drive to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to South Alexandria. Spectacular home, lot & location at a very reasonable price. Give Rex a call.



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



Alex/Vernon on Potomac \$595,900
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/Riverside Estates \$444,900
8312 Orange Court
This is an excellent opportunity for an investor to come in, purchase, renovate, & flip. Also, a great opportunity for a young family to come in & fix up themselves. Wonderful bones & yard on this 5BR, 3BA split w/a 2 car garage & fenced bkyd. Won't be able to find a better price in Riverside Estates. Call Rex, his staff is ready to help you.



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Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

FROM PAGE 1

But the issue for the board to decide on May 1 is whether to support County Executive Bryan Hill's proposed budget including a two and a half cent real estate tax increase. The board can accept the real estate tax increase or vote for a smaller amount but can not raise Hill's suggested increase.

"When the voters in Fairfax County have had an opportunity to vote on tax increases, you saw what happened last time," said Parmelee. "The voters of Fairfax County, on the very same day that they overwhelmingly voted for Hillary Clinton, they also overwhelmingly voted against the tax hike."

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

Only four speakers, and approximately 21 minutes, divided Parmelee from speaker No. 12, Kimberly Adams, of Clifton.

"Aa a mother, taxpayer and employee here in Fairfax County, my life and livelihood are impacted by every budget that this country adopts," said Adams.

"We have to remember that we are preparing the future for more than 185,000 students each year. I would encourage the school system to go under a similar lines of business review that the county has gone through," said Adams, who suggested that

savings from collaboration between schools and the county could be identified.

"If at the end of that exercise, savings are not identified, then we must move forward in a responsible manner that may mean raising taxes once more



Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Oakton

or looking for possible alternatives to property taxes that we have found to be so elusive here in the county," said Adams.

THE PROPOSED \$4.29-BILLION budget would transfer 54 percent of the total to the school system to fully fund FCPS's budget request. It would also fund pay increases for teachers and county employees.

Adams spoke for many others when she addressed quality of life.

"Like so many here, I am happy to have amazing schools, fire and rescue professionals, human services, parks and libraries within my reach. It is why my family lives here," she said, in the three minutes given to each individual speaker.

"All residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard, but families that cannot afford homes in this area are a growing group. Many families are working hard but there are not enough good-paying jobs, not enough affordable care options, and certainly not enough affordable homes in this area. ... I appreciate it when you spend my tax dollars to sup-

port many who live in need alongside those of us who are doing well. We are Fairfax County and the people who live here want an inclusive and welcoming community for all."

BECAUSE OF VIRGINIA LAW, Fairfax County depends almost entirely on real estate taxes for revenue, putting a burden on



Arthur Purves, Vienna

homeowners in particular, whose increasing property values don't always demonstrate an ability to pay more.

"For nearly 20 years, this board has been raising real estate taxes two or three times faster than household income," said

Arthur Purves, of Vienna.

"This goes on year after year," said Charles McAndrew, of Oak Hill.

Phil Niedzielski-Eichner is the Providence District Planning Commissioner and former school board member. But last week, Niedzielski-Eichner spoke as an individual from Oakton and was the 23rd speaker.

"The key, of course, is attracting and retaining high-quality personnel to both [schools and county]. This budget begins to recover our competitiveness in relation to compensation offered by other governmental jurisdictions. I also support the \$25 million annual increase in FCPS bonding authority to expedite its school renovation and support new construction that will alleviate severe overcrowding in some of the county's fast developing areas," said Niedzielski-Eichner.

"As one who was on the front lines advocating for passage of the Meals Tax, I find this reality ironic in light of the significant voices arguing against the meals tax due to its regressivity. Since each one percent of the property tax rate is projected to generate approximately \$25 million in revenue, the proposed 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate will generate about \$62.5 million.

The meals tax was projected to generate a \$100 million per annum, with almost a third of this revenue, \$28 million, to be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP expressed concern that the county is underfunding services to low income families, including housing and Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap [of not having access to PreK education] eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years."

Annan asked the supervisors to fund an outside study of racial disparities in police

Their Own Words, A Glimpse

FROM PAGE 1

education or have access to affordable housing. Therefore, we request that the county direct greater attention and resources to serving the needs of the less fortunate among us."

Annan expressed concern that the county is underfunding Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years.

"Expand access to affordable housing. Many low income residents will not be able to afford to live in Fairfax County. Many of these families will spend up to half or more of their annual budget" on housing.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters

"We support the new property tax rate because we believe it gives you more flexibility in meeting unexpected challenges and we applaud your increased contributions to the reserve funds to satisfy the bond rating agencies. As taxpayers we appreciate your efforts to the county's triple A rating."

Kelly supported Diversion First, gang prevention, the opioid task force, the South County police station and the Office of Elections.

Dale Stein, president, McLean Citizens Association

"MCA is concerned about the context of the increases in spending and the apparent lack of cost savings. MCA feels that each budget should include new efficiency, in operations particularly in budgets of \$4.3 billion. ... "

Louise Epstein, chair, McLean Citizens Association's budget and taxation committee

"We really support teacher raises" while also expressing concern about allotting millions for

raises for administrators in the school system.

Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging

"We applaud your commitment to making Fairfax a livable community for people of all ages.

"Currently in Fairfax County, about one in seven residents are older than 65. By 2020, the proportion will nearly be one in five.

"We will need more affordable and accessible housing, improved and more creative transportation services, increased home based and community based services, new communications technology, programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity."

Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board

"Working age people with disabilities make up nearly 15 percent of the Virginia's population and are far more likely to be unemployed and to live in poverty than people without disabilities. Supports for people with disabilities are vital to the fabric of our community. They are every bit as essential to Fairfax County as our roads, emergency first responders, schools and environmental services. They are value added services that empower people with disabilities to live and prosper in the community."

Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee

"I am proud to be the first one in my family to graduate from college, and I feel it's important to give back to the community through my job as a public employee. I help families in need get heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer.

