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## National Honor for WPHS Theater Teacher

Clark brings real life challenges to the stage.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Cently pushing the envelope is what sets apart some teachers from others in education, and it placed West Potomac High School theater teacher Peelee Clark into the spotlight this year, earning him national recognition by The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA). To Clark, his teaching theme “Art That Matters” enhances student’s theatre experience and makes it an integral part of their high school career.

“My mission is to expose the students to shows that confront issues that they are facing as teenagers and young adults,” said Clark. “We’re confronting issues that these students face on a daily basis and hopefully these shows have our audiences talking

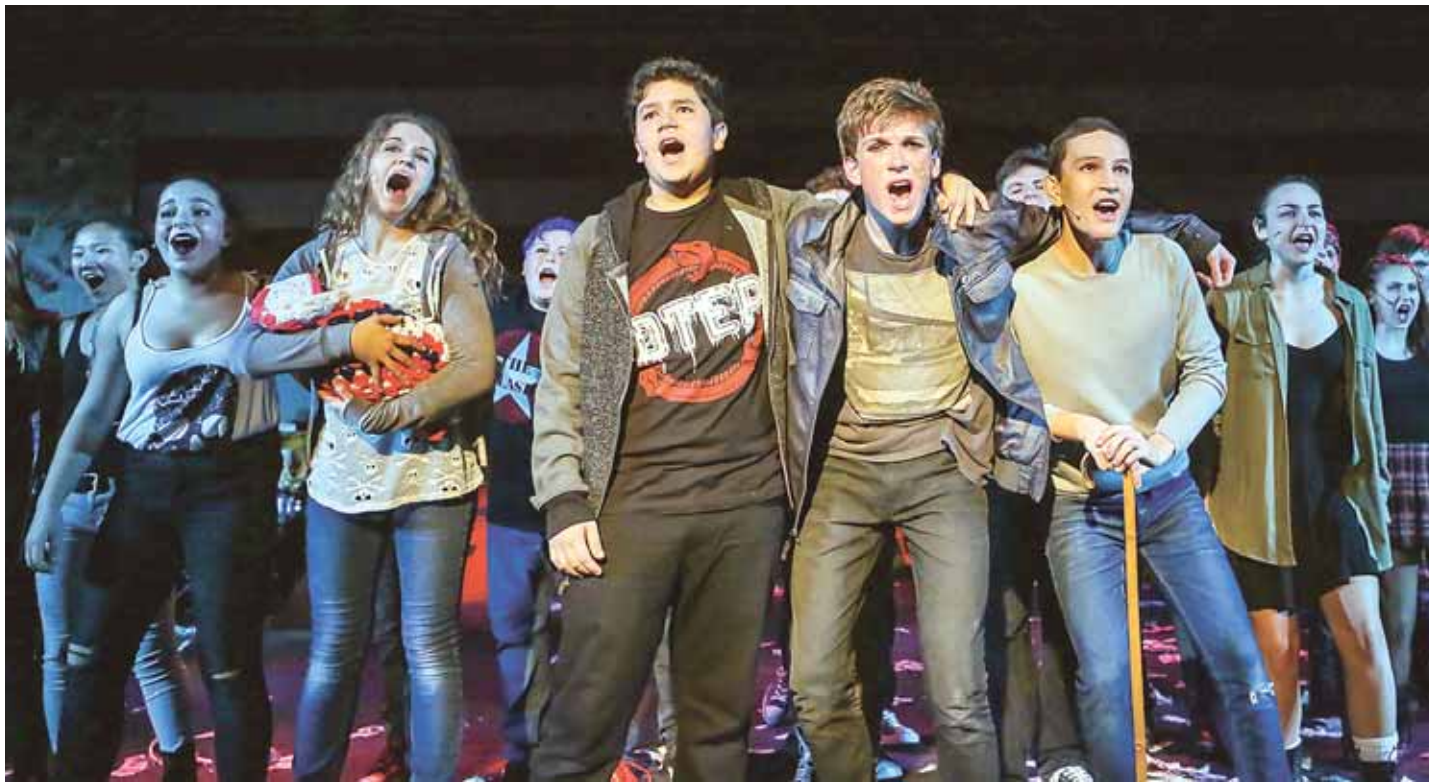


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The passion Peelee Clark brings to the stage at West Potomac is reflected in his students’ performances.

## Bass Player for ‘Cracker’ Honed Musical Talents Here

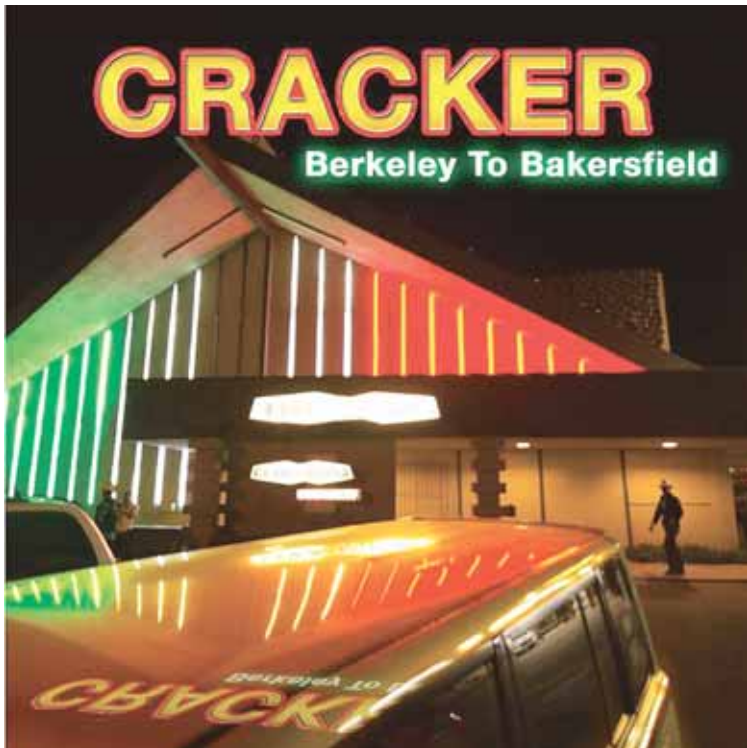


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cracker’s new album has a West Coast vibe but they are headlining this year’s Celebrate Fairfax in June.

Band headlines this year’s Celebrate Fairfax show.

With roots in a Mount Vernon fife and drum corps band that once marched on King Street in the George Washington’s Birthday Parade, Bryan Howard, now the bass player of the rock band “Cracker,” is slated to return to his hometown and headline Celebrate Fairfax on June 9-10.

“We were the unofficial fife and drum corps for Mount Vernon, it was an amazing experience,” Howard said.

He grew up in Randall Estates off Fort Hunt Road in Mount Vernon, went to West Potomac High School, and has been a resident of Athens, Ga. for the last 22 years. Athens is a music town, made famous by alt rock names

like the B-52’s and REM, and sits well with Howard as well. “Athens is great, a nice relaxed feeling, lots of creative people,” he said.

Years ago, the fife and drum corps experience got him on the Today show and road trips to Ireland three different times, so it was a solid musical start for Howard. Then he got the rock and roll fever, and found himself at age 15 on stage at the Laughing Lizard in Old Town, Alexandria with a band called Slack Daddy playing covers and originals. This was

his first paid performance. Slack Daddy drummer Ian Werden, from West Potomac, and another member Andrew McKane, were part of the move to Athens to strike it big.

