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# Mount Vernon Gazette

## SUMMER FUN

PAGE 9

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 24, 2018

# Despite Heavy Rains, Huntington Dodges Floodwaters

Levee under construction to address future flooding.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**O**n the cinderblock wall of Huntington Car Care, there are two high water marks from floods in the past few years where the waters of Cameron Run overflowed their banks due to rain storms and wreaked havoc on businesses and homeowners along Huntington Avenue.

Chuck Kneece, a mechanic at the garage, pointed to the fire hydrant across the street where the floods reached in 2006, moving his heavy tool box and causing uprooted trees to smash the garage doors. "Water was up to that fire hydrant, we had a car that floated onto another car," he said. The markings on the wall were testimony to how high the water came.

Although there were several floods in past years, he hasn't seen the water rising over the banks lately and, although he doesn't know for sure, it could be attributed to the \$40 million Huntington Levee project that's underway along Cameron Run. It's a Fairfax County project that is scheduled to be com-



On Friday, May 18, the waters in Cameron Run were reaching the top of the banks.

pleted in spring 2019, according to the sign off Huntington Avenue. "We haven't worried about it for a couple of years," he said on Friday, May 18, while the rain came down outside.

The Huntington area as well as the whole Northern Virginia area were under a flood watch beginning Tuesday, May 15 as storms dropped over six inches of rain, causing flooding on several occasions and thousands of dollars in damage. Huntington is an area prone to flooding because of its proximity to Cameron Run which empties into the Potomac River just east of Huntington. Area

residents were aware of the threat from flooding when Fairfax Alerts put out this message: "Based on the forecast from the National Weather Service, there is a chance for some street flooding in the Huntington community."

This storm may not be to the degree to cause flooding like the homeowners in the area have experienced before though. The engineers do not think the "partially constructed" levee took an active roll to thwart any flooding because it is partially complete and does not have working pumps yet, they said through District Supervisor Dan



In Huntington Car Care, this is one of two high water marks from past floods.

Storck's (D-Mount Vernon) office. The contractor, Archer Western, was instructed to "not make the condition any worse than the condition prior to construction," according to project officials. As of early December, 2017, the project passed the halfway point according to information on the website.

"While the levee can help mitigate flood-

SEE ADDRESSING, PAGE 14

# International Role for U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen



Margaret O'Meara on a parade float with Risako Takenaka, the 2018 Japanese Cherry Blossom Queen.

JEFF MALET PHOTOGRAPHY

Alexandria's Margaret O'Meara leaves for Tokyo May 26.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he annual National Cherry Blossom Festival is rooted in the spirit of diplomacy. Just ask Alexandria's Margaret O'Meara, the Virginia Cherry Blossom Princess who was crowned the 2018 Queen on Saturday, April 13, following a week packed with activities focused on the importance and appreciation of other cultures.

"The week-long program in April was a very busy week," O'Meara said. "This was the week

leading up to the announcement of the Queen, and all week long, all the princesses from each state traveled throughout DC with Risako Takenaka, the 2018 Japanese Cherry Blossom Queen. We participated in the traditional

Japanese Stone Lantern Lighting Ceremony at the Tidal Basin in conjunction with the National Park Service and the new Ambassador of Japan. We had a day of service,

SEE INTERNATIONAL, PAGE 7

5/25/18  
REQUESTED IN HOME  
MATERIAL  
TIME-SENSITIVE  
POSTMASTER:  
ATTENTION

PERMIT #482  
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OPEN SUN 5/27, 2-4

### Old Town/The Henry | \$679,000

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OPEN SUN 5/27, 1-4

### Alexandria | \$585,000

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OPEN SUN 5/27, 1-4

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### Old Town | \$177,000

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\$839,000

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# Rally Demands Accountability

## In shooting death of Bijan Ghaisar.

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

Local elected officials joined the family and friends of Bijan Ghaisar at a rally on Saturday, May 19, at the U.S. Department of Justice, demanding information about the federal investigation into the November killing of Ghaisar by two U.S. Park Police officers.

State Sen. Scott Surovell, who spoke at the rally, said, "It is absolutely crazy that it has now been six months of silence from the authorities — when you watch the video, Bijan is not speeding or driving aggressively. Nothing in that video said that anybody should be shot four times in the head. This is happening way too much in this country and in Northern Virginia. It is so important that we get transparency on this."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, who also attended the rally, said, "This was such a horrific incident and we still don't know why shots were fired by the U.S. Park Police officers."

Addressing the crowd, U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) said, "I have had a number of conversations with the FBI investigator in charge, and he has only promised that the investigation is almost complete. But it was almost complete in Decem-



PHOTO COURTESY OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN DON BEYER

**U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) addresses the crowd in front of the U.S. Department of Justice on Saturday, May 19, demanding transparency and accountability in the federal investigation into the November killing of Bijan Ghaisar at the hands of two U.S. Park Police officers**

ber, and in January — and now it is May."

Ghaisar, a 25-year-old accountant and graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, was shot by two U.S. Park Police on Nov. 17 at the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Alexandria Avenue. He was unarmed while he sat in his Grand Cherokee Jeep. The reasons why he was shot still continue to be a mystery. No information has been provided by the Park Police or the FBI who is investigating the case.

### TIMELINE

**Nov. 17:** Fender bender occurs in which the victim's vehicle was rear ended while on the southbound lane of the George Washington parkway just north of Alexandria. The victim drove away while failing to speak to the driver of the car that hit him. He also did not speak to the Park Police and drove away from them as they approached.

Ghaisar continued south through Alexandria. The Park Police pursued him and he drove south until he was stopped by the Park Police the second time. When they approached him again Ghaisar drove away a third time. He did this twice more. Each time the Park Police approached him with guns drawn.

A Fairfax County Police officer joined in the pursuit, and activated his in-car video camera. The footage demonstrates that Ghaisar drove off each time he was approached by the Park Police.

The final time the Park Police pursued him, he drove off the parkway and eventually ended up at the corner of Fort Hunt Road and Alexandria Avenue.

According to press reports Ghaisar was shot four times in the head as he sat in his Jeep Grand Cherokee.

**Nov. 27:** Ghaisar died 10 days after he was shot.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

The crime scene — a house on Steadman Street — was surrounded by yellow tape.

## Police Investigate Murder

### Weapon recovered.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Police officers and detectives were milling around a house in Mount Vernon on Monday evening, May 21, where a murder occurred earlier in the day.

According to police, a woman is facing murder charges this afternoon for fatally stabbing her uncle. Just before 11 a.m. that morning, officers were called to a home in the 8000 block of Steadman Street for an argument between Courtney Southern, 30, and his 22-year-old niece, Chardnay Southern. The two lived together in a

home there with other family members.

According to the preliminary police investigation, Ms. Southern allegedly stabbed her uncle in the upper body. The murder weapon has been recovered. Mr. Southern was pronounced dead at the hospital. Ms. Southern was taken into custody shortly after the stabbing, the police said.

The house was located in an area off Frye Road near Fort Belvoir off-base housing, east of Richmond Highway.

A neighbor across the street who preferred not to give her name described the area as a quiet neighborhood. She has seen some activity at the house across the street that was surrounded by crime scene tape. "They seem very quiet, people do come in and out," she said. As for police visits to the house, "this is the first time," she said.

## Terrell Speaks about MVHS at Rotary

Mount Vernon High School Principal Dr. Anthony Terrell addressed the May 16 Mount Vernon Rotary Club meeting, focusing on secondary education and the promise and challenges facing the high school.