I've heard some people say millennial workers don't care about retirement. So, let me clear that up. As a 23-year-old millennial, I care deeply about my future and believe that we all deserve to live comfortably when we're too old to work."



Louise Epstein, McLean Citizens Association



Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging



Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board



Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters



Dale Stein, McLean Citizens Association

use of force.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county," Annan said.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."



PHOTOS BY MATT KANE/TNC

Girl Scout Junior Troop 3446 from Springfield helped clean up Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria for the annual Fairfax County Parks cleanup day with The Nature Conservancy on April 7.



An old toy truck was among the finds at Huntley Meadows.

Park Cleanup

More than 600 people volunteered for the Fairfax Parks cleanup event on April 7.

Final totals for parks that held the work-day on April 7:

- ❖ Over 1,500 hours of volunteer service (1,577 hours exact)
- ❖ Estimated 5.1 tons of trash removed
- ❖ Over 35 miles of stream and shoreline cleaned
- ❖ Over 25 staff leaders from Fairfax County Park Authority and The Nature Conservancy

Most unusual items:

- ❖ Plastic pink flamingo
- ❖ 1950's oven
- ❖ Hot water heater
- ❖ Tires, over 30 collected across the parks



Girl Scout Junior Troop 3446 from Springfield were joined by their parents to help clean up Huntley Meadows Park in Alexandria.

- ❖ Broken toilet
- ❖ Car muffler
- ❖ Siding
- ❖ Fender


- ❖ Mongoose bike
- Most common items:**
- ❖ Plastic bottles
 - ❖ Plastic bags

- ❖ Cans
- ❖ Cigarette butts
- ❖ Styrofoam
- ❖ Glass bottles

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OPINION

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13 this year, and as every year at this time, This newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com.

Mother's Day is just one of many occasions throughout the year that we would love to receive photos from our readers. Send us photos and notes when anything of note is happening in your family, neighborhood, school, club ... Be sure to include basic information: Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. Send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day photo galleries, we will begin to ask for sub-

missions for our Father's Day galleries. Father's Day is June 17 this year.

Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day. We're curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the Dads.

Twice a year we ask you to send photos and tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives, publishing the last week in July and the last week in February.

In late summer, we invite readers to share what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writ-

ing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive an amazing display of student talent.

Regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community.

We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

Please start by sending in photos for Mother's Day, preferably by May 4. www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/.

Virginia Press Association Winners

Connection writers and photographers garnered awards at the Virginia Press Association annual award banquet. Here is the list of our winners, with more details to come in the future:

First Place, Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, Great Falls Connection
First Place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing, Chantilly Connection
First Place, Mark Mogle, Pictorial Photo, Great Falls Connection
First Place, Mark Mogle, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
First Place, Eden Brown, Public Safety Writing, Arlington Connection
Second Place, Dan Brendel, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Second Place, Vernon Miles, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Alexandria Gazette Packet

Second Place, Fallon Forbush, Breaking News Writing, McLean Connection
Second Place, Fallon Forbush, General News Writing, Reston Connection
Second Place, Bonnie Hobbs, General News Writing, Fairfax Connection
Second Place, Marilyn Campbell, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
Third Place, Shirley Ruhe, Personality or Portrait Photo, Arlington Connection
Third Place, Fallon Forbush, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
Third Place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection

Affordable Housing in U.S. 1's Future

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



U.S. 1's revitalization, called Embark, is generating some legitimate questions about the future of affordable housing for current and future members of our community. The first part of the Embark plan envisions building 14 miles of bus rapid transit and extending the Yellow Line to Hybla Valley. This is a long-overdue plan that can bring new life, opportunities and jobs to our area.

From the beginning, I have been concerned about Embark Route 1's impact on affordable housing and have raised concerns in the planning meetings. The South County Task Force led by Mary Paden recently convened a panel discussion on affordable housing after it was largely omitted from the Embark Route 1 recommendations.

The Route 1 Multimodal Alternative Analysis Study developed by Virginia's Department of Rail and Public Transit — the study that started the planning process — was premised on the assumption that 50 percent of transit capital funding would come from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "New Starts" Program. New Starts is a five-year process that brings federal co-investments in transit projects that meet certain criteria.

The FTA's published 2016 policy guidance is clear that obtaining federal funds is contingent upon high population densities and pedestrian accessibility within one-half mile of transit stations and "legally binding affordable housing" within the one-half mile area around each station. It says:

"This definition, includes, but is not limited to, state or federally supported public housing, and housing owned by organizations dedicated to providing affordable housing. For the land use measure looking at existing affordable housing, FTA is seeking legally binding affordability restricted units to renters with incomes below 60 percent of the area median income and/or owners with incomes below the area median that are within a half mile of station areas and in the counties through which the project travels."

One reason FTA chose to include affordable housing in the land use criteria was to ensure that neighborhoods surrounding proposed transit stations have the fundamentals in place to ensure that as service is improved over time, there is a mix of housing options for existing and future residents. One measure of the readiness of a community to accept a new transit investment and avoid significant gentrification that can occur over time is the presence of "legally binding affordability restricted" units. These units have protections in place to ensure that they will continue to be available to low- and moderate-income households as changes in the corridor occur.

The FTA makes clear that plans that wipe out existing lower-and-moderate-income popu-

lations will not be funded.

Therefore, as U.S. 1 upgrades move forward, if we want to see them funded, we need to find a way to move 80,000 additional people into the U.S. 1 Corridor, using new development and infrastructure without displacing all of our existing residents.

Fairfax County's existing affordable housing ordinance and program are not adequate to address this issue and must be strengthened. In recognition of that, the Board of Supervisors has set up a committee to study the affordable housing issue and recommend solutions so that we can meet these objectives with Embark Route 1, obtain federal funding and maintain affordable housing for everyone.