In Athens, he played a few songs with Fred Schneider and Kate Pierson of the B-52’s because they needed a horn section and Howard plays the saxophone and tuba as well. At the time, the B-52’s hit “Love Shack,” was big on the airwaves, and the legendary house that was the Love Shack was close

SEE BASS PLAYER, PAGE 3

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# OTAC Presents \$1,000 to TC, West Potomac Seniors

**Araujo, Petteway receive Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship.**

**T**.C. Williams High School senior Veronica Araujo and West Potomac High School senior Taylor Petteway each was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at the fourth annual Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship ceremony during Old Town Alexandria Connections April 25 luncheon meeting at Belle Haven Country Club.

Araujo and Petteway attended the ceremony with their mothers, Alicia Mejia and Tammie Capers, respectively. The Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship was established by OTAC in 2015 to honor the memory and contributions of the late Peter Williams, past OTAC president, and to further his legacy of responsible business practices and service to others. This year's scholarship committee was

chaired by OTAC member Ed Warren of PB. Mares.

Araujo will be attending Northern Virginia Community College this fall and later transfer to either Syracuse University or Virginia Commonwealth University to complete her degree in forensic science. A member of the National Honor Society, Veronica has been active in Future (FBI) Agents in Training, Meals on Wheels, Best Buddies, the Alexandria Tree Lighting Ceremony and the preservation of Oronoco Bay Park.

Petteway plans to attend Old Dominion University to major in political science. Included among her many extracurricular, athletic and volunteer activities are Angel Tree, National Rebuilding Day (Rebuilding Together Alexandria), Best Buddies and The Clothesline Project.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**West Potomac High School senior Taylor Petteway and T.C. Williams High School senior Veronica Araujo each holds a check for \$1,000 at the presentation of the Peter Williams Memorial Scholarship during the April 25 Old Town Alexandria Connections meeting at Belle Haven Country Club. With them are Araujo's mother Alicia Mejia and members of the OTAC business organization.**

## Bass Player for 'Cracker' Honed Musical Talents Here

FROM PAGE 1

to Howard's house. It burned down somewhere along the way.

Cracker's big song is "Low," and they have a video that has over eight million views on YouTube. "Being with you girl, like being low, hey-hey-hey like being stone," the song goes. Music-wise, Cracker has been described as a lot of things over the years: alt-rock, Americana, insurgent-country, and even punk and classic-rock according to information released by the band. Other hits of theirs include "Euro-Trash Girl," "Get Off This" and "Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out With

Me." Cracker's 10th and most recent studio effort is a double-album called "Berkeley To Bakersfield," and mentions two different sides of the California landscape — the northern Bay area and further down-state in Bakersfield. Totally different parts of the state with different genres of music.

Celebrate Fairfax has had its share of big name entertainment along the way. Last year, it was Bush and Everclear. They book bands through EastCoast Entertainment, and since the shows are free with a general admission ticket, the fair planners like to make it someone big to attract an audience.

According to Barry Feil, the president & CEO of Celebrate Fairfax, Inc., "We look for the artists who have the most likely path to success for the event as a whole," he said. They start with a wide net, looking at about 30 to 40 artists, and it gets narrowed down from there. "Some years we have a half dozen or more rejections before we confirm all of our headliners," he said.

Summer is a busy time for Cracker. In June, they travel to Missouri, Michigan, Kansas, Georgia, New York and Tennessee. Howard is looking forward to the Celebrate Fairfax date so he can touch bases with old

### Details

Cracker at Celebrate Fairfax  
Sunday, June 10, 4:30 p.m. at The Sunday Brew  
Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

friends, some of which are parents now, and he likes the format at Celebrate Fairfax because it's an all-ages show.

"I always love playing in my hometown," he said. They come up to Northern Virginia about once a year, and have played at the State Theater in Falls Church, the 9:30 Club in D.C. and Wolftrap.

## National Honor for WPHS Theater Teacher Clark

FROM PAGE 1

about them." For example, harassment is the latest issue he is spotlighting.

The spring play at West Potomac is "Spring Awakening," where the storyline involves ignoring issues that are relevant, but Clark is using that as a message to the cast and audience that this is not the way to handle situations like this. "We can ignore the issues our youth are facing daily like they do in Spring Awakening or we can support them and help them navigate through it in a way that only well performed theatre can do, I choose the later," he said.

West Potomac Principal Tangy Millard likes Clark's passion when working with the theater classes. "He uses arts to highlight issues around the community," she said. "The level of learning is beyond the average program." On the West Potomac theater website, this warning is on the upcoming show announcement: "Important Note: Spring Awakening contains strong language and adult situations. It is intended for mature audiences only."

That's OK with Millard. "He will tackle shows like this that no other schools will touch," she said. "It's unimaginable that he pulls that off with the teenagers."

EdTA recognizes individuals who have inspired their students and dedicated themselves to providing quality theatre education with the Inspirational Theatre Educator Award, according to information released with the award announcement. EdTA is a national nonprofit organization with approximately 125,000 student and professional members that supports and promotes school theatre. EdTA is the home of the International Thespian Society, an honor society for middle and high school theatre students, which has inducted more than 2.3 million members since 1929. Clark found out he was up for the award during one of the dress rehearsals for "Jesus Christ Superstar" at West Potomac, but didn't say anything because he was so busy with the play, and has had a history of not making a big deal about his achievements. It wasn't until he posted his award on his Facebook page

that he got recognized by his brother. His parents died in the 1990s and his brother mentioned how proud they would be. "But reading this message I broke down crying because you know what, they would be proud. Ever since that moment I've taken

great honor in receiving this award," he said. The award ceremony will be next September in Denver, and he's been to the Educational Theatre National Conference before but not as an awardee. This time he'll be one of the honored guests.

### Eagle Festival

**Mason Neck State Park held its annual Eagle Festival on May 12.**

**Critters on hand posed for pictures; fascinated, hugged, and taught families about nature; and even did some dancing. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck stands with Eagle and Ranger Parker Red Fox.**



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME



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<https://bit.ly/2qulcBu>



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# Comment on U.S. 1's Future

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



If you care about our community's future, it is critical that you take a few minutes before May 20 to share our support for upgrading the U.S. 1 corridor, a major, but long-overlooked, commercial, residential and recreational thoroughfare in eastern Fairfax County.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) is now deciding which projects to fund with \$1.2 billion as part of its six-year plan.

Fairfax County submitted several projects including widening U.S. 1 north from Fort Belvoir to Costco (\$127 million) and establishing bus rapid transit from Huntington Metro to Fort Belvoir (\$250 million) and made these top county-wide priorities. NVTA ranked these two projects #23 and #24 out of 60 using the new "Smart Scale" criteria and numbers #2 and #8 out of 60 using the HB599 congestion mitigation criteria established by state law.

If the NVTA follows the rankings, U.S. 1 should get funded (barely), but that's before regional politics comes into play. If one project of the remaining 36 projects leapfrogs U.S. 1, these two projects will again be kicked down the road again for at least another two years.

Last week, the NVTA held two public hearings – one in Mount Vernon and one in Fairfax and I attended both. The Mount Vernon hearing was packed with people supporting U.S. 1 projects. The Fairfax meeting was also packed, but mainly with supporters from the rest of Northern Virginia advocating for funding all other projects. The current NVTA Board does not have a single member who lives south of U.S. 50 or east of I-95.

I cannot over-emphasize how important it is that the NVTA receive comments pointing out that these U.S. 1 projects are needed now, were needed 10 years ago, and deserve to be prioritized.