Among the school's recent accomplishments, the principal highlighted two students who have been admitted to Harvard University, and six students who were admitted to the West Point Military Academy. Terrell discussed the challenges facing the school, such as the impact student achievement has on the substantial number of new students with English as a second language needs.

The Mount Vernon Rotary Club annually awards scholarships to deserving students at Bryant Alternative School, and sponsors an annual essay contest.

Other projects sponsored

by the club include: The Easter Sunrise Service at Mount Vernon Estate Circle; working with Boy Scout Troop 993 who provides the color guard for the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the George Washington family crypt; and supporting the Salvation Army bell ringing at the Hollin Hall Safeway for the past 15 years.

The club meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Hybla Valley IHOP, 7694 Richmond Highway. Aleeta Gardner is the club's president.



Terrell

— GERALD A. FILL

## Two Students Charged in Hazing Incident

Two West Potomac High School teens are facing a misdemeanor hazing charge for an incident in the boys' locker room before a baseball game approximately two years ago. Mount Vernon District Police first learned of the incident in March of this year from a school staff member who filed a report with one of its officers. The case was then assigned to detectives from our Major Crimes Bureau for follow-up.

A number of students and members of the school staff were interviewed to determine whether the in-

cident rose to a criminal level. The investigation found two students hazed another student in the locker room before a game in 2016. After consultation with the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County, petitions were issued for the two students, both now 17 years old. They are each facing one count of hazing. Their names are being withheld due to their age.

The police encourage everyone to report incidents of hazing to a parent, school staff member, coach or a police officer so they can be looked into.

# OPINION

## Budget Agreement within Reach

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



It's been 73 days since the General Assembly adjourned without a budget. As I write this Tuesday morning I am pleased to report that it appears that the General Assembly has come to a compromise on the budget that expands affordable healthcare to 138 percent of the federal poverty level, and increases teacher pay by an additional 3 percent. By the time you read this

### COMMENTARY

I am very hopeful we will have passed this budget as I highlight in my column. One of our next top priorities was to replenish our rainy day fund, which is necessary to meet our commitment to replenish our liquidity and secure our AAA bond rating. This budget more than doubles our cash reserves and would bring our revenue reserves to nearly \$1 billion. We must eventually raise our reserves to \$2 billion to satisfy credit rating agencies, which will be a priority over the coming fiscal years.

Our push to expand Medicaid services will improve health care for low-income Virginians and vulnerable populations in need of critical behavioral health and development services.

The budget compromise creates a "dual track" for Medicaid transformations by applying for a demonstration waiver. Within 45 days of the budget passing, Virginia will submit a State Plan Amendment application and a con-

cept paper to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid via a section 1115 demonstration waiver. Within 180 days after the budget passing, Virginia will submit a completed 1115 waiver and application for reforms, assuming an effective date of Jan. 1, 2019.

Our state Medicaid plan will implement the Affordable Care Act expansion by covering all adults up to 138 percent of the

federal poverty level, an estimated 300,000 individuals. All newly eligible persons will be enrolled in managed care plans or employer-sponsored plans if cost effective. The basic plan covers all ACA essential health benefits and current Medicaid covered mental health and addiction recovery and treatment services. We will also tap a potential to access future supportive employment and supportive housing services for high-risk individuals.

Finally, the state plan requires newly eligible adults with incomes between 100 and 138 percent of the poverty level to pay monthly premiums. These premiums are set on a sliding scale, not to exceed two percent of income, nor less than \$1.

We compromised with Republicans on training, education and employment requirements. We will require able-bodied adults age 18 to 55 to participate in the Training, Education and Opportunity program with several reasonable exceptions to this policy. It would be too much to enumerate here, but I encourage interested readers to visit the state budget portal avail-

able at [lis.virginia.gov](http://lis.virginia.gov) for more information.

Regarding education, the most significant action in the K-12 budget is the total cost of \$481.1 million for the biennial re-benchmarking update increase over the current adopted budget. Adding to that, the amendment package provides a net increase of \$166.3 million from all funding sources above the budget as introduced for public education over the biennium.

The next two largest spending amendments include \$131.4 million for a 3 percent salary increase for all funded instructional and support positions starting July 1, and \$91.5 million to increase the total Supplemental Lottery Per Pupil Amount and increases the total percentage of lottery dollars going direct to school divisions to 40 percent. So, if you purchase a lottery ticket 40 percent of the proceeds fund our schools.

In higher education, we provided \$120.6 million in additional funding to higher education for base operations and increased degree production, financial aid enrollment incentives and initiatives over the biennium. A special thanks to neighboring Del. Mark Sickles (D-43), who secured \$290,000 to Gunston Hall for its infrastructure.

We also included \$124.7 million for across-the-board salary increases in FY 2020 and \$52.7 million over the biennium for targeted salary actions for specific public safety personnel and direct care staff in the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, representing a 2 percent pay increase for state employees.

## Keep Teens Safe for Summer

BY JOHN C. COOK  
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Prom and graduation seasons are upon us, and these are the biggest landmarks in our teens' lives so far. While it is certainly a time for celebration, it is also a time for parents to ensure the safety of these young adults. I want to ask all parents to keep our community safe by not hosting parties teen parties with alcohol and speaking to your children about the dangers of drunk driving.

The way parents raise their own kids in the privacy of their homes is their business. However, when other children are involved and given alcohol, it becomes a community concern and threat to public safety. Through a motion I presented, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department

to arrest parents who host parties for minors where alcohol is served. If you are caught hosting one of these parties then you will be arrested and sent to jail.

There is no responsible way to host a teen party with alcohol. Not only are teens underage, but teen brains are more negatively impacted by alcohol than an adult's. The developing mind already has a tendency to take risks and not perceive consequences for their actions. When one introduces alcohol to this situation, the risky behavior goes into overdrive and puts our young people in a dangerous position. Teens are also more likely to binge drink, which creates an even greater risk to their health in the short and long term. At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driving, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth

with alcohol, they are jeopardizing these children's lives.

Every year we hear stories about devastating accidents caused by teens driving under the influence after prom or graduation. It is not something that just happens in other neighborhoods. These accidents happen in our own backyards. Nationally, 10,497 people died in 2016 from drunk driving accidents. Fifteen percent of those accidents were caused by drivers under 21. A single accident like this is one too many.

That is why it is up to us as parents to set good examples to our children. We have to set clear rules and expectations for them to follow in this season of celebrations. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking. Make it clear that if they drink and drive or go to these underage drinking parties they are risking their future.

amount of car pollution expected nationwide by 2025 compared to current safeguards. There is a direct connection between air pollution from cars and people getting sick. The Trump-Pruitt plan is intended to make the oil industry happy. While cars would become slightly less expensive to initially buy, consumers would pay billions more in the long-run since the cars miles per gallon would be less and, thus, we'd be buying significantly more gas.

With the upcoming primaries, voters need to elect candidates who'll be on their side when it comes to clean air and the climate. We need members of Congress who will consider all actions and their impact on the American people. Elected officials need to stand up to Trump and fight for our kids and their future.