As someone who has lived in this area for 46 years and whose family first came to eastern Fairfax County in 1941, I strongly believe that the U.S. 1 Corridor's economic and cultural diversity is what makes our community special. As a student at West Potomac High School, I had friends from many neighborhoods and we did not care where you grew up or whether you lived on the river, in a rambler, in a split level or in a manufactured home.

As we prepare for U.S. 1's modernization, we can have the benefits of high-density, transit-oriented development, walkable communities, protection of natural assets and revitalization of the U.S. 1 Corridor without losing its character. Decision-makers have to address these challenges to get the project funded.

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

Mount Vernon Gazette

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NOVA Parks Expands Acquires 3.2-acre Stribling property within Pohick Bay Regional Park.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Saturday, April 14, for a new 3.2-acre parcel of land known as the Stribling property, which was purchased by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and will be added to Pohick Bay Regional Park.

The waterfront property valued at \$2.1 million is situated on the Mason Neck peninsula in a lot located within the current park borders that had served as a private property before Pohick Bay was a regional park.

"We're really excited to add another piece of parkland to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority System and also to the land that we've preserved on Mason Neck," said Paul Gilbert, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks). "It's a beautiful property overlooking Pohick Bay. It has water access; it's right near our camping facilities. And it's a great addition to the park and will serve the public for generations to come."

"We actually have 1,800 acres on Mason Neck — 1,000 acres is Pohick Bay Regional Park, and another 800 acres, which is part of the land that we lease to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service," he said. "So, we've been involved in preserving land on Mason Neck from the very beginning."

"We preserved the first piece of land here in the 1960s and have been adding to it ever since. Having parkland is a critical part of having a good community and good resources for the public. A key test for any park agency is, is it growing? Because we have to be growing our land base of parkland as our population grows," he said.

THE PURCHASE was made possible through a series of conservation grants, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund as well as the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation. In addition to the grants, a below market rate loan was provided by the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund, administered by Virginia Resources Authority. The property will also be protected by a conservation easement held by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) to further ensure the conservation vision for this parkland.

Michael Nardolilli, chairman of NOVA Parks, said: "As our region's population grows, so does the necessity for more public parkland. The board and staff of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority are committed to doing our part to provide for the increasing needs of park patrons."

He added: "The land portfolio of NOVA Parks has grown by 20 percent over the past decade or an additional 2,000 acres. So, if we put that in terms that we can all understand, 2,000 acres is about three-square miles of new public parkland over the past 10 years — or that would be three Arlington National Cemeteries. And in our area



Mt. Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck addresses the crowd.



Kathie Weidenfeller, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust Board Member, addresses the crowd.



Glenda Booth, board member with the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation, addresses the crowd.



Paul Gilbert, executive director of NOVA Parks, addresses the crowd.



Michael Nardolilli, NOVA Parks chairman, addresses the crowd.

where land is a premium, that really makes a difference."

District Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt. Vernon) added: "There's a lot of history here. A lot of the quality of life for this area is about the parks and the green space that we have here. Mount Vernon District has amazing numbers of options and resources and opportunities for people to enjoy the natural world. And even the parts of the natural world that man has intervened, even those are some amazing places along the Potomac and Mt. Vernon Estate, and the fact that we have woods and views like this."

According to Katie Weidenfeller, a NVCT board member: "This property wouldn't be happening today if it weren't for the partnership.... The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust's role in this partnership is to make sure this land stays like this and it remains a place for wildlife — for people to enjoy nature in perpetuity. That's what land trusts do. We are institutions that protect land forever. So, this land will be here for your grandkids and your great-grandkids and hopefully they'll be able to see this beautiful view as well."

Added Glenda Booth of the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation: "It's a rare opportunity and an honor to be able to preserve anything and especially a parcel here on the river. And the Foundation chose this project This was chosen and recommended by the staff and chosen by the board because of its location on the Potomac River and its adjacency to a conserved area to a park. The board believed it could also contribute to public recreation in our area and to water quality of the river and to the overall integrity of the Mason Neck Peninsula."

According to Brian Bauer, marketing and communication administrator with Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. "This was the Stribling property formerly when the park was created many years ago. This property remained a private residence and only recently did the owner decide that it was time to sell, and fortunately for us, she approached us first."

Gilbert said in the near future, the property won't change dramatically. The two existing houses on the Stribling property could be rented to park staff. In the longer term, he said it could be used for overflow camping.

"It's a beautiful site where folks could launch a canoe or kayak. We could have tent camping or small cabins that would be a nice addition to that because our camping facilities continue to be very popular. They're busier now than they've been for decades," said Gilbert.

NOVA Parks was founded in 1959 as a regional park agency with parks in Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. It has about 12,300 acres and 33 parks, much of it protecting the rivers and waterways of our region. Pohick Bay Regional Park offers a variety of amenities for its users, including camping (tents, cabins and RVs), trails, golf, boating, playgrounds and a waterpark.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

OPINION

Finishing State Legislature's Work

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



The General Assembly is reconvening to vote on Governor Northam's vetoes and amendments to its 2018 legislation.

This year, Northam vetoed 10 bills, including a bill that would prohibit sanctuary cities and force local police to do the job of federal immigration officers. He also vetoed legislation that would prohibit Virginia's participation in a regional carbon cap-and-trade program, a bill to prohibit localities from adopting local minimum wage ordinances, and a bill that would make it so Army Navy Country Club would owe nearly no taxes.

You can find a full accounting of his vetoes in a number of articles online. It takes a two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate to override a veto. Democrats hold enough seats in each chamber to prevent any overrides.

The Governor also made several amendments to bills, including a measure to make sure Virginia fully funds its commitment to WMATA in a way that does not reallocate scarce and needed funds from local transportation projects like Route 1 widening.

Governor Northam made 32 recommendations to House legislation and 21 recommendations to Senate legislation. Those plus the Governor's 10 vetoes make 63 total actions on which the the General Assembly must vote.

