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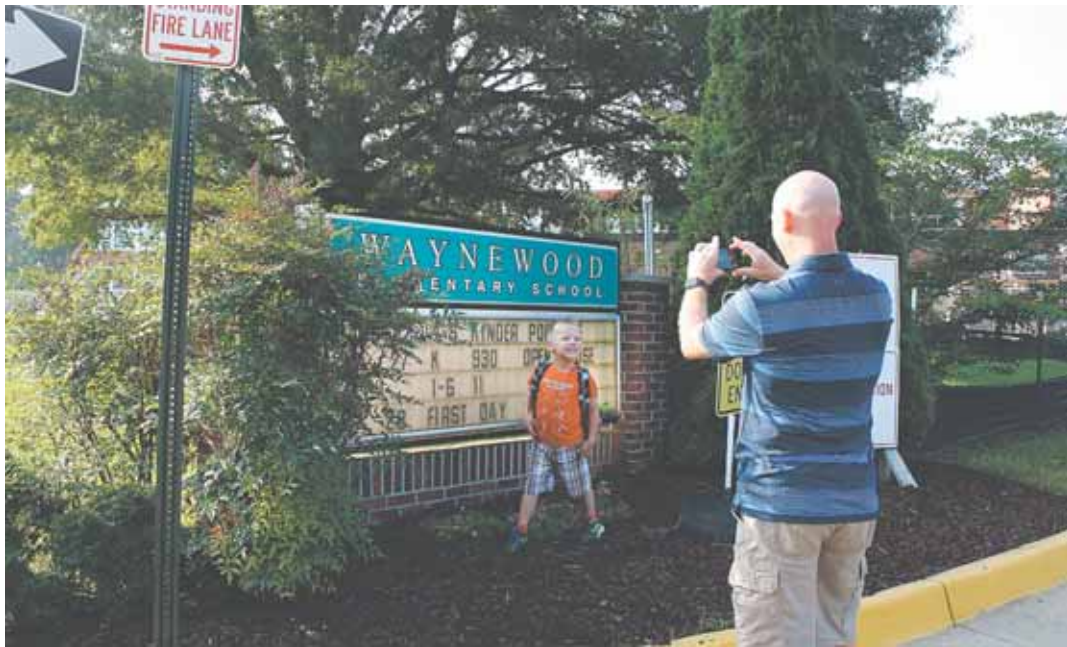
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# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

AUGUST 30, 2018



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

Joseph Harding, 5, poses for his father Matthew in front of the school sign.

## Arriving for First Day of School

**Construction and humidity are no match for first day excitement.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he first day of elementary school can be a challenge, but with pizza day to look forward to on Friday, the tension is sometimes reduced. “The healthiest

lunch comes from home, except for pizza day,” said Shannon Whalen McDaniel, as she dropped off 9-year-old Carys for her first day of fourth grade at Waynewood Elementary School in Mount Vernon.

Chocolate milk goes with the pizza, and then there’s nacho day, which Carys enjoys as well. She was walked to school on the morning of Tuesday, Aug. 28 by her parents who are both coincidentally named “Shannon.” Through the years, this has caused a few brief explanations, especially with the Transportation Security Administration

SEE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, PAGE 3



Patrols Alexandra Stephens, 12, and Hartley Hayden, 11, put the flag at half-mast in honor of John McCain, the Arizona senator who recently died.



Elena and Audrey Lockett enjoy walking to school.

## Meet FCPS Ombudsman

**New resource offered for parents, students.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Family and Student Ombudsman is a new position in the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system. Last May, announcing the establishment of the office and the selection of then-principal of Pine Spring Elementary School Armando Peri Jr. as the first ombudsman, FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand said, “We are committed to providing an unbiased point of contact for all student issues. We believe the creation of this new position will provide families another resource to assist in positive outcomes and resolutions of concerns.”

“Armando will bring a wealth of invaluable experience as both principal and counselor to this role,” Brabrand said.

In addition to a bachelor of arts

from Saint Charles Seminary, a Psy.S. in school psychology, and a master of arts in developmental psychology, Peri also brings more than 23 years of experience as an FCPS employee.

Peri has worked as a school psychologist at all levels with the FCPS, and as an educational specialist in the former Office of Minority Student Achievement before his appointment as assistant principal at Parklawn Elementary School, then Irving Middle School, and most recently as principal at Pine Spring before accepting the ombudsman position.

“Actually, I applied for the role,” Peri said. “I truly see how valuable this office can be. As an FCPS parent for 16 years, if I am still learning and have to do some research for resources on occasion, I’m sure there are parents out there who could use our help in navigating the system from time to time.”

So what will the ombudsman bring to FCPS parents, students, teachers and faculty and staff?

“It’s important that people un

SEE MEET FCPS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE



**“We’re open for business,” said Armando Peri, ombudsman for the newly created Fairfax County Public Schools’ Office of the Family and Student. School opens this week, but Peri and Carla Dallas, the department’s administrative assistant, have already been handling calls.**

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**Shannon McDaniel, Shannon Whalen McDaniel and Carys McDaniel arrive at Waynewood for the first day.**



**Johnny Hiler walks Rex, 5, to his first day of school.**

## First Day of School

FROM PAGE 1

at the airport. “They usually don’t believe me,” said Shannon the father.

Waynewood is one of many Fairfax County Public Schools that is undergoing renovation. The \$17 million project includes classroom space for more students, lighting, flooring and upgraded office space.

The school was originally opened in 1959 and underwent a major addition in 1968.

On the morning of the first day, the flag was raised to half-mast by patrols Alexandra Stephens, 12, and Hartley Hayden, 11. They were aware it was in honor of John McCain, a senator in Arizona who grew up in Alexandria.

## Meet FCPS Ombudsman

FROM PAGE 1

Understand just what an ombudsman is, and what an ombudsman can and cannot do. In our first encounter with anyone who contacts us, we will first listen carefully and respectfully to their issues, and then make clear what the strengths and the limitations of our office are. In any case, we will always seek to provide information, resources and options,” he said.

The International Ombudsman Association lists four key elements in its Standards of Practice: independence, neutrality and impar-

tiality, confidentiality, and informality.

As applied to the new FCPS office, Peri says those four principles mean that his office is a safe place to bring concerns, complaints or issues that will remain as confidential as the parent or student wish them to be.

Unless failure to disclose information could pose an imminent risk or danger to students or others, “we will only share information with the permission of those who ask for our assistance,” Peri said. “And no topic is off the table.”

SEE MEET FCPS, PAGE 4

# In Memoriam: Virginia Williams

BY GLENDA BOOTH

*This article was published in the August-September issue of the Tauxemont News.*

Long-time Tauxemonter Virginia Dare Shuford Williams passed away on June 29. Virginia and her husband, Bill, moved to Tauxemont in 1965, and reared their two daughters Lollie Williams Rinehardt and Judy Rasayon. Lollie wrote on Facebook, “Having moved to Tauxemont in 1965, the community welcomed us with open arms. Mom loved Tauxemont.” Bill passed away in 1981. Virginia lived at 1311 Alexandria Avenue and moved to assisted living a few years ago.