Tysons Corner and the Dulles Metro Corridor have received billions of public and private investment at the expense of the U.S. 1 Corridor and several groups are pushing the NVTA to ignore the objective rankings and push other projects ahead of U.S. 1. We must

stop this with overwhelming community support.

Please send me your comments and stories about why it is our finally turn. I will personally deliver every comment I receive to the NVTA and I need yours. Their comment deadline is May 20.

Please give me your comments using my quick online form at <http://bit.ly/US1comment>. Urge your spouse, friends, work colleagues and neighbors to comment. The future of our community depends on it.

## A LITTLE HISTORY

In 2013, the General Assembly raised transportation taxes for the first time in 27 years by passing HB2313. We included three taxes applicable only to Northern Virginia to be allocated by the NVTA.

We also passed two bills to take the NOVA politics out of road building by requiring all projects to be ranked using objective metrics to measure each project's relative ability to reduce congestion, create economic development, improve safety and improve the environment (mainly air quality). Each project is given a benefit score and that is divided by the project cost to show which project provides the best bang for the buck. The NVTA uses this method to rank projects in Northern Virginia.

In 2011, former Senator Toddy Puller and I secured funds for the Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis to develop a roadmap for U.S. 1 in Fairfax County. The final plan recommended a four-phase approach to widen U.S. 1 to six lanes, build a median-dedicated bus rapid transit system, create dual-multi-use paths and sidewalks and adopt new land use patterns with a robust, interconnected, street grid and significantly enhanced housing densities to support a two-stop extension of the Yellow Line to Hybla Valley.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted this plan as part of the Embark Route 1 process earlier this year.

Convincing NVTA to approve these first two U.S. 1 projects is an urgent step to bringing congestion relief, more upscale commercial activity, jobs, walkable communities and more modern amenities to our community. Please send me your comments today at <http://bit.ly/US1comment> and I will deliver them to NVTA.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org).



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**Alex/Stratford Landing \$564,900**  
**2620 Culpeper Road**  
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**Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000**  
**8807 Vernon View Drive**  
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**Alex/Wessynton \$664,900**  
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## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/MAY 17

**Public Meeting Presentation.** 6-8 p.m. at Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is requesting feedback on proposed Fairfax Connector service changes to Routes 171 and 699. The meeting will include a presentation at 7 p.m. on the proposed changes and Fairfax Connector representatives will be on hand to answer questions and take feedback from attendees. Rider feedback is welcomed on the proposed changes until 5 p.m. on Friday, June 8, 2018. To comment on the proposed route changes: email comments to [fairfaxconnector@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fairfaxconnector@fairfaxcounty.gov). Call 703-339-7200, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxconnector.com](http://www.fairfaxconnector.com).

### SATURDAY/MAY 19

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

### SATURDAY-TUESDAY/MAY 19-22

**Registration System Update.** The Fairfax County Park Authority is

switching to an updated registration system later this month. As the switch is being made, park customers will not be able to complete any member-based transactions; these include registering for classes or camps or purchasing passes or memberships. However, park visitors can buy a ticket for a spin on a carousel, rent a boat or pay daily admission fees at RECenters. Call 703-222-4664 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

**Manage the Economic Stressors of Caregiving.** 10-11:30 a.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, located on 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Taking on the role of caregiver can stress your personal finances but there are steps you can take to manage the risk. This workshop offers suggestions on government programs, resources, and strategies that may help ease any financial burden. 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. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/free-naloxone-revive-trainings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/news/2018/free-naloxone-revive-trainings).

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Former Supervisor Gerry Hyland, former Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan and Supervisor Dan Storck.



Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon Voice co-publisher Steve Hunt, former Supervisor Gerry Hyland, and Mount Vernon Voice co-publisher Marlene Miller.

## Time of Renewal Find something that renews the soul.

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Many would say that giving back to the community is a calling, a mission. Others would say it makes them feel good, renews their soul. Whatever your reason, engaging in your community will strengthen bonds, enlighten perspectives and knit new relationships.

This month we honored former Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan and Mount Vernon Voice co-publishers Marlene Miller and

Steve Hunt. After 12 years serving as Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner and at the youthful age of 93, Earl has decided to hang up his planning commissioner hat. The District owes Earl a debt of gratitude for all he has done for us, including guiding the Embark process, the Richmond Highway Widening project and the Lorton Liberty development. He has made a

significant impact on land use planning in the District, defining what it looks like today and what it will look like for years to come. Earl has given back to his community in many other ways, from his service to the military to serving as president of the Riverside Estates Civic Association and on the boards of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. I hear Earl has no plans to retire from civic duty and that we will see him taking on new roles in the future.

Marlene Miller and Steve Hunt have been the "Voice" of the Mount Vernon District for the last 16 years. Although they have made the difficult decision to end publication of the Voice, we are grateful for the many news articles and intriguing stories they have written over the years. It is through the weaving of our stories into the fabric of our community that we inspire, encourage and inform each generation. If there was an event happening anywhere in the District, you could count on

Marlene and Steve being there.

I encourage each and every one of you to find your passion, learn new things, meet new people, volunteer your time, stretch out of your comfort zone and seek out the community engagement role that is right for you! You will grow, learn and be renewed as you give your time, talents or treasures to help those around you.

Not sure where to start? Here are some suggestions:

- ❖ Mount Vernon District Boards, Authorities and Commissions - <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/boards-authorities-and-commissions>

- ❖ Fairfax County Volunteer Management System (VMS) - [http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/get\\_involved/](http://www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/get_involved/)

- ❖ Volunteer Fairfax - <http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/>

- ❖ Contact your local school, church, non-profit or neighborhood support group.

## Decision Slows Transportation Progress

BY JEFFREY C. MCKAY  
LEE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Frustrating. Exasperating. Maddening. Irritating. Anyone who regularly drives in Northern Virginia is familiar with these feelings, because we all spend time sitting in traffic, staring at miles of brake lights in front of us.

One way we overcome these congestion problems is through funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVT), a state agency that has awarded \$990 million to transportation projects all over the region.

After years of underfunding by the Commonwealth led to crippling traffic and insufficient maintenance, the 2013 Virginia General Assembly and then Governor McDonnell thankfully reached an agreement to significantly

increase funding for transportation, particularly in Northern Virginia, through this new pot of funds. It has been tremendously successful.

This year, attention was focused on the needs of Metro — a vital component in our transportation network and the Commonwealth's economy. While the Commonwealth provides significant aid, it is important to note that the local jurisdictions in Virginia that have been responsible for funding Metro since its inception — over half a billion dollars has been provided through local and regional revenue sources in the last five years alone.

Unfortunately, Speaker Kirk Cox and Del. Tim Hugo blocked Gov. Ralph Northam's plan to provide new revenues for Metro (through small increases in taxes on hotel stays and property sales), which resulted

from discussions with a bipartisan coalition of businesses, local governments, transportation advocates, and legislators — instead, they forced the adoption a plan that diverts more than \$100 million per year from existing road and transit projects funded by the transportation revenues enacted in 2013.

Our region's transportation needs are still sizable, as evidenced by the fact that NVT received \$2.5 billion in project requests over the next six years, though it only has approximately \$1.25 billion available to distribute.

As a result, many projects that would alleviate congestion and improve mobility will likely be delayed, deferred, or never built — a regrettable outcome that could have been avoided. We should not be addressing one transportation need at the expense of others.