Approving Governor's recommendations is a little trickier, because those votes require a simple majority for action. As Democrats are two votes shy of a majority in both chambers, the Governor had to be modest and effective in his recommendations. The House has decided that it will only debate actions that fail in the Senate, assenting to the rest pro-forma with the official proceedings only a matter of formality.

The consensus on the WMATA amendments is to support the Governor's amendments, but I want to take the opportunity to register my disappointment that the Governor did not strip anti-worker language prohibiting a Project Labor Agreement on the project in the enactment clause.

I've written extensively on the benefits of PLAs before and I find it extremely disappointing that the Governor left this divisive and extreme anti-worker provision in the bill. However, as this is a bill that lasts for 10 years and the Governor needed to get 51 votes, I will support the Governor's actions. However, if Democrats ever take a majority of both chambers, I will be fixing this bill along with any other anti-worker legislation that disadvan-

tages hard-working members of my community and communities across the Commonwealth.

On a positive note, the Governor also amended the budget to include specific anti-gerrymandering language to a redistricting bill that passed the General Assembly this session. This means that the anti-gerrymandering language will get an up-or-down vote on the floor of both the House and Senate. I have long been a supporter of nonpartisan redistricting and look forward to supporting this measure. This will also be an opportunity to get members of the General Assembly on record about fair redistricting policies and look forward to seeing where my colleagues on both sides of the aisle really stand.

As always it's a pleasure to represent you in Richmond. Do not hesitate to send me an email telling me your thoughts on legislation before me. You may reach me at delpkkrizek@house.virginia.gov.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Value of Volunteers

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of self

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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Teaching Money Management

April is Financial Literacy Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

In an era when consumers can purchase merchandise and deposit money into a bank account using a smartphone, teaching money smarts to children can be fraught with complications. April is Financial Literacy Month and local financial advisors say teaching children how to manage their money responsibly is a necessary part of becoming a financially responsible adult.

"How a parent treats cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example," said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery College. "If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness."

One of the most important financial lessons that a parent can teach is how to save, advises Foster. "Teach them how to budget so that they can learn how to save for what they want," she said.

Children pay attention to and learn from the ways in which their parents manage money and it's critical that they learn financial literacy at home, suggests Victoria G. Henry, assistant vice president at West Financial Services, Inc. in McLean.

"Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key," added "It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses. Perhaps it could be explained by saying the savings will come in handy if a favorite toy breaks or is lost."

An ideal time to offer a lesson in saving is when a child receives money as a present for a birthday or other occasion, says Henry. "It is a good practice to have them save even 10 or 20 percent of the gift, and let them have the rest to spend how they want," she said. "If they decide to spend their fun money on something and then quickly return asking

for money for something else, it is a good to remind them that maybe they should think more carefully about how they want to spend their money in the future. This will help them get into the practice of making wise choices with spending and saving down the road when they start earning money as well."

Foster also suggests helping children develop savings goals. "[Whether] by piggy bank, envelope, can, or jar, a vessel is an important tool for teaching kids how to save for major milestones," said Foster. "Identify a goal for the saving and have them save towards that goal."

Transparency builds enthusiasm, adds Foster. "Using

a clear jar for saving creates enthusiasm and motivation as the kids see it fill up with the coins," she said. "[Saving] also teaches then self-reliance and not counting on their parents to help them for everything. By giving a reward, kids can learn the value of money and how to spend money."

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. "Show them that stuff costs money," she said. "Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will real-

PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Teaching young children about the concept of saving money is a critical part of financial literacy.



ize how much it costs to maintain them and how much all the stuff that they want costs."

Involve children in a family's charitable donations, advises Henry. "Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support,"

"Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key. It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses."

— Victoria G. Henry,
 West Financial Services, Inc.

she said. "Have them research and pick a charity and then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf."

"Have children earn their allowance and let children experience the pain of not having enough money if they don't budget correctly," said Dr. Brian Hollar assistant professor of Accounting, Economics & Finance at Marymount University. "Experience is a good teacher and learning when the stakes are low is invaluable."

Hollar underscores the importance of teaching solid math skills. "It's hard to develop strong financial literacy without understanding exponential growth," he said.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Open for Tours. Starting April 23 to December. At 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House is open for tours Friday through Monday, from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. (last tour at 3 p.m.) Not open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. To learn more about National Trust Sites, visit savingplaces.org/historic-sites.

Art Exhibit: Beasts Beyond Boundaries. Through April 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. 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.

Art Exhibit: A Touch of Magic. Through April 29, 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.

"High School Musical." Through April 29 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.

"I Did It My Way in Yiddish (in English)." Through April 29, 8 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. A play written and performed by Deb Filler, an internationally acclaimed Canadian/New Zealand Jewish comic, musician and writer. Visit www.metrostage.org.

Alexandria Pop-Up Program "Looking Up." Through May 1. At 104 South Union St., Alexandria. AEDP's Pop-Up ALX program is partnering with The Art League and the International Institute of Photography to bring an exhibition showcasing the artwork of girls from the City of Alexandria alongside the work of seminal female artists. The gallery will feature the photography of 10-year-old girls from the SOHO Old Town (a Space Of Her Own) outreach program juxtaposed with iconic photographs of groundbreaking women in the field. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Art Exhibit A Study of Manhattan. Through May 6, 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. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit: 2018 Emerging Artists. Through May 20, 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 Jackson, Hollis McCracken, and Holly Trout. Visit torpedofactory.org/



Offender Aid and Restoration's annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast will be April 24.

FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

OAR Celebrates 10 Years With Community Fundraiser

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) will host its 10th Annual Second Chance Fundraising Breakfast on Tuesday, April 24 from 7:45-9 a.m. at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel.

This year's guest speaker is Harold Clarke, director of the Virginia Department of Corrections with state Sen. Barbara Favola and state Sen. Adam Ebbin as honorary chairs for the event.