From the program for Virginia’s July 10 Celebration of Life: “. . . they (Virginia and Bill) were the first African-American family to integrate the Tauxemont community in the Fort Hunt/Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County. Her family in Washington, D.C., declared that Virginia had moved ‘to the country. . . to a community with no street lights or sidewalks.’ Virginia loved her Tauxemont community.”

In 2017, Virginia then 81, and another Tauxemonter, the late Alma Fortson, 88, received awards for outstanding community service at the 63rd annual Freedom Fund and Awards Banquet sponsored by the Fairfax Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) that year.

At the time, I profiled them for the Mount Vernon Voice newspaper and wrote, “Both women had long careers in public school guidance and tried to steer young people down constructive paths. Most of the time, it worked. ‘First you have to help kids recognize their own value. Once they have a feeling of self worth, they can deal with the larger world,’ said Williams.

“Williams recounted her struggles with the Fairfax County schools. She was put on the former Hollin Hall Elementary School’s Book Committee in 1967, after her husband complained that in the Virginia history textbook, the only pictures of black girls were little ones in flouncy crinolines and pantaloons, reminiscent of eras past. From that, she launched Black Parents for Quality Education in Mount Vernon and the Black Cultural Alliance for students because both groups felt they had no voice. ‘We had to give them a feeling of belonging,’ she pointed out.

“Even though in 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the infamous Plessy v. Ferguson decision and legally dismantled school segregation, Fairfax County, like many jurisdictions, dawdled and did not fully integrate the schools for 11 years, 1965.

“The legacy lingered. A decade later, when African-American students at the former Fort Hunt High School tried out for a play, the drama coach said, ‘There are no roles for black kids.’ That meant ‘no maids, no garbage men,’ said Fortson with a laugh. So Williams and others found the resources and put on ‘Don’t Bother Me, I Can’t Cope,’ with local actress and Tauxemonter, Rusty Clauss, directing. When the president of the student council, a white student, saw the play, with an all-black cast, he said ‘I had no idea the black kids were that talented,’ Williams recalled with pride . . .

“Were lessons learned? ‘I learned that you have to speak up,’ Williams said. ‘And working with young people brings great rewards,’ she exuded.

“At Fort Hunt High School, Williams founded Looking in the Looking Glass, a support group for young black women in the 1980s. ‘You’re beautiful,’ she



**Virginia Dare Shuford Williams**

told them. ‘I had to help them feel good about themselves,’ she explained . . .

“Northern Virginia did not have the explosive civil rights battles of some of the Deep South towns like Selma, Alabama, or Jena, Louisiana, of late. The problems have been more like a nagging undercurrent. Fortson said that when she and her husband were house hunting in Mount

Vernon the 1960s, the Realtor tried to steer them away from certain neighborhoods, saying, ‘These houses are not open to blacks.’

“Today they can laugh about the strictures of the segregated society they knew as young girls. In Norfolk, Va., one restroom said, ‘White Ladies’ and the other said ‘Black Women.’ ‘My mother said, ‘The Bible never spoke of ladies,’ chuckled Fortson. Williams tells a story about ‘Colored’ and ‘White’ water fountains. She got cold stares as she drank from both and announced, ‘I drank the ‘white’ water and I drank the ‘colored’ water. I don’t see any difference!’

“Are there challenges today? Absolutely, they both say. Broadening the horizons of young people and instilling self-esteem are ongoing. They are not tasks; they are moral responsibilities.

“While most of the legal and social barriers have technically fallen, some persist. ‘Sunday morning is still segregated,’ said Williams. ‘You have Aldersgate United Methodist Church, a “white” church, on Fort Hunt Road and you have Roberts United Methodist Church, a “black” church on Fordson Road.’ She recounted meeting with local ministers in the late 1960s to address this when one white minister said that his church had had a black family for awhile, but ‘his people didn’t want them.’”

Virginia was the first African-American woman to hold the position of director of guidance in the county, when she took that position at Mount Vernon High School. She helped start Mount Vernon Estate’s Slave Commemoration Ceremony in 1990 and was a leader in Black Women United for Action (BWFUA).

Originally from Granite Quarry, N.C., Virginia was a lay member of the Virginia State Bar. She worked with Route 1 Corridor Housing, Jack and Jill of America and Delta Sigma Theta. She had several political appointments, including the Virginia Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee.

A Tribute, by Amy O’Donnell: “Unfortunately, I did not meet Virginia until two years before she moved away. I was acting as groundskeeper for Tauxemont and was clearing out the Gahant Path. Virginia came out (first) to offer me a drink, and (second) to ask

SEE VIRGINIA WILLIAMS, PAGE 4

**Virginia and Bill Williams**





# Virginia Williams

FROM PAGE 3

me what I was doing.

"Virginia came upon me as I was killing poison ivy. As I was explaining that the poison ivy had taken over the Gahant Path, I saw that she was standing (in sandals!) in a thick of poison ivy up to her calves, easily eight inches high in her own yard. She was completely immune to the stuff. We decided to eradicate it there as well because she worried that her grandkids would get rashes. Together we entered into the poison ivy eradication project.

"Over the course of the summer we became buddies. But after about a year and a half Virginia stopped coming out. One day, I ran into her lovely daughter and found out Virginia was going away soon.

"Virginia and I both knew and loved Flossie Surovell, so we had

some good laughs remembering her. Apparently, there were some pretty wild, weekly poker games in the day. Virginia also reminisced about the Gahant Path, how folks would wander out to their backyards and mingle in the path at the end of the day.

"It was a brief friendship, but she left a lasting impression on me. She was a gracious and loving soul with an amazing sense of humor."

Former Tauxemonter Mary Stauss posted on Facebook: "A wonderful woman and I was fortunate to have such a good neighbor for so many years. My kids were great friends with hers."

You can send donations in Virginia's memories to BWUFA, 6551 Loisdale Court, Suite 400, Springfield, VA 22150 and notes to the family at Judith Rasayon, 9002 Tocca Drive, Clinton, MD 20735.

## Meet FCPS Ombudsman

FROM PAGE 3

The ombudsman does want to make clear that his office does not have the power to make appeal decisions, change policies or take specific actions on behalf of families or students. "We can't do those things or directly advise, but we can help both navigate the system and connect them with the right people. Our goal is to educate and help people find options and make decisions being well-informed."

The office will analyse trends to assist the FCPS in developing future strategies and improve systems and communications, But Peri is adamant that nothing about the Ombudsman's Office is to be a "blame game," but to work in tandem with all involved to secure the best, most positive outcomes.

Of course, Peri added, "If we recognize problems through our work, we will help address them, but our number one priority is re-

ally to give parents the knowledge to be confidently active in their kids' education."

**PERI'S OFFICE** is prepared to help with whatever parents or students need. "It doesn't have to be a major issue. Sometimes parents just need help with a form, or information about resources for their children. We are here to help with things like that, as well."

Peri will be assisted by administrative assistant Carla Dallas, who also brings years of FCPS experience to the new venture, including a tenure in the Superintendent's Office.

To get better acquainted with the ombudsman and learn more about the Office of the Family and Student, check out Peri's "Meet the Ombudsman" YouTube video and visit the website at [www.fcps.edu/ombudsman](http://www.fcps.edu/ombudsman). Recah Peri Dallas at 571-423-4014.