### Mount Vernon Gazette

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# More Than Apple for Teacher

Gifts for those who educate children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

As the school year nears an end, it's time to thank those whose jobs run the gamut from comforting kindergartners with separation anxiety to teaching biology to hormonal teenagers. End-of-year teacher gifts are seemingly ubiquitous in June, but how does one choose a useful present that doesn't get re-gifted or donated? Local tastemakers offer their take on gifts for teachers that teachers actually want to receive.

"Teachers can always use extra supplies for their classrooms," said Courtney Thomas of the Picket Fence in Burke. "Put together a goody bag full of pencils and markers, notepads, page flags and sticky notes or anything your teacher needs to keep his or her desk stocked. Tie it all up in a reusable bag they can repurpose to carry papers and books to and from school."

Treat your teacher to a spa day at home, advises Thomas. "Get a collection of your favorite lotions, soaps and candles and give your teachers a much appreciated excuse to pamper themselves."

Flowers are a cheerful present to offer those who teach children, but fresh flowers have a limited lifespan, advises Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria who suggests bouquets with longevity. "Felt flowers always look fresh and add a bit happiness to every day," he said.

Sometimes the most treasured gifts are those that don't come with a price tag. "My favorite handmade teacher gift is a thoughtful note of thanks, said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Alexandria. "Taking the time to say thank you and be specific about how an adult has impacted your child's growth is a powerful way of affirming the work teachers do. I think it is great to encourage kids to write letters of thanks as well and to think through what specifically they can name that they have learned or gained from a teacher."

"A beautiful and thoughtful gift for all teachers are



PHOTO COURTESY OF SONORAN ROSE BOUTIQUE

**Wine-scented bath bombs from Napa Valley are the perfect gift for the teacher who needs a little pampering.**

guest towels," says Cristina Chiotti of Sonoran Rose Boutique in Potomac, Md. "[We have some] that come from South Africa and are available in a variety of lovely prints and designs," she said. "Delicious wine-scented bath bombs from Napa Valley are the perfect gift for the teacher who needs a little pampering."

For teachers with a preppy spirit, Amanda Mertins, of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, advises, "Some of the most thoughtful gifts for teachers who go above and beyond to educate our children are gift monogrammed items, gifts cards and notepads."

And for teachers who enjoy spending time outdoors, Chiotti says an ideal gift includes "Pairing some local Maryland honey with our gardening tool kit for the perfect springtime gardening gift."



COURTESY OF KATHRYN CONEWAY

**Notepads make useful end-of-year teachers gifts, suggests Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

**Candles, soaps and lotions in a gift bag will make luxurious end-of-year teacher gifts, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF ART AT THE CENTER

**A note written on a handmade card such as this collage with mulberry paper and acrylic medium on watercolor paper by Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center, makes meaning teacher gifts, says Coneway.**

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## LETTERS



A fox kit investigates the Mount Vernon Gazette.



The kits like to romp.

PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

### Fox News

To the Editor:

The May 10 Mount Vernon Gazette was very popular on my street. I found six Gazettes in my side yard on May 12 scattered all around. And on May 13, I was mesmerized by a home delivery, when one arrived "en mouth." The culprit? *Vulpes vulpes*, the red fox. The Gazettes in my yard were in their plastic bags, but all had tell-

tale toothmarks.

No, these enterprising "news hounds" are not tidying up driveways nor probing local politics. These are dedicated parents taking chew toys to their kits in the den, I learned in 2016, during a similar spring surge of disappearing newspapers. A neighbor found a stash, all in plastic bags, near a fox family's den. At the time, Alonso Abugattas, natural resources manager for Arlington

County Parks, explained, "Foxes usually stick with bones, roadkill and scraps, but they will bring back other things." When the young leave the dens around six months after their birth, it will likely end, he said.

"Foxes are primarily nocturnal," says Fairfax County's website, adding, "Foxes are highly adaptive and can become increasingly active during the day in urban areas .... Foxes generally pose little threat

to humans, their property or pets," the website also advises, but cautions that they can pose some risk to small pets, especially if people feed pets outdoors.

So hats off to our devoted, parenting fox friends out there chewing on the local news. In the interest of a healthy local fox population and for other good reasons, editors, keep the news coming.

Glenda C. Booth

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Meet Executive Chef James Hudson at Jackson 20

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

“See the red snapper. It just came off the ice. Look at the gills,” Executive Chef James Hudson says, peeling back the flap of skin. “The gills are bright red. And look at the clear eye.”

Today Hudson is introducing seared local red snapper with arugula salad to the menu at Jackson 20 on King Street where he has been executive chef for just over a year. “The snapper are migrating north-bound right now.” Hudson places the 5-1/2

### IN THE KITCHEN

2 pound snapper on the counter and sharpens his main go-to Japanese Mac knife.

He turns to the ingredients for the fish fumé that will complement the snapper. Hudson grabs three stalks of celery and chops the stalks close to his cupped fingers. He tosses the celery into a small saucepan and adds one finely diced white onion and a little bit of water. Hudson will toss in the fish bones and simmer to get the essence while finishing the rest of the dish. “That’s gonna be it.”

Back to the snapper. Hudson makes his first incision just behind the gill plate and works evenly on the first side of the fish. “I flip it over and do the same thing on the other side.” He cuts it into 5-ounce pieces and runs the knife blade over the fish, checking for scales and small pin bones. This snapper will serve 4-5 people. Finally he scores the skin “since I will be serving it skin side up. Scoring it keeps the skin from curling.” Some of the fish bones are added to the celery and onions. “The fume is getting ready come to a light poach. ‘I’ll let it hang out for 20 minutes.”

He sprinkles the fish liberally with kosher salt. “I will leave it for 20 minutes while I’m finishing the rest to help the fish retain moisture and firm up.”

Hudson turns to the sauce. He finely minces about a quarter of a large shallot and tosses it in a small pan with 1/2 ounce of unsalted butter. “I will sweat the shallot.”



**Chef Hudson filets fresh red snapper**



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
**Chops onions for fish fume**



**Bastes snapper with butter to crisp up**



**Adds kosher salt to retain moisture and firm up**



**Whisks cider vinegar and oil for vinaigrette**



**Red snapper with arugula salad introduced for new season**

lot.” Then a pinch of saffron that has been in a little oil to bloom the saffron before adding to the liquid. “The fat will release the crema.” He adds 4 ounces of 40 percent heavy cream, “the good stuff,” and will reduce the sauce by half. Then add two spoonfuls of fumé to finish the sauce.

Now for the vinaigrette. “I take about 2 ounces of cider vinegar, a dab of double strength French Dijon mustard and a 1/2 pinch of pepper. The mustard helps with the emulsification. Now the whisk.” The whisk

is in the other kitchen. “No matter. I have mixed the vinaigrette with chopsticks before.” He pours in extra virgin olive oil. “I use a 2.5-1 ratio of oil to vinegar. I like it more on the acidic side.” Hudson says he wants the oil to be fully incorporated. He sticks in his finger for a taste. “It’s there.”

To finish off the vinaigrette he adds a chiffonade of parsley, chives and a bit of French thyme. “Throw that in there.” Another test with the finger.

It’s time for the snapper. He puts a nice heavy French sauté pan on the burner and adds a healthy amount of butter and a little olive oil and tosses in two sprigs of fresh thyme to flavor the oil. “See the kosher salt has firmed up the flesh real nice.” Hudson rinses off the salt and takes the fumé off the heat. He sprinkles a little salt and pep-

per on both sides of the fish and adds it to the skillet. “It will take 4 minutes on a side, basting it constantly with the butter in the skillet to crisp it up.”