Clarke, a leader in seeking solutions to assist with prisoner reentry, says the major obstacle right now is employment because a number of employers are reluctant to provide employment because they are concerned about the criminal history. Clarke adds research shows that people with a criminal history have a 40 percent less chance of securing employment.

Guests must RSVP to attend since the breakfast is generally at capacity with 600 guests. Guests

can RSVP on the website at www.oaronline.org/breakfast-rsvp-form-2028. Attending the breakfast is free, but the event is a fundraiser so guests are asked to consider making a donation.

OAR was founded in 1974. They provide reentry services to previously incarcerated individuals including transition assistance and employment coaching. The OAR Reentry Services Department serves nearly 800 post-release participants annually and nearly 400 pre-release participants at the Arlington County Detention Facility, the Alexandria Detention Center and Coffeewood Correctional Center.

The breakfast highlights the challenges of prisoner reentry with transition back into the community and showcases some of the successes of the OAR program and the lives impacted.

— SHIRLEY RUHE

partners/target-gallery.

Mathematics Show. Through May 20 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.

Benson Bond Moore Landscapes. Through May 31 at Studio Antiques and Fine Art, 524 North Washington St., Alexandria. Free admission. Over 70 paintings and numerous natural history prints from the estate of a private collector will be on display. Call 703-548-5188 or visit www.studioantiques.net.

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/ or call 703-768-3224.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

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. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

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 mgmv.org. Questions, call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com.

APRIL 19-JUNE 3

Art Exhibit. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two Solos:



Wendi R. Kaplan

Reception: Poem in Your Pocket

In celebration of National Poetry Month, bring poetry and stories that spark the creative spirit. All are welcome. Hosted by Poet Laureate Wendi R. Kaplan and the Office of the Arts, City of Alexandria. Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

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.

Frog Symphony. 7-9 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Huntley Meadows comes alive in the spring with the sound of frogs and toads. Join a naturalist walk to listen for serenading frogs and toads, and learn their calls. \$9. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

APRIL 20-28

"Hairspray." At T.C. Williams High School. Show times are Fridays, April 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.; Saturdays, April 21 and 28 at 7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 28 at 1 p.m. Visit www.acps.k12.va.us.

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 lcosborne@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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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 removed. Connect with the Virginia Native Plant Society and Green Spring Gardens for a take-action project. 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.

Historic Garden Week Old Town Tour. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Old Town Alexandria will kick off the Garden Club of Virginia's 85th Historic Garden Week public tour of historic homes and gardens. Ticket price includes admission to five of Old Town Alexandria private homes and gardens, refreshments at 228 South Pitt St., and admittance to five nearby historic public properties, including: Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall House, River Farm, Gunston Hall, and Mount Vernon. Presented by the Hunting Creek Garden Club and the Garden Club of Alexandria. Tickets may be purchased the day of the event at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St.; St. Paul's Church, 228 S. Pitt St.; and the Alexandria Visitors Bureau at 115 King St. \$45/advance; \$55/door. Visit vagdardenweek.org or email historicgardenweek@gmail.com.

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. Bring your gardening questions to the Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. Enjoy live musical entertainment throughout the day, a bake sale, book sale, white elephant table, and more. Sponsored by Friends of Carlyle House. 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.

Firefighting History Walking Tour. 1-2:30 p.m. Starts at 107 South Alfred St., Alexandria. Explore Alexandria's firefighting history on the "Blazing a Trail: Alexandria's Firefighting History" tour. Participants will learn about volunteer firefighting in early Alexandria, three devastating fires, and the five volunteer fire companies. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations required. Purchase tickets at www.shop.alexandriava.gov or by calling 703-746-4994 or 707-746-3891.

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. Call 703-642-5173 or visit



Kite Festival

With children's activities, crafts, historical characters, and guided tours. Visitors can also speak with a kite maker, specializing in 18th-century kite construction. Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Cost is \$10/adults; \$8/children (ages 6-18). Contact Mary Kristen Craver at 703-550-9220, ext. 240 or mkcraver@gunstonhall.org.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

Life of Barbara Johns. 3 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Join the Democratic Black Caucus and Democratic Party of Virginia for a panel discussion and reception. A reception in Barbara Johns' honor will be held at 5 p.m. at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1401 Duke St., Alexandria and feature Justin E. Fairfax as the keynote speaker. Free. Contact Danny Carroll at 804-895-7576.

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 Miller or 5K Race. The 34th annual race starts at Mount Vernon Estate and ends in Old Town Alexandria. Presented by Jillian Keck Hogan Group - McEanearney Associates. Also included is a Sugar Shack Kids Dash, and a Finish Festival with live music, Port City Brewing Company pop-up beer garden, a kids zone, a post race stretch zone provided by ProRehab, and other activities. 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 Miller, \$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 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.

MONDAY/APRIL 23

Small Space Gardening: Selecting Trees & Shrubs. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. There are a variety of trees and shrubs native to this area that could work. Learn how to assess the site and soil conditions, how to select trees and shrubs to reshape a small yard into a more sustainable landscape, and how to install and maintain new plantings. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Questions, telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgaralex@gmail.com.

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

Agenda Alexandria: Road Rage Discussion. 7:15-9 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Learn how bikes, cars and pedestrians can safely share the streets. Whether it is shared bikes or bike lanes eliminating a favorite parking spot, a desire for more bike

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Kent Knowles of the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia discusses large birds of prey.

Raptor Rapture

Bring youngsters, friends and family to Belle Haven Park to see live raptors up close, birds like screech and barred owls, hawks and more. Sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia and the National Park Service. Look for the tents near the restrooms. Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-noon at Belle Haven Park, GW/Mount Vernon Parkway, Alexandria. Call 703-765-5233 or visit www.fodm.org.