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From left are Robert Hall, Art Blakey, and Allen E. Nightingale.

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GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

## Barber Service for Generations

Art Blakey has been a Mount Vernon area barber for over 50 years. He recently sold the Hollin Hall Barber Shop to Robert Hall, but Blakey continues to cut hair at the shop.

"My customers are always very conversational and interesting people," Blakey said. "Through them, I get to travel all over the world without having to leave my shop. The people who come in here are good and decent people and I always enjoy their

company.

"In addition, the children who come in here are always respectful and never once have they been belligerent or troublesome."

According to Blakey, in some cases, over four generations of customers have been served by him.

Hollin Hall Barber Shop is located at 7944 Fort Hunt Road.

— GERALD A. FILL

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**Alex/Potomac Valley \$529,900**  
**8807 Vernon View Drive**  
Lovely, 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl Split on a lg, beautiful .3 acre lot w/a fenced bkyd. Freshly painted interior & beautiful refinished 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 full bath & 3BRs. The lower level has a lg partially finished Rec rm. Good price on a super lot.

**SOLD**



**Alex/Stratford Landing \$564,900**  
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**Alex/Engleside \$1,300,000**  
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**SOLD**



**Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest \$614,900**  
**9123 Cherrytree Drive**  
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# OPINION

## Back-to-School Reflections

BY DAN STORCK  
MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**B**ack-to-school time brings both happiness and sadness. Tearful parents taking their excited freshman to college. Nervous parents putting their bouncing, or crying, kindergartners on the bus for the first time. High school seniors reaching for the stars as they dream of new adventures. Enthusiastic teachers welcoming their new students to a year of growth and learning. These scenes are playing out across our District as cooler weather and autumn breezes roll in.

We are fortunate in Fairfax to have one of the finest school systems in the nation. Our students and teachers are routinely recognized for their excellence in everything from academics to sports, arts to leadership. The Mount Vernon District is fortunate to have many capital improvements underway at our schools to enable students to learn and develop in state-of-the-art, environmentally friendly surroundings. Here is a tally of what is going on in the Mount Vernon District public schools:

- ❖ Recently completed: Bucknell ES, Stratford Landing ES and Newington Forest ES.
- ❖ Scheduled to be complete in early 2019: Hollin Meadows ES and Waynewood ES.
- ❖ Starting construction soon: Belle View ES and Silverbrook ES.
- ❖ Starting planning stages: West Potomac HS and Washington Mill ES.

This represents 38 percent of the schools in the Mount Vernon District, and a \$201 million county investment.

Having served our community as your School Board member for 12 years prior to becoming your supervisor, I am very pleased with the progress we have made in the last few years in our school system. I am particularly proud that we were able to fully fund the School Board's budget request this year to include increased pay and compensation packages for teachers



Mount Vernon District staff display Back-to-School spirit.

and administrators. This increased funding will keep qualified teachers in our school system while encouraging others to join our mission, thereby reduce teacher vacancies. I encourage you to stay involved in your child's school. Parents make a difference every day by supporting their children, volunteering, helping with homework and establishing good relationships with educators. And, if you see Mount Vernon School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders at back to school night, congratulate her on becoming School Board Chair for the 2018-2019 school year. Our close work together on "Team Mount Vernon" is delivering excellent results for our community.

Please remember that back-to-school means more traffic with children, teens and young adults are out on our sidewalks, roads and in school crossings. "Give 'em a brake" and be safe out there.



From right: Supervisor Dan Storck with brothers Tom and Mick

Welcome back to our talented administrators, teachers, school bus drivers, crossing guards, school resource officers, cafeteria staff, custodians, and most importantly, our exceptional students.

## An Antidote to Income Inequality

BY PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

**T**he founding principle of American society written by Thomas Jefferson in our Declaration of Independence is that each one of us has a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One of the key ingredients to a life full of liberty and happiness is being able to provide for yourself and your family. That is the American dream. Yet, today too many individuals are forced to work multiple jobs just to make enough money to earn a livable wage. As earnings for corporations and CEOs rise at an

**COMMENTARY** astronomical rate, why aren't everyday Americans seeing the same proportional increases in their wages? The roots of this wage stagnation are multifaceted. Many agree the main culprits are automation, globalization and a tax code that favors the wealthy. These issues are contributing factors to rising income inequality but one factor we do not discuss nearly enough is the decline of unions in America. Historically,

unions were created to protect the rights of labor against company management that took advantage of their workforce. Unions fought to ensure safe working conditions and a fair wage. But strong unions do not equal weak business. It is not a zero sum game. American companies are only as good as their workers; and unions, through apprenticeship programs, high quality workforce training and advocacy for equal pay and benefits, help guarantee employers a strong, safe and valued workforce.

If we look back we can see how dire income inequality has become in our country. In 1980, the top 1 percent of earners accounted for a 10 percent share of the total income while the bottom 50 percent accounted for a 20 percent share of the total income, according to the World Inequality Database. Now, the top 1 percent earn 20 percent of the total income while the bottom 50 percent of the population earn just 12 percent of the total income. The last time this level of disparity existed was in 1928 when the top 1 percent received 23 percent of all pre-taxable income, according to the Pew Research Center. The following year was

the start of the Great Depression. Additionally, the Brookings Institute found that since 1979 the lower middle class have seen their real wages slightly decrease over the last 40 years while the top percentile have seen their real wages increase by 27 percent. This type of inequality tears at the fabric of the American Dream. Americans can't climb the economic ladder or build a better life for their children if they can barely afford to pay their mortgage and put food on the table.

A groundbreaking study from Princeton University argues one of the biggest factors in increasing income inequality is the decline in union membership. The Princeton study found that the benefits workers derived from unions over the course of the last 80 years have been remarkably steady. Using a combination of census data collected by the government and polling information from Gallup about union workers, Princeton was able to study the effects of union membership while controlling for variables such as education, skill, and race. What the study found is that on average over the

SEE INEQUALITY, PAGE 14

### Mount Vernon Gazette

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## LETTER

# Neighborhood Left Out of Airplane Noise Battle

To the Editor:

A recent article requests that Mt. Vernon Gazette readers in "affected neighborhoods" should support the proposal to change southerly plane departures to a route ostensibly centered over the river, that climbs to 5000 feet, and turns at 7000 feet at a point somewhere southwest of Ft. Belvoir.

However, we who live in the affected neighborhood near the Mt. Vernon Estate and are most affected by the proposal have been left out of the discussion, and we have not been given a chance to comment on the recommended change. First, the article describes a route that is not accurate as depicted, since aircraft do not fly from waypoint to waypoint at right angles. The planes must start turning westward in an arc before the way points, so they will fly much closer to the Mount Vernon Estate, and they will continue a continuous semi-circular turn along Ferry Landing Road (rather than somewhere near Ft. Belvoir), which is similar to what was depicted by the FAA at a recent meeting. In effect a 135-degree turn while climbing. This results in a significantly prolonged noise effect on our neighborhood.

We have previously tried to raise these issues, but have been rebuffed with dismissive admonishments about it having no impact for our neighborhood. These are pronouncements without any scientific basis.