He finishes off the salad by tossing a handful of arugula with chunks of red watermelon and toasted almonds. He’ll use yellow watermelon later in the season when he can get it. “I use slivered almonds.” A final whisk of the vinaigrette and he tosses it with the arugula mixture.

For the final presentation he arranges the salad in a line on the side of the plate with the crispy snapper placed alongside. Hudson drizzles the sauce in swirls on the fish and around the plate. Hudson grates on lemon zest; just a little squeeze of lemon and today’s special is ready for its seasonal menu introduction.

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

##### 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/partners/target-gallery](http://torpedofactory.org/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](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

**Atomic Dog Exhibition.** Through May 27 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The exhibit inspired by man’s best friend, “Atomic Dog,” is presented by Del Ray Artisans and The Dog Store. It features photography, painting, sculpture and mixed media. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**Attics and Alleys Tours.** Saturdays in May, tour begins promptly at 9 a.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street; tour ends at Carlyle House by the Market Square parking garage

around 11:30 a.m. What mysteries lie in the attics of the city’s historic sites? Ever wonder what is behind that brick wall? In honor of National Preservation Month, explore spaces not normally open to the public at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, Lee-Fendall, and the Apothecary Museum. Tour highlights include historic graffiti, hidden architectural fragments, and alleys that connect the city. This tour includes walking over many city blocks, stairs, and access to confined spaces. Walking shoes required, bottled water suggested. Held rain or shine. Tickets must be purchased ahead at [alexandriava.gov/Shop](http://alexandriava.gov/Shop).

**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. Examples include views of

Washington, D.C., Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Call 703-548-5188 or visit [www.studioantiques.net](http://www.studioantiques.net)

**Art Exhibit: “A Sense of Herself.”** Through June 3 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two Solos: Brian Williams and Sophie Blondeau. Williams’ paintings on metal want viewers to consider if humans can adapt without catastrophe. Blondeau’s canvasses explore memory and perception through the lens of her formative years in France. Visit [www.nvfaa.org/events/](http://www.nvfaa.org/events/).

**Art Exhibit: “A Sense of Herself.”** Through June 3, gallery hours at the Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21 (located in the Torpedo Factory Art Center). Watercolorist Deborah Conn celebrates inner resilience and strength through luminous, large-scale portraits of women in “A Sense of Herself.”

**Water’s Edge Exhibition.** Through

June 13, at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive, Alexandria. The solo exhibit by Christine Lashley, “Water’s Edge,” explores her fascination with water in more than 40 paintings of fragile watersheds, shorelines, and gardens. Visit [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net).

**Get herbs, garden plants, and flowers.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through mid-June at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Volunteers grow dozens of tomatoes and vegetable varieties, herbs, and flowers from seeds and cuttings using organic practices. Visit [www.Mvuc.org](http://www.Mvuc.org).

#### FRIDAY/MAY 18

**FHP Food Fest.** 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School, 8428 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Featuring food trucks plus face painting, petting zoo, balloon animals, yard



# ENTERTAINMENT

games, crafts and more. Entrance: \$5 person, \$20 max per family, and children under 2 are free. Visit [www.FortHuntPreschool.com](http://www.FortHuntPreschool.com).

**Community Celebration and Scholarship Fundraiser.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at The Howard Gardner School, 4913 Franconia Road. Join The Howard Gardner School community for their annual HGS Community Celebration and Scholarship Fundraiser. The evening's events include a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner buffet provided by La Prima, live music by The Tyler Rose Band, raffle, door prizes and a live auction finale. Admission is free. Visit [hgsauction.weebly.com](http://hgsauction.weebly.com).

**Children's Storytime with a View.** 7 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Bundle the children (2-12) up in their jammies, toss a blanket on the ground and snuggle in while listening to stories the way the Mason family may have when they owned the property in the 1800s. \$5 per child, and children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Community Dance.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Open to the community. \$4, at the door. Call 703-765-4573, TTY:711.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 18-20

**Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour.** 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy., Mount Vernon. Sample wines from Virginia's finest wineries while enjoying views at the estate. Celebrate the history of wine in

Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the Mansion and cellar, appearances by George and Martha Washington, and a live music. Tickets: \$38-\$48. Visit [mountvernon.org](http://mountvernon.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 19

**The Big Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. More than 40 local garden vendors descend on Green Spring Gardens with beautiful and unusual plants to fill spring gardening needs. Growers and Master Gardeners are on hand to help with plant selections and gardening advice. Proceeds benefit the gardens. FROGS members receive 10 percent off plants in the Garden Gate Plant Shop. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org).

**Fort Tours.** 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Soldier-led tours of historic Fort Ward will be held in honor of Armed Forces Day. Tours are free, and begin in the Museum. No reservations are required. Tours are weather dependent. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or call 703-746-4848.

**T&ES Open House.** 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 2900 Business Center Drive. Join the City of Alexandria in recognizing the contributions of public works professionals during National Public Works Week. The City's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) will kick off the week by hosting its second annual Open House. This free event will take place rain or shine. Activities will include: Touch-a-Truck; Children's Traffic Garden; Composting Station; and representatives from GO Alex, DASH, Capital Bikeshare, Vision Zero, and Eco-City Clean Waterways

will be on hand to talk about these programs and initiatives. Visit [alexandriava.gov/TES](http://alexandriava.gov/TES).

**Civil War Firefighting Walking.** 1-3 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 South Alfred St. Explore Alexandria's Civil War firefighting history on the "We've Been Burned: Alexandria Firefighters During the Civil War" tour. When Virginia joined the Confederacy, Union troops occupied Alexandria and most municipal functions were assumed by the U.S. Army. The walking tour explores firefighting during the occupation. Ages 10 and older. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 ages 10-17. Reservations are required; space is limited. Purchase tickets at [www.shop.alexandriava.gov](http://www.shop.alexandriava.gov) or by calling 703-746-4994.

**Photography Reception.** 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Studio 312, Alexandria. With "Along the Poet's Narrow Road," photographer Fred Zafran returned to Japan in 2016 to photograph along the pilgrimage of Japan's most famous poet Matsuo Basho. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

**"Troubles & Triumphs."** 3 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave. Sopranessence presents its last show of the 2017-18 season to raise funds and awareness for the Alexandria-based nonprofit, We Will Survive Cancer. "Troubles & Triumphs" is a concert of songs that will take you from the trials and tribulations of everyday life to the triumphs that thrill. Tickets are \$25 at [www.sopranessence.org](http://www.sopranessence.org).

**Paws for the People: Dog Show.** 3-6 p.m. at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria. The Olde Towne School for Dogs and Frolick Dogs Canine



"Sunflowers"

## 'Here, Now'

An exhibition of Nina Tisara's mosaic art, "Here, Now," will be exhibited through June 15 at Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce office, 6821 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Sports Club will sponsor Paws for the People. The event will be comprised of three show rings running concurrently: Obedience, Agility, and The Center Ring. All proceeds benefit the Lazarus Food Pantry of Christ Church Alexandria, a supermarket-style food pantry in Alexandria. Competition slots will be limited; online registration can be found at

[bit.ly/Paws4thePeople](http://bit.ly/Paws4thePeople).  
**Country-Western Dance.** Lessons, 6-7 p.m.; open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance; a DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-

# NAVY BAND IN CONCERT

## COUNTRY CURRENT 45TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

**SATURDAY, MAY 19, 7 P.M.**

Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall  
Northern Virginia Community College  
4915 E. Campus Drive  
Alexandria, Va.

[www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil)

# TRAIL SAFETY & ETIQUETTE

When you enjoy Fairfax County's 500 miles of trails by bike or foot, please be mindful of the comfort and safety of other trail users.