CALENDAR

lanes, concern about speeding, frustration about low speed limits, or anger at cut-through traffic, Alexandrians have a lot of opinions on how to use local roads. Hear four panelists discuss different aspects of this issue. Dinner is \$32 for members who RSVP by April 20 and \$37 after. Call 703-928-0619 or email executivedirector@agendaalexandria.com. Or visit AgendaAlexandria.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Poem in Your Pocket. 6:30-8 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. The City of Alexandria will celebrate an early national Poem in Your Pocket day. This event is hosted by Wendi R. Kaplan, Poet Laureate, Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association and the Office of the Arts. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arts, email the Poet Laureate at poet@alexandriava.gov, or contact Cheryl Anne Colton at cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Alexandria Historical Society Awards. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society presents the T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award to a person or persons who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural, and artistic heritage of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Tour Historic Huntley. 1-2 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Cost is \$5. From a woman's point of view, learn the roles women played in Huntley's history and the dramatic changes in the lives of women since the house was built in 1825. Call 703-768-2525

or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Open House Block Party. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 315 Cameron St., Alexandria. To mark the one-year anniversary of Home On Cameron. Enjoy light fare from local restaurants and shop Home on Cameron's collection of upholstered furniture including new private label sofas and chairs, custom dining pieces, Nepal felt flowers, console and coffee tables by D.C. and Virginia artisans, local art, antiques, couture chandeliers, lamps, ceramics and wooden toys and dog items. RSVP to rsvphomeoncameron@gmail.com

Make an Offer. 6-9 p.m. at 4950-C Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Bring friends and family and enjoy a special evening of shopping. First time, one evening event - Eisenhower Consignment, Luxury Furniture & Art Reseller is accepting offers on entire showroom inventory including new arrivals. Visit eisenhowerconsignment.com.

APRIL 26-28

"Bye Bye Birdie." At Mount Vernon High School, Entrance 4, 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road, Alexandria. Performances on April 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. and April 28 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$7/students and younger; \$8/FCPS Staff/Senior Citizens/Military; and \$10/General Admission. Go to www.itickets.com/register/new/383894. Visit www.mvstheatrearts.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Film Screening: "Out of the Ring Still in the Fight." 7 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St., Alexandria. Film chronicles boxer and Alexandria native Anthony "Da Beast" Suggs' turbulent journey and path to redemption. Contact Anthony Suggs

Sr. at 703-801-8191 or Charles Houston Rec Center 703-746-5552.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Fairfax Run for the Children. 8 a.m. at Fairfax County Courthouse Complex, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Join Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the 8th Annual 8K and 3K races. The superhero-themed race attracts nearly 1,000 runners and walkers, 250 volunteers, and raises almost \$85,000 each year to support Fairfax CASA's advocacy work with abused and neglected children in the community. Participants can enjoy the after race celebration, including superhero meet and greets, a DJ, free food, face painting, kids' crafts, photo booth, and more. Visit www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com/.

Native Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1701 N. Quaker Lane parking lot, Alexandria. Largest native plant sale in D.C. metro area hosts 12 or more vendors from three states selling native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. Admission is free. Call 571-232-0375 or visit NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org.

Alexandria Earth Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. This family-friendly event includes the eighth annual Upcycling Showcase, where students from Alexandria schools will present unique fashion items based on the event theme, "Local Action, Global Impact." Enjoy tent talks on environmental topics, the presentation of the 10th annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award, more than 60 environmental exhibits, music, giveaways, and more. Free. Call 703-746-5592 or visit alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

New Bucknell Manor Park Playground. 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony at 2223 Beacon Hill Road,

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ENTERTAINMENT

Alexandria. Bucknell Manor's old playground was demolished to make way for the new features. The \$100,000 project was financed through the 2016 Park Bond as part of a plan to install new playground equipment at aging parks to bring them into compliance with today's safety and ADA standards. Call 703-324-8662 or via Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Author Tessa Jones. 1-3 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St., Alexandria. Author Tessa Jones will be signing her books, *Reflection of Memories* and *Cobwebs of Time*. From 4-5 p.m., Raya the Reading Therapy Dog will be available. Visit www.hooray4books.com.

History's Mysteries in the Vault. 3 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St., Alexandria. Historians Terry Gish and Wayne Kehoe return to the historic burial vault at Ivy Hill Cemetery for an exciting chapter of the *Tales from the Vault* series. Learn about the history of Memorial Day and Civil War Holidays – while sitting in the vault. Not for the faint of heart. RSVP to info@ihchps.org.

Book Launch. 3-5 p.m. at First Agape Baptist Community of Faith, 2423 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For Rev. Dr. Donna Taylor's book, *"Financial Empowerment in the African American Church."* The book shares the interconnectedness between the knowledge of financial literacy as it relates to debt reduction and debt management principles that can be utilized in every facet of life. Visit www.revdrdonnataylor.com.

Classical Piano Concert. 6:30-10 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Pianists Elias Dagher, Jingxuan Zhang, Sasha Beresovsky. Featuring piano duos by



Acoustic Eidolon

Schumann and Schubert, works by Bach, Prokofiev, Mussorgsky. Organized by United Help Ukraine charitable organization unitedhelpukraine.org, email UnitedHelpUkraine@gmail.com. Tickets \$40 at the door, \$35 (\$20 seniors/veterans/students) in advance at pianistsforsoldiers2018.eventbrite.com.

Concerts at Saint Luke's. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Will bring a lively mix titled "Samba Surf." Michael Sheridan will return playing guitar and the accordion. A reception will follow. \$20/adult; \$15/senior; free to students 18 and under. Visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events.

Sensory Friendly Golf. At 6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria. Topgolf in Alexandria is celebrating World Autism Month by creating a sensory-friendly environment. Venue will have sensory-friendly modifications that include dimmed lights, low music and minimal staff. The ticket link to reserve a golf bay is at

topgolf.com/us/promo/sensory-friendly-day/

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Love Your Pet Day Block Party. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Roth and Colvin streets in the West End of Alexandria. Mayor Allison Silberberg and the Alexandria City Council proclaimed April 29 as the second annual Alexandria Love Your Pet Day. A block party kick-off will be held in the Wholistic Hound Academy parking lot at 18 Roth St., hosted by celebrity vet Dr. Katy Nelson. Attendees will head along Roth and Colvin streets to interact with 40-plus businesses; children and leashed pets welcomed. Visit www.facebook.com/alexandrialoveyourpetday.