To the contrary, we have observed and heard planes following the new path and altitudes; they generated significant and prolonged periods of intolerable noise. In one case, a conversation that I was having in the back yard with a colleague had to stop for over two minutes due to noise from an aircraft.

Regarding the specified height levels, these are maximums, so that planes would often fly at altitudes lower than this. Most southbound departures will fly to a maximum of 5,000 feet, and will start turning in front of the river over Mt. Vernon, and rev their engines up to reach the maximum of 7,000 feet by Ferry Landing Road. This climbing turn could create a significant and sustained sound wave lasting for up to two minutes per plane.

Our noise concerns are accentuated by FAA's own consultant, a sound engineer from Brüel & Kjær, who had come from Australia to answer questions at a community noise meeting on Oct. 16, 2017. The engineer provided an interesting perspective, since he has been dealing with noise issues in 200 airports around the globe. The number one finding (also confirmed in nuisance studies) was that people were more irritated by the duration of the noise versus the level of noise. He pointed out that studies show that people are willing to take more noise if it is for shorter duration. I then

presented him with the South Flow proposal to which he responded, "that is the worst thing you can do" since the affected people will experience noise for a very prolonged time.

The Palisades neighborhood in District of Columbia is an example that closely mirror the effects we will experience, with flights routinely flying over 5,000 feet at a commensurate distance to the community and on the other side of the river in Virginia. The flights still generate noise decibels measured at well over 65 decibels on the official Palisades noise meter, which is well over safe norms.

Due to intensified noise and condensed routes, the NEXTGEN system has been the subject of numerous lawsuits from cities, counties and states around the country, and the FAA has had to roll back several implemented NEXTGEN routes as a result of these actions. Moreover, Washington D.C. and Maryland have joined forces to combat the effects of NEXTGEN noise, but little has been said about Virginia's efforts in this area. The NEXTGEN modernization effort is becoming a zero sum game, with neighborhoods adjacent to the Mount Vernon estate being the losers, not to mention Virginia itself, since the Prince George's County representative was all but assured by the FAA at the DCA Community Noise Working Group that the NEXTGEN route was spe-

cifically intended to ensure that the planes stayed on the Virginia side of the river.

Fortunately, the FAA is conducting an environmental study prior to the routes being changed, which is why it has not been implemented. To press for urgency on this matter is not an informed and balanced position, since the environment and the Mt. Vernon estate neighborhoods deserve some consideration in the matter, especially since we have been afforded no say in the current deliberations.

**Poul Hertel**  
Alexandria

## Backpacks Donated

Last week at the Gum Springs Community Center, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue personnel, Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office participated in a back-to-school event for children in need. Donated backpacks with school supplies were given out. Local barbers and several fire and rescue personnel (hairstylists and barbers prior to joining the department) all donated their time to provide haircuts for the children.

Firefighters and paramedics also showed off their fire trucks, ambulances, and equipment as well as handed out safety information.



Suicide takes nearly 45,000 Americans each year. We all have a role in keeping our community suicide safer.

This September, join PRS CrisisLink and Connection Newspapers to learn how you can help save lives.

**1-800-273-TALK**  
prsinc.org/calltextlive

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

## Good Shepherd Catholic Church International Festival - Three Days of Celebration

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA 22309

### Saturday, September 1

- 5K Race and 1Mile Fun Run Fun and fitness for a great cause! Sign up online today, go to: gs-cc.org
- Yard Sale Early Bird Entry, 8:30 - 9:30am, \$10  
Regular Entry, 9:30am - 4pm, free

### Sunday, September 2

- Join us for Mass (see schedule at gs-cc.org)

### Monday, September 3 Festival Day!

- 11am - 5pm Food, music, games, bingo, raffle, entertainment & more! • Free admission
- Food and some activities require ticket purchase
- Parking & shuttle at Mt. Vernon HS. No pets except service animals.
- Win \$10,000! Raffle Tickets on Sale at the Festival!
- Net proceeds go to charities.
- Visit gs-cc.org for information.





# ENTERTAINMENT

## MetroStage Presents 'Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek'

**Athol Fugard's take on apartheid in the 1980s and its impact on South Africa.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD

**M**etroStage in Alexandria is opening its 2018-19 season with "The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek" by Athol Fugard from Aug. 30 to Sept. 30.

The play, directed by Artistic Associate Thomas W. Jones II, was inspired by the life of outsider artist Nukain Mabuza. In the play, Fugard depicts both the brutality of apartheid in the 1980s and the violence and ingrained patterns that continue to impact post-apartheid South Africa as well. The farmer's painted flowers and images of the rocks dotting the fields represent an abstract vision of the painter's life. And the interaction with the wife of the farm owner depicts South Africa yesterday and today as it struggles to reconcile its past and its future.

According to Producing Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin: "MetroStage has been associated with Athol Fugard plays since 1987 when we opened our first season in our first theatre (remember that strip shopping center on Duke Street across from the King Street Metro?) with 'Blood Knot' with Bill Grimmette and Nat Benchley, both of whom received Helen Hayes nominations in that two-hander. We followed with Fugard's 'The Island,' 'Sizwe Bansi is Dead' and 'Boesman and Lena,' all timeless plays that continue to be produced today. We followed our Fugard phase with the U.S. premiere of 'Mooi Street Moves,' by South African playwright Paul Slabolepszy, a playwright discovered by my daughter Jennifer Griffin when she saw his play and met him at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg. So, it is only fitting that as we approach our final season in our theatre here in North Old Town we would return to this iconic playwright."

Griffin said with "The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek" being Fugard's most recent play, it is a fictionalized version of the life



**The cast of "The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek."**

of farmer and outsider artist Nukain Mabuza, and his second play inspired by an outsider artist ("Road to Mecca" about Helen Martins and her "Owl House" being his first).

In "Painted Rocks," Fugard covers two decades of South African history placing the first act in 1980 under apartheid rule and then the characters' return 20 years later in post-apartheid South Africa. "It is a fascinating study of the impact of apartheid on both the farmers as well as the farm owners, through the lens of the playwright," she said.

Jeremy Hunter plays the role of Jonathan Sejake who is first experienced as an 11-year-old referred to as 'Bokkie.' The only real understanding of him is from his relationship with Nukain (his Tata or Outa). "It is your typical loving grandfather/grandson relationship, but what is most intriguing is the activity that is happening onstage," he said. "Bokkie is assisting Nukain paint 'The Big One'... a big rock at the top of the hill. As they talk and work, Bokkie witnesses a transformation in Nukain. The revelation is staggering for Bokkie, but it causes him to see Nukain in a completely new light; with tremendous pride and dignity. This is

shattered, however, when Mrs. Kleynhans interrupts their work," he said.

Following the events that transpire, Hunter said the audience doesn't see Nukain or Bokkie again for some time. Twenty years pass, Nukain has died, and Bokkie (who ran away from their home) is now returning a man. Seeking resolution and closure, Jonathan's journey has led him from apartheid South Africa to the newly liberated Zimbabwe and back again. Weathered, wise, and kind; Jonathan returns to explain the transformation and tell the story of his beloved Nukain.