Slow down and signal before passing others. All trail users should keep to the right except when passing.

Keep one ear clear when using headphones, and always watch for debris, uneven or slippery trail conditions.

Before crossing a street, always make eye contact with the motorist to ensure they see you - even if the walk sign is on. Wait until the road is clear or until all traffic has stopped.

The 2018 Fairfax County bike & trail map is now available at all government centers and bike shops in Fairfax County, as well as at [fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk)



## ENTERTAINMENT

# Mia's: American-Italian Flair Arrives on King Street

BY HOPE NELSON

**H**alf a year after the closure of European transplant Carluccio's, there's a new bustle of activity down on the 100 block of King Street. The smells of Italian food waft through the door anew, thanks in large part to the showpiece pizza oven now taking up residence near the restaurant's entrance, adjacent to an eat-in counter where several patrons are usually found lingering over a square slice.

### APPETITE

Say hello to Mia's, the newest resident of a property that has seemed to change hands more than most. According to Alexandria Restaurant Partners' corporate executive chef Graham Duncan, the idea of a "cursed location" is only folklore.

"I keep hearing about it's a cursed space, but it's the best corner in Old Town," Duncan exclaimed. "I think all you have to do is put a good restaurant here and it'll fly. That's really the only thing that's missing is a good restaurant. ... Carluccio's to me was very European, and I don't think it translated well."

Mia's, however, is a more American Italian experience, both in cuisine and décor. Gone are the cool, almost sterile hues of the former occupant; enter warm, rich colors upstairs and a friendly, homey vibe on the main floor. And the food, too, is less high-brow and more accessible, especially in the pizza kitchen downstairs, lending the space a "neighborhood restaurant" feel.

That's not to say that the food is pedestrian: It's not. But the dichotomy between a more casual downstairs and a more formal upstairs opens Mia's to a wider audience, no matter the day or time.

"What I love about this restaurant is it lends itself to multiple dining experiences during the week," Duncan said. "Downstairs is pizza by the slice and meeting somebody for a beer at the bar, and it's kind of lively and boisterous ... then you come upstairs

and it's quieter, more laid back. Even with the kitchen it's not very loud."

As far as the food itself, expect an American Italian focus to reign supreme. From the square pizza to some pasta favorites, all the classics are represented, and then some. One of Duncan's current top pizzas is a rendition on clams casino, but "our signature is really the Nonna's pie, which is like a grandma pie," he said. "It's Sicilian-style crust, hand-crushed tomatoes. ... it lends itself to popping in for a slice."

Though Mia's has plenty of options on hand for the carnivorous set, vegetarians won't go home hungry. Duncan is especially excited about the roasted eggplant and porcini polpetta, a take on an Italian meatball but lacking, well, the meat.

And lest diners leave the table parched, the bar is stocked with beer, wine and cocktails to match any appetite.

"One of our more popular ones is our True Dill-ight," says bartender Daphne Escuet. Dill-infused gin marries some muddled cucumbers and is topped off with soda water for a refreshing beverage sure to hit the spot after a long hot day.

Or try one of Mia's dessert drinks, such as the Vices: A smoked cocktail glass is filled with espresso and bourbon and garnished with a chocolate-covered walnut.

Vice-filled cocktails or, Mia's tempts diners into becoming gluttonous, even just for one meal. And while Mia's dishes require few ingredients, don't mistake that for easy cooking, Duncan warns.

"Our pasta dishes are fairly technical. You know, Italian food is very simple. And that makes it more difficult. When you only have three or four ingredients in a dish, there's nothing to hide behind. It all has to be the highest quality and it all has to be prepared perfectly every time."

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

## If You Go

Mia's, 100 King St.

**Hours:** 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-1 a.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-midnight Sunday.

**Try this:** The vegan panna cotta. "This literally took three months to come to fruition. What we do is a mixture of almond milk with coconut milk, and then we infuse it with vanilla bean, lime zest, and orange zest, and then we bind it with agar. So we get this silky consistency," corporate executive chef Graham Duncan says.

## CALENDAR

members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org).

**Navy Band Concert.** 7 p.m. at at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The United States Navy Band will perform a wide variety of bluegrass and country tunes that follows the band's history throughout the years. Free, open to the public and no tickets are required. Call 202-433-4777 or visit [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

### SUNDAY/MAY 20

**Senior Walk.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park near United Way Worldwide Building, 701 North Fairfax St. Help us to get seniors on their feet and walking. The event will raise funding for Alexandria non-profits. Net proceeds benefit United Way of the National Capital Area. \$25. Call 703-539-2549 or visit

[www.seniorwalk.org](http://www.seniorwalk.org).

**Classics & Critters: A Celebration of Spring.** 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Mount Vernon Flutes, a quartet ensemble from the Mount Vernon Community Band, will perform a seasonal concert with lush melodies, interesting harmonies, and engaging rhythms drawn from a variety of genres. Free. Call 703-548-0035 or visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org).

**Photography Exhibit Reception.** 2-3:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Presented by the Confucius Institute at George Mason University, China in My Eyes offers a window into China today, taken by a diverse group of photographers living in northern Virginia. The exhibit will run through June 24. Free. Call 703-746-1714 or visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**The Ocean Orchestra in Concert.** 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Sponsored by FocusMusic, Ocean Orchestra is where ancient ballads

meet cutting-edge electronics, where the Bagpipes meet the Beatles, and where fans of all generations and musical tastes can enjoy the same concert. Tickets are \$18 in advance at [www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets](http://www.focusmusic.org/buy-tickets) and for members, \$20 at the door.

### MONDAY/MAY 21

**Writing Poetry: Poetry about Diversity.** Celebrate the richness and importance of diversity; address the issues of race, culture, sexual orientation, and other topics of diversity through poetry. Wendi R. Kaplan, Poet Laureate, City of Alexandria invites you to join her for three Mondays in May where poetry can be read and written. RSVP at [poet@alexandriava.gov](mailto:poet@alexandriava.gov).

**Garden Buds.** 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. For ages 2-3. Meet in the Children's Discovery Garden one Monday a month. Children enjoy different sensory materials out in the



### HERNDON JOB FAIR

Tuesday, May 22 • 2 PM to 6 PM

Cyber, IT, Tech Professionals,

Public Trust clearances welcome!

Security University, 510 Spring Street, 20170

Social networking for both exhibitors and candidates

CYBER .... INTELLIGENCE .... IT ... SECURITY

### SPRINGFIELD JOB FAIR

Thursday, May 24 • 10 AM - 12 NOON

(Reserved for Veterans/Military/Family and/or cleared candidates only)

12 NOON - 2 PM (Open to all job seekers)

FREE RESUME SEMINAR

AMERICAN LEGION POST 176, 6520 Amherst Ave, 22151

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### JUNE 5-STAFFORD-QUANTICO HIRING EVENT

3 PM-7 PM

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Register: [www.JobZoneOnline.com](http://www.JobZoneOnline.com) (Post and link resume)

For more info: [Janet.Giles@JobZoneOnline.com](mailto:Janet.Giles@JobZoneOnline.com) / 540-226-1473

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# ENTERTAINMENT

garden, rain or shine. Cost is \$5/child. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 202 8602 or call 703-642-5173. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org).

## TUESDAY/MAY 22

### Twilight & Tipple Tuesday Tours.

6-9 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A rare opportunity to experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour is a chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky, bring a new dimension and radiance to the typical tour experience. Grab a drink, included in the price of the ticket, and take an informative and fun guided tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org).