Duo Ensemble. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Flutist Sais Kamalidiin and Guitarist Rick Peralta perform. Visit www.nvfaa.org/events/.

Pohick Church Coffeehouse Fundraiser. 6-8 p.m. at 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The

Concert: Acoustic Eidolon

Featuring Rob Gould; sponsored by FocusMusic. Saturday, April 21, 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$18 in advance; \$20/door. Visit www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets.



Rob Gould

Pohick Church Episcopal Youth Community will present an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and musicians. Proceeds go to the Sr. High Summer Mission Trip to Ohio. Call 703-339-6572 or email rusty@pohick.org.

Violinist Timothy Baker and Pianist Frank Conlon. 7 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., Alexandria. Free. The program includes: Beethoven - Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor, Op. 30, No. 2; Franck - Sonata for Violin and Piano in A Major; Grieg - Sonata for Violin and Piano in C Minor, Op. 45; and Ravel - Tzigane, Rapsodie de Concert for Violin and Piano. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

MONDAY/APRIL 30

Gardening in Containers, Window Boxes and Balconies. 7-8:30 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Use containers in a sunny window or on a balcony or patio to grow flowers, foliage, herbs, and

edibles. Learn what works best in these places and get tips for maintaining them in this climate. Free. Advance registration requested at mgmv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com.

Sowing the Seeds of Victory: War Gardens in America. 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Provides an overview of home food production during World War I and describes how contemporary gardeners can grow the same crops in our gardens today. Free. Advance registration requested at mgmv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 1

Golf Clinic Registration Opens. At Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Introduce 8-17-year-olds to the fundamentals of golf with one-hour junior clinics. Clinics are offered for \$15 each and run through August. Spring registration is now open; summer registration opens May 1, 2018. Space is limited. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/junior.

MAY 1-JUNE 24

Art Exhibit: Inspired by Nature. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Celebrate the return of spring with *Inspired by Nature: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists*, on exhibit throughout the Green Spring Gardens' Horticultural Center and Historic House. The exhibition brings together some of the area's top watermedia floral and landscape painters. Visit FairfaxCounty.gov/Parks/GreenSpring.



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OPINION

Fully Fund Human Services

BY MARY PADEN, CONVENER
SOUTH COUNTY TASK FORCE

The following testimony on Fairfax County's FY2019 Budget was presented by the South County Task Force.

Our testimony is in two parts: this document and a video <https://youtu.be/7PAEHYsd7B0> focused on the need for more affordable housing funding that brings in a number of supporters who were not able to spend the 6-8 hours needed to travel to and testify in person at the Fairfax Government Center.

We support the 2.5 cent property tax increase to fully fund the Human Services budget, the Community Services Board budget, and the school budget. We will support this increase among our neighbors in Mt. Vernon and Lee Districts. We also support the county's legislative efforts to diversify funding mechanisms for counties so that we can support the city-level of services required with a city-style taxing power that does not put the entire burden on property owners.

We are delighted that the filter of OneFairfax was used to set priorities in the Human Services budget. We encourage the use of funds to help the most vulnerable such as providing basic human needs, safety from violence, early childhood education, diversion first practices, and assistance to the disabled. Only by supporting all of our residents to achieve their fullest potential can we thrive as a community.

We are especially happy to see funding for a new domestic violence shelter in Mt. Vernon. Victims from this area must not go to a shelter in Reston, with their children bused back to Mt. Vernon schools daily. A local shelter will offer them a more stable environment.

We are also pleased with the emphasis on modernizing the technical services and databases in the Human Services department under Deputy County Executive Tisha Deeghan. She told us the department must now work with 70 unconnected databases. This situation causes confusion and delays to vulnerable clients. Our Guide to Health Care Services on the Route 1 Corridor was a small effort to address the confusion people face in obtaining services in service area and one geographic area.

While we are glad to see funds restored to schools and human services after years of budget cuts, we also want to see a priority given and funds restored to affordable housing. The Penny Fund established in 2006 to support affordable housing was cut to a half-penny in 2010 during the recession. As other parts of the budget are being restored, it is time to restore that fund to a full penny.

Price-appropriate housing must become a priority of Fairfax County.

Housing first is the Fairfax policy for vulnerable residents who receive human services. While we have made progress over 10 years to eliminate

homelessness, we still have 1,000 homeless people.

In the morning after spending the night volunteering at the Rising Hope hypothermia shelter at the end of March, I encountered a woman who was distraught. She said she had recently been robbed of her money, her cellphone, and her glasses. She couldn't see and was getting a migraine and running out of medication. She was in the Diversion First program and wanted to contact her counselor. Rising Hope was closing its shelter for the summer in two days and she didn't have another place to stay. Imagine being in that situation. She was articulate, focused, and grateful for a ride to the Gartlan Center.

Advisory groups (Human Services) and forums (Ventures in Community forum on health care at INOVA) have recommended that stable housing is needed first for delivery of other services.

But it is not only the most vulnerable who need help with housing. If we are to become a OneFairfax community, we need to provide housing and services for people of all ethnicities, faiths, and income levels. We must not become gentrified, driving our service workers to other counties further south. While people near or above area median income have a good selection of housing, people with 80 percent or below face a much tighter market, and people at 50 percent or below are really struggling. There is a need for an additional 30,000 units of price appropriate housing in the county. Alexandria and Arlington have lost 90 percent of their affordable housing as they have gentrified and the gentrification will continue spreading through Fairfax unless we stop now to intentionally implement alternatives.