Hunter said the challenge for him was creating the South African accent. "I've never been as immersed in a culture as to adopt an accent and the process has been jarring. Trying to remember the sounds words make; the placement of it in the mouth and body; it is extremely challenging," he said. "Even more so the fact that South Africa has 11 languages that are spoken and my character lived both here as well as Zimbabwe, which has its own dialect and flavor. Everything else for me has been, lol, relatively simple in comparison to this," he said.

Marni Penning Coleman plays the role of

Elmarie Kleynhans, an Afrikaner in her 40s who has grown up in South Africa and never known any way of life except the "way things are" in apartheid-era Revolver Creek. "She is the wife of 'Baas Hennie,' who runs the farm, and is a devout Christian who is sure that God will protect her and the people she loves from 'the trouble they are having up there in Johannesburg.' She thinks she is doing all the right things, but is fully benefiting from the oppressed society in which she lives," she said.

Fast-forward to post-apartheid South Africa in 2003 in the second act, and she's now in charge of the farm. But her faith is faltering as, like a modern-day Job, she sees the privileged life and society she's come to rely upon crumbling around her, and God seemingly nowhere to be found. Confronting "someone she used to know," she struggles to understand her place and role in the "story" of their "New South Africa."

She adds: "The sincere challenge of this role is not only the Afrikaans dialect (with which, luckily, I have a native Afrikaner who lives in D.C. to help me), but also playing someone who holds onto the belief that she has every right to be on land, which was stolen from the African people by her ancestors more than 150 years prior. Interestingly, we're talking about the same span of time that we are now from the American Civil War."

Actor Doug Brown returns to MetroStage having performed in "The Island" and "Mooi Street Moves" previously. Marni Penning played Roy Cohn in last year's "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been," and young Jeremiah Hasty, a rising seventh-grader, was last seen in the world premiere of "Uprising." Jeremy Hunter, last seen at Mosaic Theatre in "Hooded or Being Black for Dummies," is making his MetroStage debut.

*MetroStage is presenting "The Painted Rocks at Revolver Creek" from Aug. 30 to Sept. 30. Performances will be Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$55 with student and active military and group discounts available with Flex Passes available for four or more tickets. For ticket reservations or information about group sales, call 703-548-9044 or visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org).*

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: "Off the Grid."** Through Aug. 31, gallery hours at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Off the Grid" is an exhibit of artwork by Fairfax County and City of Alexandria inmates. The inmates vary in age, background and artistic experience, with most having never drawn before their lessons with volunteer art instructor Kelli Schollard-Sincock. Visit [torpedofactory.org](http://torpedofactory.org).

**Fine Art Photography Exhibit.**

Through Sept. 2 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, located in Studio 312 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. Show features 30 images juried by Mark L. Power. Exhibition hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Thursdays, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).

**Art Exhibit: "A Murder in Bruges: A Cast of Characters."** Through Sept. 2, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Artist Ito Briones's whodunit pays homage to the great mystery writers, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie. This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a

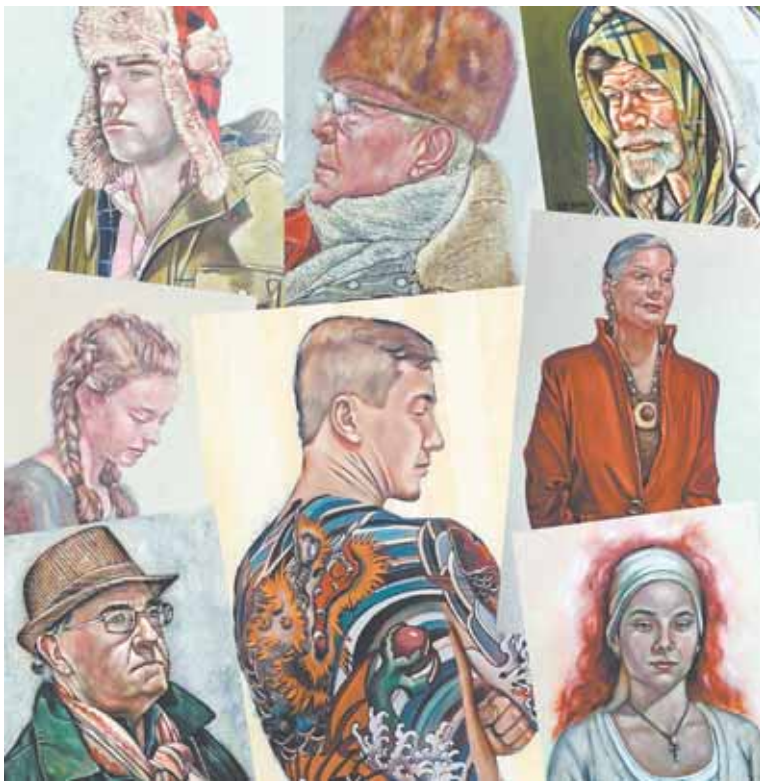


**Stoneware lantern with geometric cutouts by Pam Eisenmann of Springfield; stoneware platter with indigo abstract framing by Jennifer Coffin of Fairfax; high-fire geometric shard dish by Bev Andrews of Alexandria; and crystalline-glazed vase with indigo highlights by Bikki Stricker of Falls Church.**

### Geometrics Kiln Club Show

Earthy Encore Spotlights Shapeshifting in Clay. Sept. 2-30 at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 19, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. Monday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 13 open until 9 p.m. and Friday, Sept. 14 until 10 p.m. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).





**Portraits in Briones' Exhibit**

## A Murder in Bruges: A Cast of Characters

Artist Ito Briones's whodunit pays homage to the great mystery writers, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to Agatha Christie. This interactive exhibit, inspired by classic murder mysteries, presents viewers with a trail of clues that lead to a suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer's portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Through Sept. 2, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

suspect hidden in plain sight; the murderer's portrait is among the twenty five characters on display. Opening reception Thursday, Aug. 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or call 703-683-1780.

**Art Exhibit: Art, Light, and Metaphor.** Through Sept. 2 at Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New exhibition explores the connections between art, light, and metaphor. The opening reception will be the cornerstone of the Torpedo Factory Art Center's Late Shift: Bright Lights on Friday, July 20, 7-9 pm. A Gallery Talk with select artist comments will take place at 8 p.m. There will also be a special Illuminate pop-up exhibition in the Grand Hall. Learn more at [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target).

**Ceramics Combust.** Through Sept. 2 at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 19, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Alexandria. Featuring "Brilliance: An Exploration of Heat and Light." Hours are Monday through Sunday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., with Thursdays open until 9 p.m. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org), [www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope](http://www.torpedofactory.org/galleries/scope).

**Ancestry Art Exhibit.** Through Sept. 2, at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. The "Ancestry" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans showcases how the diverse, vibrant cultures of our members come together to form one strong community. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org).

**Honoring Our Veterans Exhibit.** Through Labor Day, at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Included in museum admission - Adults: \$5, Children (ages 5-12): \$3. After his service in the Revolutionary War, Hamilton went home to contribute to his community and nation. As part of the World War I 100th Commemoration,

learn how returning veterans served Alexandria, including American Legion Post #24, which restored Gadsby's Tavern in honor of WWI veterans. See how the museum looked under their care and hear about the contributions veterans still make to the City of Alexandria today. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org).