**Book Talk.** 7-9 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. Reading from "Steel" by Brooke C. Stoddard, local author. Reading from "Dreaming America" by Larry Moffi of Settlement House Books. Books and items for sale to benefit the production of the documentary film: "Why They Left: Migration of the Scots." Opening celebration for Yellow Dot Shop: History and Culture in Print, a new online store featuring local authors and publishers and items of interest. Visit [scottishmigration-film.com](http://scottishmigration-film.com) or [yellowdotshop.com](http://yellowdotshop.com) for more.

## MAY 22-JUNE 24

**Doubling Up Show.** 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The theme focuses on duality, as in the use of two or more techniques in one piece or work created collaboratively with another gallery artist. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Visit [Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

## WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

**Lecture: Exploring the Covert Capital.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. The Alexandria Historical Society and the Office of Historic Alexandria present Dr. Andrew Friedman's Covert Capital. Learn how U.S. foreign policy following World War II played out in the suburbs of northern Virginia, which furnished cover for clandestine activity. \$5 for non-members, and free to members of the Alexandria Historical Society. Memberships can be purchased at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. Visit [www.alexandriahistorical.org](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org).

## THURSDAY/MAY 24

**Getaway to River Farm and Mount Vernon.** 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Meets at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Cost is \$98. Includes motor coach, admission and lunch. Visit the home and gardens of the American Horticultural Society at River Farm. Tour the gardens and enjoy a picnic lunch. Then visit George Washington's Mount Vernon to tour the mansion and the gardens followed by a sightseeing cruise on the Potomac River. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org).

**Garden Tour and Tea.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Tour the springtime demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will inspire you with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. Programs are by reservation only. \$32/person. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988. Visit



## Caroline Hatfield: Unearthing

Growing up in a Southern Appalachian coal mining community, the subjects involving environmentalism and land use have a lot of personal significance to Hatfield and she recalls the region's ironic juxtaposition of protected wilderness and mined land as a major influence on her work. Hatfield's work explores concepts of utopia and science fiction through the experience of sites, landscape, and materiality in her interdisciplinary practice. Exhibit runs May 25-July 15 at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

[www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org).  
**Celebrate Mount Vernon At Home.** 4:30-7 p.m. at George Washington's River Farm, American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Blvd. 10th annual gala celebration for Mount Vernon At Home honors Executive Director Barbara Sullivan who will be moving out of the area. Gala features food, entertainment, silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$75, available at [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org).

## FRIDAY/MAY 25

**Four Mile Movies: Coco.** 6:30 p.m., film begins at dusk, Four Mile Conservatory Center 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. A summer tradition in Arlandria returns with a host of new and old favorites on the last Friday of the month this summer. Fun with friends and family, a picnic dinner, and a blanket or chair. Free. Visit [www.fourmilemovieseries.com](http://www.fourmilemovieseries.com).

## MAY 25-JULY 15

**Caroline Hatfield: Unearthing.** At Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Growing up in a Southern Appalachian coal mining community, the subjects involving environmentalism and land use have a lot of personal significance to Hatfield and she recalls the region's ironic juxtaposition of protected wilderness and mined land as a major influence on her work. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 26

**Outdoor Pool Season Begins.** The City of Alexandria's three outdoor pool locations and the Potomac Yard Park Interactive Fountain open for the season. For a complete list of City pools, operating hours, fees and additional information, visit [alexandriava.gov/Aquatics](http://alexandriava.gov/Aquatics).  
❖ **Old Town Pool,** 1609 Cameron St. This complex includes a 25-yard pool with a diving well. A separate training pool is available for children up to 42 inches tall. Easily accessible by ramp, the training pool has a depth of 1 to 3 feet. For added convenience, a parking lot, picnic area and tot playground are adjacent to the pool.  
❖ **Memorial Pool** at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. This small pool can accommodate a maximum of 45 guests at one time. Due to its smaller size, access is limited to Alexandria residents 13 years of age and younger, and their parents or guardians. Operating

hours are subject to change.  
❖ **Warwick Pool,** 3301 Landover St. This newly constructed, 25-yard shallow pool features a sloped entry pool and five swimming lanes. The pool is accompanied by a new bathhouse with restrooms and day lockers.  
❖ **Potomac Yard Park Interactive Fountain,** 2501 Potomac Ave. Located between Potomac Yard Park's two playgrounds, the fountain features 36 water jets and lighting for nighttime effects. The fountain offers three programmable sequences, and sensors control the water jet height based on wind speed in the area, adjusting the jets accordingly. For added public safety, the fountain features a secondary ultraviolet water treatment system. Shoes required.  
**Under the Same Roof.** 2-3:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 27

**An Afternoon with Good Queen Bess.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Actress Mary Ann Jung gives a performance as Queen Elizabeth I, the monarch who presided over England's Golden Age from 1558 to 1603. Setting aside politics, Good Queen Bess demonstrates the lighthearted aspects of the Elizabethan court, including food, fashion, manners and dance. Programs are by reservation only. \$45/person. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988. Visit [www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org).

## MONDAY/MAY 28

**Memorial Day Jazz Festival.** 1 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. The 41st Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival will feature a variety of musicians and diverse styles of jazz throughout the day. Attendees are welcome to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic baskets. Food will be available for purchase. Grilling and alcoholic beverages are prohibited, and pets should be left at home. Admission is free. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://alexandriava.gov/Recreation), or call the Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592.



## SPORTS



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN

The West Potomac girls' lacrosse team defeated T.C. Williams 19-9 on Tuesday to win the Gunston District championship.

## WP Girls Win District Championship

### Boys' game suspended due to weather.

West Potomac and T.C. Williams faced off in a Gunston District lacrosse championship double-header on Tuesday at West Potomac High School.

In the girls' contest, West Potomac captured the district title with a 19-9 victory. The Wolverines improved their record to 13-2-1 and will enter the region tournament riding a nine-game win streak. West Potomac went undefeated in district play.

The boys' game was suspended due to inclement weather with West Potomac leading 8-4 with 2:25 remaining in the third quarter. It was scheduled to be finished at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, after this newspaper's deadline.

Sam Crane scored three goals for the Wolverines and JT Tucker had two. Matt Treadway, Declan McPherson and AJ Stamos each had one goal for West Potomac.

Andrew Poore, Brody Dickson, Ethan Hall and John Sprinkle each netted one for T.C. Williams.

TC's Poore scored the game's first goal with 5:32 remaining in the opening quarter, but West Potomac



VIDEO SCREENSHOT

West Potomac's Sam Crane, left, sends T.C. Williams' Jason Townsend to the ground during Tuesday's Gunston District championship game.

responded with five straight goals and led 6-2 at halftime.

— JON ROETMAN

## Fort Hunt Football and Cheer Summer Camps

Registrations for Fort Hunt Football and Cheer's Flag, Summer Camp, and Fall Program are open. Register at <http://fhyaa.football.org.assn.la/Registration/Default.asp?n=80346&org=FHYAAFOOTBALLORG>

The House League Flag football program is designed to offer a safe, dynamic, and competitive environment for young athletes to both discover and develop the skills and techniques necessary to succeed on both sides of the ball. The slate of practices and games ensures that all flag football participants receive comprehensive instruction and gain a keen understanding of the sport. (5-14 boys and girls) Flag Football will practice and play 2 days a week. Practice will be for

approximately 45 minutes and then play the game. Practice and game days will be on Tuesday and Thursday allowing us to play more games during the six week season. This is a house league so travel is restricted to the local Fort Hunt community. Flag dates are June 7 - July 19. The Fort Hunt Football and Cheer Summer Camp is designed to give football players and cheerleaders a solid foundation in the basics of football and cheer. This is a non-contact camp. The camp is directed by Fort Hunt coaches, as well as guest high school coaches from around the area. Camp dates are July 23 - July 27. Fort Hunt Football (Tackle) is a member of the Fairfax County Youth Football League (FCYFL)

and is governed by its rules and regulations — see <http://www.fcyfl.org/> for more information. It's full contact football under modified High School Rules (which are different than the NFL) and play games against opponents, of comparable size and ability, throughout the county and surrounding area. This program is for youths 7 to 16 years old.