Patricia Rowell  
Alexandria

### LETTER Worried About Future

To the Editor:

The Trump administration has done much to eliminate environmental protections and decrease the size of national parks and monuments to please industry. They now have a new plan. The Trump-Pruitt plan is to roll back auto emission standards which would double the

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
[gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com)

Steven Mauren  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jean Card  
Production Editor  
[jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com)

Andrea Worker  
Contributing Writer  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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ADVERTISING:  
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Julie Ferrill  
Real Estate, 703-927-1364  
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Helen Walutes  
Display Advertising, 703-778-9410  
[hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:hwalutes@connectionnewspapers.com)

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

Classified & Employment  
Advertising  
703-778-9431

Publisher  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

Editor in Chief  
Steven Mauren  
Art/Design:  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION  
Circulation Manager:  
Ann Oliver  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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## News



### New Playground

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on May 6 for the new playground at Bucknell Manor Park which now features two play areas to appeal to children of different ages. In addition to the play structures, the facility includes new borders, subsurface drainage, child safety fencing and an asphalt trail – all designed to meet ADA standards. The \$100,000 project was financed through the 2016 Park Bond. Members of the community were joined by (from left, in back): Linwood Gorham, Park Authority Board Representative, Mount Vernon District; Philip Hager, Park Authority Area Manager; Daniel Storck, Board of Supervisors, Mount Vernon District; Kirk Kincannon, Park Authority Executive Director; and Dave Bowden, Director of Planning & Development, Park Authority.

### CRIME REPORT

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

**BURGLARY/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, May 17, 7:53 a.m. An employee went into an apartment that needed repairs and noticed someone had been in the unit and damaged it.

**TRESPASSING:** 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue May 17, 12:11 p.m. An employee went back to the same apartment listed in the above event. The employee heard noises coming from inside the apartment and saw someone in the unit. He immediately got out of the apartment to call 9-1-1. The suspect ran away.

**ATTEMPTED BURGLARY/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** 1100 block of Neal Drive, May 17, 10:02 a.m. A man woke up to someone trying to break into his house. The man yelled at the suspect, and then called 9-1-1. The suspect ran off. There was damage from

where he tried to break in.

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 7330 Richmond Highway (7-Eleven), 3:58 a.m., May 16. Officers responded for a 9-1-1 hang-up call. Once on the scene, officers discovered a robbery occurred. A man entered the store, pointed a gun at the clerk and demanded money. The clerk gave him an undisclosed amount of cash and the man left the store.

**BURGLARY/DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY:** 7900 block of Janna Lee Avenue, May 16, 8:44 a.m. Someone broke into a home causing damage.

**MAY 21 LARCENIES**  
2400 block of Fairhaven Avenue, cigarettes from business  
2500 block of Parkers Lane, cash from residence  
5900 block of Richmond Highway, license plate from vehicle  
6000 block of Richmond Highway, electronic device from business  
8200 block of Richmond Highway,

wine from business  
6900 block of University Drive, pistols from residence  
5800 block of Wyomissing Court, license plate from vehicle

**MAY 18 LARCENIES**  
1600 block of Belle View Boulevard, wallet from business  
5800 block of Cameron Run Terrace, catalytic converter from vehicle  
2000 block of Huntington Avenue, catalytic converter from vehicle  
2500 block of Parkers Lane, dresser from residence  
6700 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business  
3100 block of Southgate Drive, wallet from vehicle

**MAY 17 LARCENIES**  
2500 block of Parkers Lane, packages from residence  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, beer from business



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**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**Alex/Stratford Landing \$564,900**  
2620 Culpeper Road  
Lovely 4BR, 3.5BA home in Stratford Landing. 2 master suites (w/their own baths) – one up, one down. Beautiful 1/3 acre lot: fenced backyard. Deck off of the kitchen. Cathedral ceiling in Living room & Dining rm. New carpeting in lower level. Wood shingle exterior w/front columns. Family rm w/FPL.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$559,900**  
8523 Bound Brook Ln.  
Lovely Mt. Vernon home w/ attractive floorplan – 5BRs, 3BAs & a 2 car garage. Great curb appeal. Newer roof & windows. Beautiful kitchen w/corrian counters, SS appliances, lovely cabinetry & island bar. French doors off kitchen open to deck. Spacious Family rm w/raised hearth fireplace.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**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 bkdy. Freshly painted interior & beautiful refinished hdwds. 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.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$594,900**  
8341 Orange Court  
Stunning & updated 5BR, 3BA Split w/2 car garage on a beautifully landscaped lot looking across to woodlands & winter water views of Little Hunting Creek. Kitchen gutted in 2011 w/porcelain, quartz & SS. Other updates include: painting, floors, baths, roof & A/C. Front windows replaced w/thermal DBL pane. Beautifully updated & meticulously maintained. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 mins to NTL Airport & 30 mins to the Pentagon.

**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**



**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 hdwd floors. FPLs in the lovely Living Rm & Family Rm. Situated in a natural, wooded setting the home's bountiful windows bring outdoors inside. Enjoy the natural landscaping on your deck. 1 car garage. Community amenities include boat ramp, swimming pool, tennis courts.

**UNDER CONTRACT**



**Alex/Waynewood \$679,900**  
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 bkdy w/a brick patio & an attractive shed. Quality replacement windows, 6 panel doors. Beautiful newly refinished hdwd 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.

**SOLD**



**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 hdwd 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!!



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## SPORTS

# WP Girls' Lax to Host Defending State Champ Robinson

**Wolverines beat Hayfield, advance to region semifinals.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he signs of improvement are stacking up for the West Potomac girls' lacrosse program.

A Gunston District championship.  
A 14-2-1 record.

And thanks to Tuesday's victory over Hayfield, a trip to the Occoquan Region semifinals.

The Wolverines find themselves one victory shy of qualifying for the state tournament after defeating Hayfield 19-8 in the second round of regionals at West Potomac High School. The Wolverines started to pull away midway through the first half, when a goal by Jackie Bewick with 12:53 remaining gave West Potomac a 6-4 advantage and set off a 5-0 run. The Wolverines led 12-6 at halftime and cruised to victory.

West Potomac will host three-time-defending state champion Robinson on Friday. The Rams are not the same dominant team as in recent seasons — Robinson is 9-9 and finished runner-up to Woodson in the Patriot District — but they did knock off the Wolverines during a regular season meeting on April 11, 15-12.



VIDEO SCREENSHOT BY JON ROETMAN

**West Potomac senior Jackie Bewick, left, scored three goals against Hayfield on Tuesday.**

"If we are going to face Robinson," fifth-year West Potomac head coach Cindy Lopez-Yusuf said after Tuesday's win, "I think it's an incredible opportunity to really show that we work hard and we're able to produce wins against strong teams."

The Wolverines were without standout senior Madison Smith during their regular season meeting with Robinson. West Potomac senior Jackie Bewick is eager for a rematch.

"We want to play them," Bewick said. "We want to show them how we are."

West Potomac earned the opportunity to knock off the champs and secure a state berth with one of the best seasons in program history. After going undefeated against district foes during their first regular sea-

son in the new Gunston District, the Wolverines captured a rare district title with a 19-9 win over T.C. Williams on May 15.

Smith said she's pleased to be part of a team leaving a legacy for future West Potomac players to follow.

"That was incredible," the senior midfielder and team captain said about winning the district championship. "We've been working on this all four years. Last year, we were so close — so to finally get it, it's just really rewarding, especially being our last year here."

After earning a first-round bye in the region tournament, West Potomac beat district opponent Hayfield on Tuesday for the third time this season. Sophomore Bella DeMaso led the Wolverines with six goals.



PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN

**West Potomac girls' lacrosse coach Cindy Lopez-Yusuf, right, talks to junior Clare Madden during Tuesday's game against Hayfield.**

Smith finished with four goals, and Bewick and junior Clare Madden each had three.