**"Dredging The Lethe."** On view through Sept. 14 at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org). Wrapped around the interior wall of a smokestack of the former munitions factory, Kara Hammond's mural, "Dredging the Lethe," uses recycled book-pages, collage, charcoal, gesso and ink to create large-scale drawings of Greek goddesses amid contemporary human events. Free admission. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

### FRIDAY/AUG. 31

**Four Mile Movies: Space Jam.** 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).

**Mount Vernon Nights.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights).

**Twilight Hilltop Tour.** 8-9 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. This historic site sits high upon a hill overlooking Hybla Valley and Huntley Meadows

## 4 Foodie Dates to Circle in September

BY HOPE NELSON \$89.

School's back in session, there's a hint of crispness to the air and life is getting back to normal from a season of vacations and patio parties. Here are four ways to ease back into regular life — while keeping the fun firmly intact.

### Nalls Produce Block Party, Sept. 8

One of Alexandria's most beloved plant and veggie purveyors is gearing up for its ninth annual block party. Families can munch on food, take part in activities and hop into the moonbounce. More than a dozen vendors and service providers from around the area will be on hand to showcase their wares. 7310 Beulah St. 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Catoctin Creek Cocktail Collaboration at Captain Gregory's, Sept. 12

Nearby distillery Catoctin Creek has teamed up with the cocktail magicians at Captain Gregory's to whip up four beverages featuring the distillery's brandy, gin and rye whiskey offerings. Each cocktail will pair with a small plate; nosh and sip at one of two seatings over the course of the evening. 804 N. Henry St. Seatings at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

### September Bingo Night at Stomping Ground, Sept. 16

Oktoberfest is the watchword of the night at Stomping Ground's monthly bingo night. Feast on bratwurst with apples and sauerkraut, as well as — what else? — German potato salad. Beer and wine for purchase. Once you're finished with dinner, get on with the business of Bingo. 2309 Mount Vernon Ave. Food at 6 p.m.; game at 7 p.m. Adults only. \$25.

### Mansion House Whiskey Tasting at Carlyle House, Sept. 29

As summer turns to fall, attention turns from lighter, cooler beverages to the hearty, full-bodied likes of whiskey. Take a trip back in time to the era of the old Mansion House Hotel — originally situated on the site of the Carlyle House — and hear about bygone Virginia from a local historian. Ticket price includes a house tour, heavy hors d'oeuvres and four whiskey samples. 121 N. Fairfax St. 6:30-9 p.m. \$75 general admission; \$35 for young professionals aged 21-35.

*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).*



PHOTO BY FRED ZAFRAN

## Fine Art Photography Exhibit

Show features 30 images juried by Mark L. Power. Exhibition hours are 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, except Thursdays, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. through Sept. 2, at Multiple Exposures Gallery, located in Studio 312 at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Park.** It's a dramatic setting made all the more stunning by the setting sun. Join this after-hours tour to see the house in a different light. Light refreshments will be served afterward. \$5. Call the park at 703-768-2525 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley).

**Ulysses S. James Competition Prize of \$1,000.** Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org). Email WMPA Executive Director Esther Covington at [wmpa.execdir@gmail.com](mailto:wmpa.execdir@gmail.com).

**Autumn Show-Stoppers.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Find ways to jazz up your fall garden. Horticulturist Brenda Skarphol will discuss dividing perennials, planting cool-season plants and ways to beautify your garden with fall season show-stoppers. A special emphasis will be placed on plants that are good for pollinators and other wildlife. \$18. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Story Time for Little Historians.** 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Featuring The Spider Weaver: A Legend of Kente Cloth by Margaret Musgrove and Julia Cairns.

Children's story time in the Watson Reading Room (located next door to the museum). Join in cultural stories and creative craft activities. Explore the museum exhibits afterwards to learn about local Black History. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 3-6 years old. \$3 admission ages 3-plus. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**The Spider Weaver: A Legend of Kente Cloth.** 11 a.m. at The Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. By Margaret Musgrove and Julia Cairns. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Historic](http://alexandriava.gov/Historic).

**Welsh Choir.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Eschoir is a Welsh male choir based in London, formed in 2009 at the Borough Welsh Chapel near London Bridge. \$10-\$50. Visit [thewnaa.org/single-event-will-call-tickets.html](http://thewnaa.org/single-event-will-call-tickets.html).

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 2

**BBQ and Beer.** 5 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way Lorton. New Orleans Funk band Bonerama is performing in the Rizer Pavilion on the Workhouse Arts Center's newly remodeled center Quad. There will be food trucks and beer/wine/soft drinks available for sale. Early bird pricing: \$20 per person. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/event/bbq-beer-bonerama/](http://www.workhousearts.org/event/bbq-beer-bonerama/) for tickets.

### SEPT. 4-OCT. 14

**Photography Exhibition: Michael Borek.** Gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. "Aimless Walk Reprise" presents 22 photographs taken by Michael Borek in his native Czech Republic. Over the last 10 years, Borek continued to return to photograph an old blue-collar neighborhood in Prague, where he grew up. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com).



## ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Le Refuge awaits the Friday lunch crowd.

## Joyeux Trente-et-Cinq Anniversaire

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**L**e Refuge will celebrate its 35th year at 127 N. Washington St. on Sept. 27. Jean-Francois Chaufour came to this country with his wife and his desire to live out the American dream of owning his own restaurant in America. His daughter, Anne-Claire Fregnan, says he had worked in some of the finest hotels in southern France and England.

### PREVIEW

She says he came to America in 1976 with his wife, \$1,000, two suitcases and one phone number.

Fregnan readies the restaurant for the Friday lunch crowd as she sets fresh red carnations on each table in the dining room filled with French memorabilia. She says that the menu and tastes have stayed much the same for the 35 years. "The one thing that is different may be the gluten sensitivities but when people come to a French restaurant they like the sauces. They come for a particular dish they like."

She says people flock to the soft-shelled crabs that are served with almonds and garlic butter. Another favorite is the bouillabaisse. "It has fresh rockfish, salmon, clams, mussels, shrimp and scallops." One of today's specials is the quiche Lorraine. Some people return time and time again for the frog's legs.

And she says people like the specialty cocktails that appear hand written on the small chalkboard by the window such as the popular Cardinal which is chilled red wine, fresh raspberries and creme de cassis. Or the cocktail of the day, which today is champagne with passion fruit liqueur.

Le Refuge is open from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for lunch and 5:30-10 p.m. for dinner. Fregnan says this is a difference they have seen over the years. "We used to have people come in for dinner at 9 or 10. "Now it's an earlier crowd, more like 5:30 or 6. We don't know why."

After 35 years, Fregnan says they hope to express customer appreciation on their anniversary. "Some people have been coming here for 35 years."

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

**Ambassador Tom Pickering.** 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Pickering is Vice Chair of Hills & Company. He served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs under President Clinton and as U.S. Ambassador to Russia, India, Israel, El Salvador, Nigeria, and Jordan. He was the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in the first Bush Administration, and held positions including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans, Environmental and Scientific Affairs, and Special Assistant to Secretaries of State William Rogers and Henry Kissinger. Call 703-780-8494 prior to Sept. 5 to attend.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 6

**First Thursday Del Ray.** 6-9 p.m.

Along Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. First Thursdays is a series of free outdoor street festivals along Mount Vernon Avenue. Every first Thursday of the month, the Del Ray Business Association features businesses along Mount Vernon Avenue, special events, food and music. Each month has a different theme with activities for children, live music and a festive atmosphere. Visit [www.visitdelray.com](http://www.visitdelray.com).