Side Line Cheer is for boys and girls ages 5 to 14 years old. The Side Line Cheer Team participates at all Fort Hunt Home games at Carl Sandburg Middle School. They conduct traditional sideline cheers which motivates the teams and crowd.

Fort Hunt Football and Cheer Season dates are Aug. 1 - Nov. 11.

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## Musing About Infusing

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Seven weeks between chemotherapy infusions; I could get used to this. Here I am sitting and writing on Wednesday, May 9 and my next scheduled infusion isn't until Friday, June 1. That's another three-plus weeks. It's a "staycation," of sorts, meaning: I'm not going anywhere, but due to the new extended chemotherapy infusion interval – from six weeks to seven, I don't have to.

Though it's hardly an ideal vacation – either staying or going – for a cancer patient still undergoing treatment, not having to go the Infusion Center is about as good as it gets. What's even better is receiving scan results (which at present are still scheduled quarterly) which show "stable," "shrinkage," or even "N.E.D.," which means "no evidence of disease" (I'm "stable"). All of which I can live with. Despite ending that last sentence with a preposition.

With respect to "N.E.D.," unfortunately, being asymptomatic as I generally am – and mostly have been, is not necessarily an indicator that all is well.

Neither do symptoms always confirm "progression" (medical jargon for growth and/or movement). Sometimes the pain is scar tissue. Other times it's a side effect of the medicine you've been infusing or the pill you've been swallowing. (Presently, there are targeted treatment options which enable patients to take pills at home, tarceva being one example. Which if I may quote the late Maurice Chevalier singing in "Gigi:" "I remember it well" from the 11 months a few years ago when I didn't have to commute to the infusion center.)

Throw in the occasional phone appointment I've had with my oncologist, post-scan, when he and I both know – per an email he usually sends, that the results continue to show "stable," and when an in-office examination is likely not to "present" (more medical jargon; this one meaning, show) any contradictory findings and I've definitely had my moments of relative/comparative calm. Moments which, when they do occur, need to be cherished because, in the terminal cancer world, the news is not always good.

And since you have to take the good with the bad, with minimal control over both – acknowledging the good and not giving into the bad, become your stock and trade. It's easy, maybe even inevitable that a cancer patient will get overwhelmed by his or her circumstances so finding a way to navigate the slings and arrows of the outrageous misfortune which has befallen you is more than crucial; it's life sustaining.

Practically speaking though, how does one absorb the news and subsequent reality of a cancer diagnosis? What word I used to describe what I felt and heard at the initial Team Lourie meeting with my oncologist when he told me I had a "terminal" form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, was "surreal."

It's a word I've heard many other cancer patients use when describing the moment when they first heard their devastating news. At that ground-zero moment, the words "non-small cell lung cancer," at least for me, were almost incomprehensible, especially if there's no cancer history in your immediate family (which was true for me). I mean, I understood him well enough, I just didn't process the information.

Similar to when I received a call at work, from my internal medicine doctor, a few days after my biopsy (and a week or so before meeting my oncologist), advising me of the results. He asked me if I wanted to meet him at his office (that can't be good I thought – and it wasn't). I said, "No. Just tell me" And so he did.

He told me that they found tumors in my lungs which were malignant. My knee-jerk reaction? "What does that mean?" Upon hearing that kind of news/maybe just that word, "malignant," you sort of lose control of your faculties. (At least I did.)

Thinking straight? Hardly. You're thinking crooked. But as time goes by and you somehow begin to assimilate/compartamentalize your diagnosis/prognosis, it becomes quite clear: anything you can do to bring some normalcy into your life is a win-win for you and a lose-lose for cancer.

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

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## OPINION

### In Support of Two Richmond Highway Projects

Edythe Kelleher, executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, testified before the NVT in favor of the two Richmond Highway projects up for consideration on Thursday, May 10.



Good evening  
Chairman

Nohe and members of the Authority. I am Edythe Kelleher, executive director of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, or SFDC. We are a non-profit economic development organization that has taken the lead on revitalization in the Richmond Highway Corridor since 1981.

Thank you for your hard work thus far, and for providing me the opportunity to emphasize the critical importance of widening Richmond Highway – Route 1 – from Napper Road to the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway and Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (projects 2018-006-1 and 007).

Since the Federal widening project to the south is completed, this is one of two remaining bottlenecks along this part of the Highway that connects Prince William County and the City of Alexandria.

This segment is approximately three miles of a busy, urbanizing corridor. Yet it is four lanes separated by only a double yellow line, with few curbs, sidewalks or storm water management. The speed limit is 45 mph, as it is on the rest of Route 1. Problems in this section include flooding, erosion, and increased pedestrian accidents, including pedestrian deaths.

It is gratifying to see the strong community support for these projects, and for the new Embark Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The Embark Plan coordinates BRT stops with development of the Community Business Centers along the corridor as pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly mixed-use environments, a transformation that has already begun in the northern portion.

We realize that recent funding reallocation to WMATA has made your decisions much more difficult. But transportation funding that promotes economic development, as along Richmond Highway, is not a zero-sum game – it's not just costs. The public funding contributes to multiplied private investment, which increases state and local tax revenues while enhancing quality of life. The long-awaited improvements to this area will not only relieve congestion, improve safety, enhance walkability, connect multiple jurisdictions and access employment centers, they will provide significant "bang for the buck" economic development in the corridor.

I appreciate your taking the time to listen to my testimony, and hope that you will consider these comments favorably as you make your funding decisions.



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**4118 Robertson Blvd**  
**\$575,000**  
**Classic Colonial!**

Classic three level Colonial with 4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths and garage. Special features include: 4 Bedrooms on upper level. Master suite with dressing area and ample 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!**



**9411 Mount Vernon Cir.**  
**\$1,220,000**  
**Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!**

Stately brick colonial in area's premier water front community. Over 6,000 sq ft of luxury! Features Include: Estate size rooms, high ceilings, three finished levels, four BR's including 3 room master suite with stunning bath, elegant trim detail, hardwood floors, extensive rear decking, oversize 2 car garage. Located in cul-de-sac with river access.

**COMMUNITY WATER ACCESS**



**8307 Crown Court Rd**  
**Incredible New Kitchen!**  
**\$775,000**

Just completed, brand new Chef's kitchen and custom lighting plan enhance this truly spectacular property. New kitchen features custom cabs, top line granite counter, brand new appliances, and gas cooking. Other feats: 5 BR's, 5 BA's, high ceilings, two car garage and the most amazing pool and grounds you'll ever find at this price range!

**NEW KITCHEN!**



**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, incredible pool, all bathrooms updated including stunning master bath and closet. Don't miss this one!

**NEW PRICE!**



**8708 Sudbury Dr.**  
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**Pristine Condition!**

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**4800 Tarpon Ln.**  
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**9300 Maybrook Ct**  
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