"I think there's been a mental shift," Lopez-Yusuf said. "When I came in, the program was one that there were certain teams within our district that I think just counted us out. I think we're at a place now where no team can come up against us and count us out and I think that's a huge victory."

The Wolverines have produced a historic 2018 season. Just how far they can go remains to be seen.

"I'm very proud of our girls," Lopez-Yusuf said. "I'm very proud of how far we've come. We have an incredible work ethic and I'm really excited to see how far we can take this."

# West Potomac Boys' Lax Advances to Region Semifinals

**Wolverines thump Annandale to advance in regionals.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he West Potomac boys' lacrosse team is entering uncharted territory — and that's just fine with Patrick Devlin.

Six days after capturing the first district championship in program history, West Potomac defeated Annandale 17-4 on Tuesday in the second round of the Occoquan Region tournament at WPHS. The Wolverines earned a trip to the semifinals, where they will take on defending state champion Woodson on Friday. The winner secures a state berth and a trip to the region final.

How will a West Potomac program that isn't used to competing for championships handle a deep region tournament run? Use it as a positive, said Devlin, the Wolverines' junior goalie.

"I would say that we see our inexperience as an advantage," Devlin said, "and (we're) the underdog and (we have a) chip on our shoulder that we've got to prove ourselves to these very dominant teams for the past



VIDEO SCREENSHOT BY JON ROETMAN

**West Potomac's AJ Stamos, left, scored four goals against Annandale on Tuesday.**

decade or so. I think we use it as our advantage to play harder and show this whole state that West Potomac is here to play."

The Wolverines, a member of the new Gunston District, are familiar with Woodson from their days in the Patriot District. The Cavaliers beat the Wolverines twice last season by an average of 13 goals. West Potomac finished 4-8 and Woodson went on to win the state championship.

This year, West Potomac is 13-3 and took home the Gunston District title. Woodson is 15-4 and finished runner-up to Robinson in the Patriot District. The Wolverines and Cavaliers did not meet in the regular sea-

son.

Second-year West Potomac head coach John Stamos said the biggest reason for the program turnaround is senior leadership.

"We've got a great group of seniors — and they've jelled," Stamos said. "Last year we started it, but this year they jelled together as a team and that's really been the big difference."

The Wolverines made history on May 16 when they defeated T.C. Williams 11-8 to win the Gunston District title (the game started the previous evening but was suspended due to weather) — the program's first district championship.

"It feels amazing to be the first (boys' lacrosse) team to do anything, really, for your school," Devlin said. "To not see a banner in the gym ever at West Potomac and then now we can say we were part of the team that put it together, is just unbelievable to say."

After earning a bye for the first round of regionals, West Potomac made quick work of Annandale in the second round on Tuesday. The Wolverines opened the game with seven straight goals and led 12-1 at halftime.

Sophomore AJ Stamos led West Potomac with four goals.

How does a sophomore fit in on a team with strong senior leadership?

"Everyone's pretty much a leader on this team," AJ Stamos said.

Senior captain JT Tucker and senior Zachary Woods each had three goals for the Wolverines.

Devlin didn't need to save many shots during the blowout, but Coach Stamos praised his goalie.

"Our goalie, Patrick Devlin, has been unbelievable," Stamos said. "He's one of the big differences that (made) the kids [start to] believe. When it got into a tight game, he pulled us through with two or three unbelievable saves and that just fires everybody up."



# International Role for U.S. Cherry Blossom Queen

FROM PAGE 1

during which we planted a tree at the Kennedy Institute. We also read and donated books about our native states at three different elementary schools on Capitol Hill, laid a wreath at the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, visited several foreign embassies and cultural centers, and attended a welcome reception at the residence of the newly-appointed Japanese ambassador, and more."

The Cherry Blossom Princesses — one from each state, one from the District of Columbia, one from each United States territory, and six international Princesses — met with elected officials, including Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. There was also a Congressional reception in their honor, where they were officially presented by two United States senators who years ago were Cherry Blossom Princesses themselves.

The Cherry Blossom Princess program was launched 70 years ago by the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS) as a leadership development program for young women committed both to their affiliated states, and to being the best possible representatives of said states.

"I often call this program Washington D.C.'s best kept secret," said Gigi Galbraith, director of the NCSS Cherry Blossom Princess Program. "This is a great opportunity

for these young women to represent their states, and the U.S. as a whole. It's also a chance for them as individuals to promote their own careers and long-term goals."

To select the Princesses, every state society — each one an organization that promotes its own state or territory with events and other programs in the Washington D.C.-metropolitan area — holds an application process for young women between the ages of 19 and 24. Applicants must demonstrate their leadership abilities, volunteer work and home state (or territory) pride.

"In my case, since I am a native Virginian and have lived here my entire life, I applied through the Society of Virginia," O'Meara said. "The application included an essay, a resume, a statement of interest and an interview process. Finally, I was interviewed by Lorraine Nordlinger, the president of the Society of Virginia, and shortly after that, I was named to be Virginia's 2018 Cherry Blossom Princess."

O'Meara is a rising senior at Virginia Tech, studying communications and art history.



NICOLE CHANDLER PHOTOGRAPHY  
**Margaret O'Meara, Virginia  
Cherry Blossom Princess**

She is involved in a number of extracurricular activities while also holding down a part-time job with the university's Event Planning Office.

"I volunteer for the Virginia Tech Union, our student-run special events organization, serving as director of public relations and I'm currently vice president," she said. "I've also mentored two groups of freshman communications majors, and served on the executive board of my sorority, as a

Panhellenic delegate, and as an ambassador for the Fraternal Leaders Institute. I lead an English conversation group for international students and faculty to help them feel more comfortable speaking in English, and that has given me a greater interest in ambassadorship."

As a Cherry Blossom Princess, she took ambassadorship to the next level and her ascension to Queen exceeded even that.

"The culmination of the week was the Official NCSS Cherry Blossom Grand Ball and Sushi Reception," O'Meara said. "That's where they spun the 'Wheel of Fortune'-esque wheel to determine the 2018 U.S.

Cherry Blossom Queen. Then it landed on 'Virginia,' and that's how I became Queen."

In the spirit of celebrating all these young women, the selection of both the Queen and her runner-up is at random. The only stipulation is that the Queen is always a representative for a place belonging to the U.S., so the international Princesses' names are left off the wheel. Still, they enjoy the many perks of Princesshood, including a spot on a float at the Cherry Blossom Parade, which always takes place the day after the wheel spin.

"This is not a competition," Galbraith said. "We spin a wheel to elect the Queen so that these young women learn to develop relationships with one another. This is really important because knowing how to build a network is vital to long term success."

All the Princesses come away with more than an expanded network, though.

"We visited so many places as part of the program this year," Galbraith said. "For instance, when we went to Capitol Hill, we talked to them about internship opportunities and taught them how to get involved. They all came away having learned something about what they want to do, and how to do it, that they hadn't thought of or known before going through the program."

She added that there are conferences and

SEE CHERRY BLOSSOM, PAGE 15

Let us know about an upcoming event  
www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

The West Potomac Athletic Booster Club announces  
**The 12th Annual  
Golf Tournament Fundraiser**  
**Thursday, May 31, 2018, 1:00pm**  
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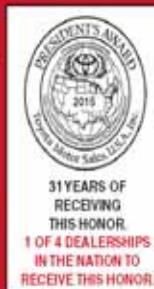
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# SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



“Night Vision” by Pamela Underhill

## ‘Reinvention’

Del Ray Artisans presents “Reinvention,” a Gallery Without Walls exhibit, with artists reinventing old artwork or themselves in 2-dimensional pieces to celebrate the new renovations at the VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. Through June 11. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

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

### ONGOING

**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).

**Art Exhibit.** 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.” “A Sense of Herself” coincides with the recent swell in the women’s movement, a coincidence that Conn, a vocal supporter of women’s rights, finds serendipitous.