### SEPT. 6-OCT. 7

**Exhibit: 'Natural Reaction.'** Gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 North Union St., Studio 21, Torpedo Factory, Alexandria. Sculptor and printmaker Brian Kirk courts chemical reactions to create ephemeral, phantom-like prints from rusting metal. A marriage of art and science, Kirk's rust prints bloom in hues of lush amber, ochre, and

apricot. Born of rigid metal, from saw blades to steel wool, the prints that emerge are organic, almost cellular. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

**Solo Painting Exhibition Opening Night.** 5-8 p.m. at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Featuring work by Barry Barnett Keith, a graduate of T.C. Williams and The University of Delaware Art School. Call 301-518-9093.

**Opening Reception: "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry."** 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. A national ceramic show that celebrates dining and food with a regional art exhibit echoing these themes. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/eat-drink-be-merry](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/eat-drink-be-merry).

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## ENTERTAINMENT



**Barry Barnett Keith, an Alexandria native and graduate of T.C. Williams having (juried) solo painting exhibit at Gallery Underground in Crystal City.**

### Solo Painting Exhibition

Featuring work by Barry Barnett Keith, a graduate of T.C. Williams and The University of Delaware Art School. Opening reception, Friday, Sept. 7, 5-8 p.m. at Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Call 301-518-9093.

### CALENDAR

#### SEPT. 7-30

**Art Exhibit: "Eat, Drink, and Be Merry."** At Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. A national ceramic show that celebrates dining and food with a regional art exhibit echoing these themes. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/event/eat-drink-be-merry](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/eat-drink-be-merry).

#### SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

**Craft and Family Fun Fair.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. Featuring handmade arts and crafts, live piano music, baked goods prepared by parishioners, and children's games like plinko and a moon-bounce. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net).

**Chicken BBQ and Yard Sale.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St. The United Methodist Men will hold a chicken BBQ and yard sale. A half-chicken meal with beans, cole slaw, roll and drink for \$10; pint of beans or cole slaw for \$2. All profits will support local community charities. Call the church office, 703-671-8557.

**T&ES Open House.** 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at 2900 Business Center Drive, Alexandria. The City's Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (T&ES) Open House will provide an up-close, hands-on look at the work of the department that oversees City refuse collection, street cleaning, sewer maintenance, recycling, water quality, traffic engineering, and transit services. This free, family-friendly event will allow residents and businesses to learn about important City services and meet staff who help keep Alexandria mobile, clean, safe and eco-friendly. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/TES](http://www.alexandriava.gov/TES).

**Ceramics Workshop.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Clay Queen Pottery, 2303 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Ceramic artist Lisa York presents "Bowls and Plates with Nice Curves." The demonstration explores curves and form, surface decorations, thrown and alteration techniques. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org](http://DelRayArtisans.org).

**Celebrate Honey Bee Day.** 10 a.m.-

noon at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Where would we be without the honey bee? Celebrate this wondrous insect with the Northern Virginia Beekeepers Association. Meet a beekeeper, see inside a beehive, learn a bee dance, do a bee scavenger hunt, learn how bees are important to the food supply and get tips on how to help honey bees. Free. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Chakra Balancing On and Off the Mat & Chakra Mudras.** 2-4 p.m. at 532 Yoga, 532 North Washington St., Alexandria. Learn about Chakras and how to move inert energy. Cost: \$15 before Sept. 1, \$20 thereafter. Visit [www.532yoga.com](http://www.532yoga.com).

**Visual Arts Workshop: Seeing Beauty.** 2-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Cost is \$34/person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 431 3701 or call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Platinum Moments.** 4-6:30 p.m. at Rachael M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Alexandria's hometown barbershop chorus is celebrating its 70th anniversary by reprising memorable songs from past performances and by hosting world-class barbershop ensembles from Florida and Toronto, Canada. \$35. Visit [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org).

#### SEPT. 8-OCT. 21

**Exhibition: 'Juxtaposed.'** At Target Gallery at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. New exhibition explores the Art of Contradiction and investigates opposing or conflicting themes through art. The exhibition features 25 artworks by 12 artists from all over the country. Juxtaposed was juried by Megan Rook-Koepsel, a D.C.-based independent curator.

#### SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

**George Washington Patriot Run.** 8

a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Admission: \$50 per runner if purchased prior to Sept. 3; \$60 per runner after Sept. 3; \$10 for spectator tickets at the finish line. A free Kids Run will be held near the finish line at Mount Vernon (registration required). All 10K and 5K runners will receive a T-shirt and a finisher medal. Call 703-780-2000 or visit [www.MountVernon.org](http://www.MountVernon.org).

**Apothecary Museum Geek Tours: American Sign Language.** 11 a.m.-noon at The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Learn about the muggle botanical science that inspired the potions and herbology of J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, and make a magical sleeping potion. This tour will be conducted exclusively in American Sign Language. Admission \$15. Call 703-746-3852 or visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

**Outlandish Fashion Show and Tea.** 2 p.m. at 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Do you love the Outlander books and/or the television show? Then stop by for tea and a special fashion show on the Magnolia Terrace. Members of the Appin Regiment, an 18th century Scottish Living History group, will model the fashions from the time period. \$45 per adult, \$25 per child (5-12), children under 5 are free. Tickets available online. Everyone in party must be registered. Visit [www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park](http://www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park).

**Factory Seconds Brass Trio.** 7 p.m. at Peace Lutheran Church, 6362 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria. Brass of Peace will host members of the Cleveland Orchestra that make up The Factory Seconds Brass Trio — Jack Sutte, Trumpet; Jesse McCormick, Horn; and Richard Stout, Trombone. Each musician occupies the Second Chair position in their respective section within The Cleveland Orchestra, and all are faculty members as well as Ensemble in Residence at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. Visit [www.brassofpeace.org](http://www.brassofpeace.org).

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**West Potomac quarterback JT Mayo passed for 263 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 109 yards and another touchdown against Briar Woods on Aug. 24.**

PHOTOS BY  
RICHARD MAPLE

## Wolverines Prepare for Road Opener

**West Potomac opens season with victory over Briar Woods.**

By JON ROETMAN  
THE GAZETTE

While the West Potomac and Lake Braddock football teams no longer compete as Patriot District foes, Wolverines head coach Jeremiah Ross is looking forward to Friday's trip to Burke with an excitement fueled by a recent history of competitive battles with the Bruins.

West Potomac (1-0) will compete in its first road game of the 2018 season when it travels to face Lake Braddock (0-1) at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31.

After a lopsided 30-6 loss to Lake Braddock in 2014, Ross' first season with West Potomac, the Wolverines' last three meetings with the Bruins have been decided by three points or less.