The new draft Housing Strategy is a good start in that it recommends aligning county efforts to reduce barriers to developers who want to provide affordable housing and streamline processes.

With no more federal housing being built, the focus has shifted to supporting affordable housing developers with public funds or loans and well as favorable rules and processes. The Penny Fund, the Housing Trust Fund, and the Housing Assistance Program have been used for this purpose. Their funding fluctuates but does not seem to increase in line with the need.

Affordable housing developers tell us that it costs an average of \$350,000 to build or restore an affordable housing unit and they can do that only with an \$80,000 public contribution. Although most of the Housing and Community Development department's \$127 million budget comes from state and federal sources, the \$21 million supplied by the county this year for all purposes plays an important role because of its flexibility.

We recommend that over the next two to three years the board resupply the Penny for Affordable housing fund until it reaches one full penny each year and that new guidelines from the housing strategy provide for how these funds are used for affordable housing for low- and very-low income residents.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Pelvic Floor Issues. Noon-1 p.m. at Curves of Alexandria, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. How you stand and sit matters to your pelvic floor. Sandy Michell, PT, will provide a quick postural evaluation and explain how it may contribute to pelvic floor

issues. Free. Call 703-721-2044 or visit www.facebook.com/CurvesofAlexandria/.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Special Education Conference. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Dr. Pamela Mims, the keynote speaker, will present Using Evidence to Guide Practice: Justifying Inclusion for All. Choose from over 60 workshops. Register online at www.fcps.edu/spedconference2018

or call 703-204-3941.

Volunteer to Clean our Roads.

8:30-10:30 a.m. at Candlewood Suites, 8847 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Meet at Candlewood Suites to get safety vests, garbage bags and an assignment. Come alone or bring a group. All are welcome. Students can receive community service hours. More information at Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at 703-360-

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 18

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If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I immerse you regular readers in the excruciating details of my cancer-affected life, rarely do I bombard unsuspecting conversationalists who unknowingly yet sincerely wander into territory with which many of you are intimately detailed. Not that I don't have stories to tell, and/or perhaps even unsolicited advice to offer; generally speaking, if I can avoid it, I don't want to drag the conversation into a cancer-centric black hole.

It's not because I'm uncomfortable talking about cancer, or that I would feel it an inappropriate invasion of my privacy, or that I would feel the need to blather on non-stop. Hardly. But I would see it as the end of an innocent inquiry undone that then takes on a more empathetic, sympathetic and possibly even pathetic tone, some of which might make me uncomfortable.

The reason being: part of what feeds my self-preservation and sense of well-being is reading and reacting to the feedback I receive from others when the subject matter turns to cancer, however well-meaning their intentions may have been.

Sometimes the reactions I get aren't helpful ("Tell me Ken, how's it feel to know you're going to die?"). Sometimes, I find myself rationalizing, explaining and revisiting issues and experiences more helpful and of interest to the party that asked the question rather than to yours truly who's now having to answer the question. Not that I don't want to be helpful or have difficulty empathizing; nothing could be further from the truth.

It's more that I don't want to see their expressions/hear their apologies when their innocent question ("So what do you do?") elicits an extremely unexpected answer. "Not too much. I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer."

Then I have to decide how I involved I want to get them in my life. Since I'd just as soon not get them involved for all the reasons I've outlined, usually I deflect their questions and/or redirect them away from me and back to them. I don't exactly shut them down. It's more like a gentle closing. I'm not rude or the least bit off-putting. I'm more like a traffic cop re-routing emotions to avoid any accidents – for all parties engaged.

My experience has been that responding to an innocent question with a "I have terminal-cancer"-type bombshell tends to take the conversation in an entirely different direction than likely intended. The seriousness of my response/situation and the emotions – maybe even memories it stirs in the person who asked the question, can hijack an evening and cause at least for a few minutes anyway, a rather dreary dynamic. All of which I don't want to happen and more so, don't need to happen. As a cancer patient, I don't need dreary. I don't need pity. I don't need negativity. I need humor. I need encouragement and compliments. I need to be made to feel, as Tony the Tiger might say: "Not just good, but GREAT!"

When I assess my nine-plus years post-diagnosis; having lived now years beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I can't quite attribute my amazing good fortune to anything in particular. However, I will admit to this: trying not think about my diagnosis/prognosis too much, trying to remain positive, trying to be funny and self-effacing, and trying to avoid people and situations where I might feel bad, are all components. Are they working to keep me alive more than the medicine, my pills and my miscellaneous non-Western alternatives are?

Yet another question or two I'd rather not answer.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 11

less individuals who volunteer in our

communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at VirginiaService.virginia.gov.

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

Jessica Bowser

Alexandria

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 17

6925 or visit www.mtvernon-leechamber.org.
Nutrition Information. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at all Wegman's Food Markets. Learn about Wegman's Food You Feel Good About products, and in celebration of Earth Day, learn about sustainability at Wegmans and participate in the company's plastic bag exchange. Samples will be offered in a variety of departments. Visit www.wegmans.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Caregiving 101: Creating a Plan. 10-11:30 a.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, located on 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Learn the five steps every caregiver should take: How to Start the Conversation; Forming a Team; Making a Family Plan; Finding Support; and the Importance of Caring for Yourself. All participants will receive a free copy of AARP's Prepare to Care Planning Guide. Come to all classes or a few. Classes are free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served; registration is kindly requested. To register, call 1-877-926-8300.

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

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closet space, living room with wood burning fireplace, hardwoods on main two levels, basement with wet bar and full bath, 1 car garage. Hard to find three level colonial in prime Mt. Vernon location for under \$600k!

JUST LISTED! OPEN SUNDAY



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!

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!



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!

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.

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!

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.

ceiling, 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!

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!

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!

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.

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!



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!

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!

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5411 Grist Mill Woods Way
\$1,050,000
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9104 Chickawane Ct.
\$719,000
Main Level Master!

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