**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).

### 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,

## Alexandria Celebrates Pride Month

*Throughout June, celebrate Pride Month in historic Alexandria, with more than 20 events, happenings, food and drink specials, and hotel packages. Take part in special events like Priday Night at Port City Brewing Company, LGBTQ-inspired art and theater programming, Rainbow Doggy Yappy Hour at Jackson 20 and more events in the works from the Torpedo Factory Art Center.*

*Several restaurants will present offerings like the Pride Donut at Sugar Shack Donuts and Pride cocktails throughout town. Many events and offerings will benefit LGBTQ organizations, including NOVA Pride ([www.novapride.org](http://www.novapride.org)), AGLA ([agla.org](http://agla.org)), Safe Space NOVA ([safespacenova.org](http://safespacenova.org)) and The Trevor Project ([www.thetrevorproject.org](http://www.thetrevorproject.org)). Find Alexandria’s Pride events and offerings at [VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Pride](http://VisitAlexandriaVA.com/Pride).*

### SPECIAL EVENTS & ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

**Priday Night at Port City Brewing Company,** 3950 Wheeler Ave. June 1, 3-11 p.m. Celebrate the beginning of Pride Month with Priday Night at Port City. Celebrate Alexandria’s diverse community with the Alexandria-Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance (AGLA), DJ Laura Lopez, outdoor games and activities. A portion of all sales from the night will be donated to support AGLA’s mission to improve the quality of life and meet the needs of the LGBTQ community and allies. Free admission. Visit [www.portcitybrewing.com/the-brewery/events](http://www.portcitybrewing.com/the-brewery/events).

**“The Nance” at The Little Theatre of Alexandria,** 600 Wolfe St. June 2-June 23. It’s 1930s New York, a time when it was easy to “play gay,” but dangerous to be gay. A headliner called “The Nance” was usually played by a straight man who would portray a campy homosexual in musical vaudeville parodies. However, in this drama, Chauncey Miles not only plays a gay man but is a homosexual himself. “The Nance” will take you into the world of burlesque and tell the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. See the winner of three Tony Awards. Admission: \$19 Wednesdays and Thursdays; \$22 Friday through Sunday. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

**Port City Brewing Company & Pride Beer Garden at Jackson 20,** 480 King St. June 3. On June 3, Jackson 20 will have its Beer Garden in its courtyard, but this week it’s going to be even bigger with Port City Brewing Company in house offering a sampling of their delicious local brews. A portion of the proceeds will go to NOVA Pride whose mission is to cultivate and grow a coalition to educate, advocate and celebrate in service to the LGBTQ+ community of Northern Virginians and straight allies. Free admission. Call 703-549-6080 or visit [www.jackson20restaurant.com](http://www.jackson20restaurant.com).

**Rainbow Doggy Yappy Hour at Jackson 20,** 480 King St. Tuesdays in June, beginning June 5, 4-7 p.m. Through the month of June Jackson 20’s Yappy Hours will turn rainbow with pride. Bring four-legged best friends along for a special Yappy Hour featuring pup-tinis and doggie treats. While pooches mix and mingle to meet new furry friends in the outdoor courtyard, happy hour cocktail specials and dinner options are available for owners as well. Free admission. Call 703-549-6080 or visit [www.jackson20restaurant.com](http://www.jackson20restaurant.com).

**“Feeling Proud” Night at MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails,** 116 S. Alfred St. June 7. MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails’ mixologists craft cocktails based on customers’ mood and emotions. Throughout the month of June they will be featuring “Feeling Proud” cocktails, which will also be on happy hour seven days a week from 4 to 7 p.m. To kick off Pride weekend in D.C. come by for a special “Feeling Proud” night. Free admission. Call 703-894-6345 or visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com).

**Sip and Sew With Pride,** 300 N. Patrick St. June 7 and 11. Celebrate Pride Month at Sip and Sew by making a crisscross back tank top with a Pride logo on the front. Or, just stop by and pick up a sticker. Sip and Sew provides everything: sewing machines, supplies, materials and fabric. So grab a friend and join them for some sewing, music, laughs and fun. \$50. Visit [www.sipandsewoldtown.com](http://www.sipandsewoldtown.com).

**“Read With Pride” at Hooray For Books!** 1555 King St. June 10, at 2 p.m. Don’t miss “Read With Pride” picture book story time featuring “And Tango Makes Three,” “A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo,” and more. Recommended for ages 3 and up. Free admission. Call 703-548-4092 or visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com).

**Pride LGBT Sitewide Discount at Sand and Steel Fitness,** 109 S. Alfred St. June 1-15. Enjoy a 15 percent discount on all purchases with Sand and Steel Fitness using the coupon code “LGBT Pride.” Visit [www.sandandsteelfitness.com](http://www.sandandsteelfitness.com).

**Pride Powerlifting Seminar at Sand and Steel Fitness,** 109 S. Alfred St. June 16, 12-2 p.m. Sand and

Steel Fitness’ Powerlifting Seminar is an introductory course for athletes and coaches interested in learning the Westside and Starting Strength methods of powerlifting. Emphasis is placed on teaching and cueing the three major lifts: back squat, deadlift and bench press. Admission: \$20 (15 percent off for LGBTQ clients). Visit [www.sandandsteelfitness.com/powerlifting-seminar](http://www.sandandsteelfitness.com/powerlifting-seminar).

**Pride Happy Hour at Virtue Feed & Grain,** 106 S. Union St. June 19, time TBA. Join Alexandria Restaurant Partners and NOVA Pride for a special Pride Happy Hour on June 19, at Virtue Feed & Grain. Cocktails, drinks and food will be available to order. Free admission. Call 571-970-3669 or visit [virtuefeedgrain.com](http://virtuefeedgrain.com).

**Book Launch Party: Kristin Levine at Hooray For Books!** 1555 King St. June 23, at 2 p.m. Join local author Kristin Levine at the launch party for her book “The Jigsaw Jungle,” a mystery that slowly unravels as 12-year-old Claudia learns more about her father’s life. Recommended for ages 10 and up. Free admission. Call 703-548-4092 or visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com).

**Pride Classes at Pilates ProWorks.** 1103 Queen St. Various classes throughout June. Pilates ProWorks is offering five Pride-themed Pilates classes, including Pilates Pro on June 2 and 29, Bootcamp Pro on June 7, Tone, Flow and Sculpt on June 12, and Barre Pro on June 20. All proceeds from these five classes will be donated to NOVA Pride whose mission is to cultivate and grow a coalition to educate, advocate and celebrate in service to the LGBTQ+ community of Northern Virginians and straight allies. \$30 per class. Call 703-575-8206 or visit [www.pilatesproworks.com/alexandria](http://www.pilatesproworks.com/alexandria).

**LGBTQ Pride at Kyo Gallery,** 111 S. Patrick St. Throughout June. Alexandria’s newest art gallery, Kyo Gallery, will open its first exhibition on May 25. Throughout the month of June, visitors can explore the opening exhibit including LGBTQ-themed art. The gallery will also sell commemorative original artworks, some of which will be LGBTQ-themed. All gallery proceeds from the artwork will go toward local organizations NOVA Pride and Safe Space NOVA. Free admission. Visit [www.kyogallery.com](http://www.kyogallery.com).

### FOOD & DRINK OFFERINGS:

#### Alexandria Restaurant Partners’ Pride Cocktail.

Available throughout June at:

- ❖ Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza + Tap, 401 E. Braddock Road
- ❖ The Majestic, 911 King St.
- ❖ Mia’s Italian Kitchen, 100 King St.
- ❖ Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St.
- ❖ Vola’s Dockside Grill, 101 N. Union St.

Five restaurants from Alexandria Restaurant Partners will feature a Pride cocktail throughout June. During the week of the Capital Pride celebration in D.C. (June 6-11), \$1 from every cocktail sold will be donated to local nonprofit NOVA Pride. Participants include Virtue Feed & Grain, Mia’s Italian Kitchen, Vola’s Dockside Grill, The Majestic and Lena’s Wood-Fired Pizza + Tap. Visit [www.alexrestpart.com](http://www.alexrestpart.com).

**Pride “Cocktail du Jour” at BRABO,** 1600 King St. Available throughout June. French brasserie BRABO, adjacent to Kimpton Lorian Hotel & Spa on King Street, is offering a special Pride “cocktail du jour” daily throughout the month of June, with 100 percent of the sales going toward The Trevor Project, a national organization serving as a crisis and suicide prevention lifeline for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning young people. Call 703-894-3440 or visit [www.braborestaurant.com](http://www.braborestaurant.com).

**“Feeling Proud” Cocktail at MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails.** 116 S. Alfred St., June 7, 2018. MoHo Kitchen + Cocktails’ mixologists craft cocktails based on your mood and emotions. Throughout the month of June they will be featuring “Feeling Proud” cocktails, which will also be on happy hour seven days a week from 4-7 p.m. To kick off Pride weekend in D.C. come by for a special “Feeling Proud” night. Free admission. Call 703-894-6345 or visit [www.morrisonhouse.com](http://www.morrisonhouse.com).

**Pride Donut at Sugar Shack Donuts Alexandria,** 804 N. Henry St. Available throughout June. To celebrate Pride Month, Sugar Shack Donuts Alexandria is serving up strawberry glazed donuts with rainbow sprinkles and rainbow candy on top. Call 703-577-9023 or visit [www.sugarshackdonuts.com](http://www.sugarshackdonuts.com).

**“Baked This Way” Special Cupcake at Buzz Bakeshop,** 901 Slaters Lane. Available throughout June 2018. To celebrate Pride Month, Buzz Bakeshop has created a special rainbow-frosted cupcake named “Baked This Way.” The cupcake will be available all month long. Call 703-600-2899 or visit [www.buzzbakeshop.com](http://www.buzzbakeshop.com).





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## SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

### 3 Unconventional Picnic-Item Pickups

BY HOPE NELSON

A week's worth of springtime deluge may have left the ground soggy for the moment, but soon it will dry up and prove to be prime real estate for a picnic. Whether dining al fresco on a Wednesday-night date night or curling up under the stars to take in an outdoor movie at Cinema Del Ray, picnic season is certainly here — and not a moment too soon. And Alexandria is teeming with restaurants that are perfect for a takeaway meal.

#### District Taco, 701 S. Washington St.

Who says picnic fare has to focus on a traditional sandwich? Pick up a passel of tacos or burritos from this D.C.-area outpost and take the fiesta with you on the road. Heading just down the road to Belle Haven Park? The tortillas won't get too soggy en route (but chow down relatively quickly once you select a picnic table or put your blanket out). Venturing further afield? The burrito desnudo bowl will solve your soggy-taco problem by removing the tortilla entirely.

To round out the District Taco experience, pick up a side of chips and guacamole to serve as a great complement to your meal. And why not grab a sampling of every salsa the restaurant has to offer? You may come away with a new favorite.

#### May Island, 1669 North Quaker Lane

Even further afield from the traditional potato salad and hoagie routine, May Island offers up an ocean of sushi options that are perfect finger (or chopstick)

food for a meal under the great blue sky. If you've got a cooler or ice chest, you're in good shape for a sushi date.

If you're feeding a crowd with diverse tastes, it's easy to make your sushi selections a la carte: Choices range from the more standard California, Philly, avocado or cucumber rolls to the more exotic lobster salad avocado, yellowtail jalapeno, sweet potato tempura and Kani tempura. Or go the bento box route: A half-dozen boxes are available with a wide range of selections.

#### Thanida Thai, 835 N. Royal St.

On the next outdoor movie night, show up your neighbors with something a little spicy in your basket. North Old Town's Thanida Thai stands ready to assist; with a booming takeout business in tandem with a full dining room, the restaurant can certainly come to the rescue.

You'll be tempted to eschew the familiar Pad Thai for something more exotic, but don't feel the need: The popular dish is worth sticking with what you know. That said, there are plenty of ways to stretch those culinary wings a bit. Thanida Sassy Shrimp, for instance, a dish featuring the prawns in a spicy garlic chili sauce, is certainly a far-flung take on picnic fare. Or order up a dish of green curry veggies; the sweet-spicy fusion of curry sauce with an array of crisp-tender vegetables would be at home atop any picnic blanket.

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).

## CALENDAR

enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. Programs are by reservation only. \$32/person. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988. Visit [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

**24-Hour Yogathon.** Beginning 8 a.m. on Friday, May 25 and ending at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 26. At Honest Soul Yoga, 6470 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria. Suggested donation: \$25. Featuring donation-based classes held every 90-minutes for a full 24-hour cycle. Proceeds will support the purchase of equipment for yoga and recreation programs for families served by the USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore (USO-Metro). Visit [www.honestsoulyoga.com/yogathon](http://www.honestsoulyoga.com/yogathon).

**Reception: Small Sculptures.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 7, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Tory Cowles of Potomac is exhibiting new works, Small Sculptures, at her studio in the Torpedo factory. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org) or [www.torycowles.com](http://www.torycowles.com).

**Four Mile Movies: Coco.** 6:30 p.m., film begins at dusk, Four Mile Conservatory Center 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. A summer tradition in Alexandria 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).

#### FRIDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-28

**Roy Rogers 50th Anniversary.** At participating Roy Rogers Restaurants. From May 25-28, guests who purchase any size Double R Bar Burger Combo can purchase an additional regular Double R Bar Burger for \$.50. Celebrate National Hamburger Day, which falls on May 28.

#### MAY 25-JUNE 2

**"Spring Awakening."** 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria. Show times are May 25, 26 and 31; June 1 and 2. An angsty rock musical adaption of the seminal play about the trials and tribulations of growing up. \$12. Visit the website [westpotomactheatre.org](http://westpotomactheatre.org).

#### 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. Hatfield's work explores concepts of utopia and science fiction through the experience of sites, landscape, and materiality in her interdisciplinary practice. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

#### SATURDAY/MAY 26

**Mount Vernon Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road,

Alexandria. Flea Market will take place every fourth Saturday of the month (May 26, June 23, July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22, and tentatively Oct. 27).

**Hamilton-Fever.** 12-2 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate. Sing a favorite Hamilton song during Hamiltunes: An American Sing-Along. During this time, singers from Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre and DC-area adult musicians will lead guests in a rousing rendition of the hit musical's songs. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**"Under The Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Servants at the Lee-Fendall House."** 2-3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 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. This tour will include parts of the house not normally open to the public. Space is limited. Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, members of Lee-Fendall House are free. Visit [www.leafendallhouse.org](http://www.leafendallhouse.org).

**Outdoor Pool Season Begins.** The City of Alexandria's three outdoor pool locations and the Potomac Yard Park Interactive Fountain open for the season

❖ **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



# Summer Dining At Its Best



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# SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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 are required.

Operating hours for all pools are subject to change. For a complete list of City pools, operating hours, fees and additional information, visit [alexandriava.gov/Aquatics](http://alexandriava.gov/Aquatics).

**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).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 26-27

**Freedom House Museum Open**. 1-5 p.m. at Freedom House Museum, 1315 Duke St. Experience a powerful exhibit in the basement of the building, which was once part of a

larger complex used by the slave trading firm Franklin and Armfield. Through first-person accounts of enslaved men and women and details from the business, encounter the harsh reality of the domestic slave trade and Alexandria's role. \$5 per person. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house-museum/4676/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/listings/freedom-house-museum/4676/).

## SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 26-28

### Memorial Day Weekend Exhibit.

Museum hours at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. A Living Memorial: Honoring our Veterans. In 1929, the newly formed American Legion Post 24 purchased the buildings now known as Gadsby's Tavern Museum, restoring them in honor of World War I veterans. As part of the World War I Centennial Commemoration, learn more about the American Legion's history in Alexandria and how Post 24 and 129 contributed then and now to the City of Alexandria. \$5 per adult. Veterans and active duty military personnel free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern](http://www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern).

## SUNDAY/MAY 27

**Dragonflies and Damselflies**. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Dragonfly season is here, and Huntley Meadows Park is the place to see them. Adults are invited brush up on their observational skills and learn to identify some common and rare dragonflies and damselflies that live in the park. \$10 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows).



## Small Sculptures

Tory Cowles of Potomac is exhibiting new works, Small Sculptures, at her studio in the Torpedo factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. A reception will be held Friday, May 25, 6-8:30 p.m. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org) or [www.torycowles.com](http://www.torycowles.com).

### Small Sculptures by Tory Cowles.

## 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 or 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.

**Old Town Civil War Roundtable**. 7 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 109 South Washington St., Alexandria. Free. Local historian Bill Connery discusses

Alexandria during Virginia's secession decision in Spring 1861. Bring your friends. Contact Mark Tooley at [marktooley2003@yahoo.com](mailto:marktooley2003@yahoo.com) or call 703-409-4035.

## THURSDAY/MAY 31

**SCAN Hosts Croquet Day**. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Croquet Day is a happy hour-style croquet tournament designed to offer fun team-building with coworkers for a cause. The tournament is played on 10-12 concurrent fields. Spectators are welcome to join in the fun (rain or shine). Spectator tickets are \$20 and include a Vol-a's After-Party coupon,

CALENDAR

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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# SUMMER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



## Benson Bond Moore Landscapes

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. Through May 31 at Studio Antiques and Fine Art, 524 North Washington St., Alexandria. Free admission. Call 703-548-5188 or visit [www.studioantiques.net](http://www.studioantiques.net).

### “Along the Potomac” by Benson Bond Moore.

five food/beverage tickets, and a raffle ticket. Visit [www.scanva.org/croquet](http://www.scanva.org/croquet).

## MAY 31-JUNE 16

**“To the Clouds.”** At The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Presented by Arts on the Horizon, a non-verbal interactive theatre for children ages 0-6 written by Natasha Mirny. Show times are May 31, and June 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15 at 10:30 a.m. and June 2, 9, and 16 at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$6 for children and adults and can be purchased online at [www.artsonthehorizon.org/](http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/) [www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org](http://www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org) or at the door on the day of the performance.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 1

**Family Art Night.** 6-9 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. Meet and Greet at 6 p.m. Sponsored by the Office of the Arts. Reservations include one art experience, art supplies, pizza and soda. Choose from two art experiences: Paint with Patrick Kirwin (ages 5 and up with adult) or Create a Clay Sculpture with Teresa Brunson (ages 5 and up with adult.) Reservations are \$9/person. Children under 5 are free. To pay online, visit [www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac) and select the activity number.

**Folk Music by David Wilcox.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway, Alexandria. Considered a “songwriter’s songwriter,” David Wilcox songs have been covered by artists such as k.d. lang and many others. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/) performances or call 703-324-7469.

## JUNE 1-24

**Art Exhibit: “Wanderlust.”** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. “Wanderlust” is an art exhibit about adventure, travel and new experiences that celebrates the diversity and beauty found in every corner of this world, both near and far. The exhibit runs June 1-24, 2018 at Del Ray Artisans. Opening Reception: Friday, June 1, 7-9 p.m. Also join for the Resin Workshop (June 10) and “How to Make Art While Traveling” Workshop (June 16). Exhibit details and workshop registration can be found at [www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/wanderlust](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/wanderlust).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 2

**30th Annual Clean the Bay Day.** 9-11 a.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Thousands of volunteers will join together across Virginia this June to clean up litter along waterways from the Eastern Shore to the Blue Ridge Mountains in celebration of the 30th annual Clean the Bay Day. Early registration is advised. Visit [www.cbf.org/clean](http://www.cbf.org/clean) to register.

**Writer’s Workshop.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Led by author Sheila Moses. Learn to tell a good story, what publishers look for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. Continental breakfast and snacks provided; bring lunch. Cost is \$75 which must be paid online by May 31 at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov). Call 703-746-4356.

**Outdoor Concert.** 12-4 p.m. at Nativity Lutheran Church, 1300 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. About 80 of Fort Hunt’s youngest residents will be performing in an Outdoor Community Concert. The performers are students of Piano

Lab, a music school located in Sherwood Crossing that provides ensemble piano classes to ages 5 and up. The students will be performing songs arranged for up to eight pianos at a time with the added support of a full band, Chaise Lounge. Contact Marilyn O’Leary, [Marilyn@StudentsLovePianoLab.com](mailto:Marilyn@StudentsLovePianoLab.com) or 703-887-4133.

**Sounds of Pohick Music Concert.** 4 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The St. Cecelia and St. Alban Children’s Choirs will sing a spirited French Easter carol. The Pohick Pickers, an instrumental group, will sing and play a 19th century gospel hymn. The Pohick Bell Choir will ring handbells and hand chimes, and the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble will sing music from the 16th century. Call 703-339-6572, or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

## SUNDAY/JUNE 3

**“Bagels and Bach.”** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Enjoy classical music, while children become aware and learn how to appreciate classical music. Light brunch will be served. \$9 per person. Children under 5 years old are free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Arts](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Arts) and click the Durant Arts Center to reserve.

**Film Screening.** 12:30-3 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Rec Center, 3210 King St., Alexandria. Hometown Habitat: Stories of Bringing Nature Home. Learn about the benefits of native plants through the stories of several hometown habitat heroes. This film will answer questions about how to start native plant gardens, how to maintain their beauty, and why these spaces are important for our native wildlife. Email [mj.jarrar@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mj.jarrar@alexandriava.gov) or visit [www.alexandriava.gov/NatureCenter](http://www.alexandriava.gov/NatureCenter).

**Crazy Hair Day - Art Workshop.** 1:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum. Free. Join artist Sophie Blondeau, amid her exhibition of paintings featuring fanciful interpretations of classic French culture, for a fun and fascinating hands-on workshop inspired by her new series titled “Tout le Poid du Monde.” Students will be given a poster board with a face already positioned near the bottom-then Blondeau will encourage them to use a variety of lines to let their imagination run wild. RSVP to [admin@nvfaa.org](mailto:admin@nvfaa.org).

## JUNE 4-JULY 1

**Art Exhibit: “Selfie: Not for Sharing.”** Daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. In a celebration of a satisfying selfie, ceramics go self-centered and self-involved, placing individualism at the forefront, with the priority of plates for each personage, mugs for mavericks and clay for every character. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

## JUNE 6-30

**Bethesda Painting Award Finalists.** Gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Eight painters, including Kim Abraham of Alexandria, have been selected as finalists for the Bethesda Painting Awards, a juried competition and exhibition produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. Nearly 300 artists from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. submitted work to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual competition created to honor regional painters. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

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**Addressing Floods**

FROM PAGE 1

ing of houses from the types of storms that have happened in the past, it is not designed to offer protection from flooding that is caused by storms that are greater than a 100-year event (a storm that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year)," the levee website read.

Plans for the levee began with former Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland after the 2006 storm, and continued until groundbreaking under Storck. The levee instills a level of confidence in the homeowners in Huntington and now they can work on improving the homes in that area because the chance of a flood is lessened. "This is all the difference in the world," said Storck, "now they're going to be there for the long term."

In June 2006, spring rains

caused a flood that damaged 160 homes in the Huntington area. Residents were mopping up water and shoveling mud out of their homes after that flood. In 2009, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a study to evaluate flood damage reduction measures in the Huntington Community and in November 2012 a stormwater bond referendum was passed by voters. The design includes a earthen wall/I-wall combination, a ponding area and a pumping station, according to project information.

In a break in the rains last Friday, Rafia Hinkson walked her dogs along one of the streets that was underwater in the flood of 2006. She wasn't sure to credit the levee, because "now it's just one giant construction site," she said, noting that her basement wasn't flooded either. "This is the first real rain we've had in a long time," she

**The Levee**

Elements of the levee include:

- ❖ 2,800 feet long (beginning west of Fenwick Drive and running eastward to the Riverside apartments)
- ❖ 6 to 11-foot high earthen embankment (height is dependent upon the elevation of the existing ground along the alignment of the levee)
- ❖ 4-foot high concrete I-wall on top of the earthen embankment
- ❖ 13 feet wide at the top of the embankment including an 8-foot wide asphalt trail
- ❖ Average of 43 to 68 feet wide at the base, dependent upon the height of the levee
- ❖ Buried collection drain along the toe of the levee to control ground water seepage
- ❖ New storm drains to connect existing storm drains to the pump station
- ❖ Concrete box culverts and a vegetated swale will divert stormwater to the pumping station during large storm events.

said. This was in line with the fact that mere rainstorms may not be the type that have impacted Huntington in the past, classified as "tidal or hurricane related storms," according to Storck's storm classification information. Nevertheless, the levee is expected to be more of a factor when such a storm hits the area.

**Obituary**



**Margaret Simms Dougherty**, 96, died April 3, 2018 in Cincinnati, OH. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Emmett Dougherty. Born in Hope, Arkansas, Mrs. Dougherty attended Henderson State University in Arkansas before moving to Washington, D.C. during World War II to work first with the Office of Scientific Research and Development and later with the Atomic Energy Commission. She met and married her husband in Washington just after the war and moved to Alexandria to raise their family. She and her husband were founding members of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church. They enjoyed their retirement years on Jekyll Island, GA, in Atlanta and Columbus, NC, where she was involved in numerous community and church affairs. She was a longtime Elder in the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Dougherty moved to Cincinnati in 2016 to be near family. Mrs. Dougherty is survived by her son, Michael Edward Dougherty (Dana Daspit) of Alexandria, Virginia, and her daughter, Diane Dougherty McKinnon (Hugh) of Cincinnati and was the devoted grandmother of Meg (Josh) Niederhelman, Carrie (John) Schwerdtmann, Carson Dougherty (Chris Gower), and Josie McKinnon. She was a loving great-grandmother to Ben, Nicholas, A.J. Graham, Drew and Michael. A lifelong writer, in 2006 Mrs. Dougherty published a collection of humorous essays and poems on aging in general, and on life in a retirement community specifically, entitled *We're Not There Yet!* Much of her other writing was for her pleasure and devoted to family histories, parodies and memoirs of her youth. Memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Sunday May 27, 2018 at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. Donations, if desired, may be made to Blue Ash Presbyterian Church (4309 Cooper Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242), Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church (2001 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA, 22306) or to Hospice of Cincinnati.

**Obituary**

**Obituary**



**Perry Bryant Baker (52)**

On May 18, 2018 of Alexandria, Virginia. Beloved son of Richard and Lotus Baker; husband of Barbara Permar Baker; father of Audrey Eliza and Rachel Lenora Baker; brother of Donna Webb, Richard Baker Jr., and Daphne Hackler; grandson of Hubert Forester Baker. He is survived by a host of family and friends. Please view and sign the family guestbook at [www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com](http://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com)



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## PEOPLE

# Cherry Blossom

FROM PAGE 7

other events and opportunities throughout the year that are designed for and open to both current and alumni Princesses.

Now that O'Meara's junior year is behind her in Blacksburg, she is gearing up for a trip to Tokyo, where she will carry out her duties as this year's United States Cherry Blossom Queen. She is set to depart on Saturday, May 26.

"We will do many of the same kind of things there as we did during the week of the program in Washington, D.C.," O'Meara said. "It is a two-week goodwill trip and this annual exchange program has a long history of friendship between Japan and the United States. We'll be traveling to Tokyo and Ise-City. We will meet with Prime Minister Abe and several governors, including the governor of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike, the first female in this position."

O'Meara is particularly excited to see how preparations are going for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, where she'd love to return in an official capacity for the Summer Games.

When she returns from Japan, she will join Galbraith in the planning of the 2019 Cherry Blossom Princess Program. Galbraith, a former Iowa Princess, every year collaborates with the existing Queen to formulate the upcoming schedule of events.

"She will come back from Japan and talk to The Society of Virginia about what she experienced abroad," Galbraith said. "She will also come back next year for the program and be the Queen throughout the week. She will be involved in making some key presentations. Up until next year's festival, she will work with me to develop the program. It's a great leadership and planning opportunity because no two years are the same, and it's always a well-rounded series of events."

O'Meara will also be her Japanese counterpart's official liaison next April.

As excited as she is for her trip – her first time in Asia – she will be happy to return to the state that continues to bloom with opportunities for her.

"Alexandria is my birthplace, and Virginia Tech and Blacksburg have been my home away from home for the past three years, so I feel that I also represent Virginia Tech," she said. "It's been a great privilege, and a really fun one, to represent Virginia."

To learn more, visit at [www.leadersblossom.org](http://www.leadersblossom.org).

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SATURDAYS/JUNE 2 & 9

**Aviation Adventure.** 9-10:30 a.m. classroom portion held at Bethlehem Baptist Church Parsonage, 7836 Fordson Road. Troop 1906 offers a Merit Badge opportunity, learn about opportunities in aviation. Optional opportunities to be an actual co-pilot of a flight will be provided. RSVP by May 31, 2018 at 703-360-4170, ext. 0.

### MONDAY/JUNE 4

**Medicare 101 Seminar.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Fairfax County Insurance Counseling office offers objective, free information on how to navigate Medicare and save money. Free. Call Bill Vaughan at 703-324-5851 for more.

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## Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen – too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation – and with no ring – I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it – in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married – twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with as serious a look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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





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