Lake Braddock won the next two matchups by a score of 24-21, with the 2016 game going to overtime. In 2017, with West Potomac having joined the new Gunston District, the Wolverines beat the Bruins, 28-26. It was West Potomac's first victory over

Lake Braddock since 2007, according to records on maxpreps.com.

While Friday's meeting with Lake Braddock doesn't provide West Potomac an opportunity to gain an advantage in the district standings, it does offer the Wolverines a chance to compete against a perennial power.

"I think it's a fun game," Ross said. "It's always been competitive. The kids get fired up for it. It's a cross-freeway rivalry kind of thing. I know they've got bigger games on their schedule, but we just like playing them."

Said Ross: "It's a benchmark game for us."

West Potomac opened the season with a 24-14 home win over Briar Woods on Aug. 24. Junior quarterback JT Mayo completed 15 of 28 passes for 263 yards and a touchdown for the Wolverines. He also carried 11 times for 109 yards and a score.

"He's the guy," Ross said, "who makes our offense go."

Quaronde Bennett caught five passes for 145 yards and a touchdown. Deandre Doherty had five receptions for 83 yards and running back Richard Kobiah carried 11 times for 42 yards and a score.

Lake Braddock opened the season with a 42-21 loss to three-time defending state champion Westfield.



**West Potomac receiver Quaronde Bennett caught five passes for 145 yards and a touchdown against Briar Woods on Aug. 24.**

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## Present and Future Danger



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having recently been infused three weeks after my last treatment, no guarantee given certain lab results, I am now on track to have one more infusion before my Sept. 26 CT scan. The plan is, per my "Progressing But So Am I" column (8/15/18), to triple the amount of medicine I will have received before my next scan. This will compare quite favorably to the one infusion I received prior to my July 25 scan.

Moreover, as I've considered the previous quarter's infusion schedule trying to understand possible reasons for the 10-percent-ish tumor growth which occurred, I've come up with a hopefully plausible explanation. Other than that's what cancer so often does, that is.

As my previous years of scans continued to show "stable," my oncologist and I kept increasing the interval between infusions trying to strike a balance between treating the cause and me living with the effect. Over these years, we've gradually extended those infusion intervals from every three weeks, to every four, to five, to six and most recently to seven-week intervals, all the while maintaining my quarterly CT schedule.

Apparently, we've now struck out, so to speak and for the moment at least, we're in sort of a limbo. (Hopefully the bar isn't set so incredibly low that we can't slide under it.)

As for minimizing the growth, could the solution be as simple as more medicine?

As to what my oncologist thinks of this assessment, I've not mentioned to him as I've only recently theorized it (maybe he knew already and that's what contributed to his suggestion that we follow this course of treatment/action).

We did discuss changing medicines, but he was afraid of the side effects it might cause. We also discussed if he'd had other patients who had experienced tumor growth after a period of stability — like me, who after increasing the frequency of the previously stabilizing drug showed stable once again. He said he had — so, rather than presume all is lost, we've agreed to go forward into the great semi unknown. An "unknown" that will likely end in late September when my next scan's results will be reported.

Now that you know the foundation for this column, let me address the substance behind it. There is a scenario which worries me. It's premature I grant you, but it's difficult to play dumb all the time, especially when it involves cancer/your life.

Still, if I've learned anything from my oncologist, it is that discussing scenarios before the evidence is confirmed is a bit of a fool's errand, so waiting until the actual results are in is better. More accurate anyway.

Despite what I've been told, this patient might not be able to be so patient. Ergo: What if my late September scan shows growth — again? What if, even after tripling the amount of medicine I infuse, the tumors grow, maybe even grow more significantly than ever before?

I'd have to say that development would be a problem and a bit more disappointing than July's scan results. If that result in fact occurs, would that square me at a crossroads? I would think. Would that result obliterate the false sense of security I may have had? Hardly. Cancer patients don't have a sense of security, false or otherwise. We have a sense of inevitability.

Somehow, over the next month, I must find a path forward through this cycle of potentially impending gloom. Right now, nothing has happened. Right now, nothing has been determined. I don't feel any different than before and I don't believe I have any of the symptoms my oncologist has advised me about. I still have an appetite and I'm certainly not losing any weight.

I expect to have one more infusion before this next scan, and to feel the usual post-chemotherapy side effects that I do and then recover and feel as I do today: pretty well. One month, exactly, from the date I'm writing this column, to the date of my next scan and hopefully just a few days later for the results.

What worries me most is, sometimes the human body has a mind of its own, and despite the best of intentions and treatment, it is, to quote my late mother, "Enough already."

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

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## OPINION

## Inequality

FROM PAGE 6

last 80 years, union workers make around 15-20 percent more than non-union workers in the same field. This trend continued in 2017 when union workers made 20 percent more than non-union workers. The study also found that unions can benefit the wages of non-union workers. Going back every year to the 1930s, in states where workers were more likely to be unionized, income inequality was lower and wages rose faster. This is because companies have to offer wages and benefits that can compete with others in the industry that are paying union wages — and out of fear that if they don't pay comparably, their workers would unionize themselves. In communities where unions are strong, all workers, regardless of union status, earn higher pay.

Unfortunately, union membership has taken a nosedive since the 1970s. According to a study by the Economic Policy Institute, in 1979, 34 percent of private sector workers belonged to unions while in 2016 that number was only 10 percent. Unionization among men without a higher education degree fell from 38 percent to 11 percent over that same time period. They found that if union membership levels returned to the 1979 levels in 2016, non-union men without a high school degree would have their wages increased by 9 percent which would have worked out to an extra \$3,000 a year. The study even controlled for fields like trucking and construction where automation and outsourcing are still uncommon, but wages are still falling. They found non-union workers wages are declining in large part because employers are not compelled to raise wages and increase benefits to compete with union salaries.

Now, we have to wonder will it ever be possible to raise union density to the levels seen in the mid 20th century? Under our current political climate the answer is no. We have seen unions gutted through "right to work" laws in 28 states (including Virginia) and the landmark decision earlier this summer made by the Supreme Court which ruled that public sector unions could not force workers benefiting by the union to pay agency fees. However, in the midst of this turmoil, there have been bright spots to the union movement and reminders that it can still make a huge difference in the lives of workers when given the opportunity. This summer voters in Missouri resoundingly voted down a right-to-work proposition by over 67 percent thereby allowing unions to require the payment of union fees. Furthermore, we saw the teachers unions strike in West Virginia due to incredibly low wages which sparked teachers strikes in Oklahoma and Arizona. The result of this strike was a 5 percent salary increase for teachers in West Virginia. A strong workforce is good for business too by creating a skilled and prepared workforce. So, on this Labor Day, remember that union strength not only benefits employees but the economy in its entirety and most importantly, is an antidote to income inequality.



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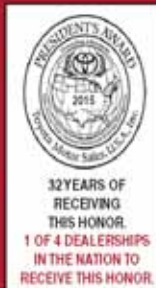
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WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/18.

**BRAKE SPECIAL**

**\$79<sup>95</sup>**

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads,  
inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire  
condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.  
**MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL**

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**SIGHT LINE  
WIPER BLADES**

**\$10 OFF**

Sight Line only.

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MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA  
TOYOTA. PARTS CENTER ONLY 3:00-THRU 8:00PM.

**VARIABLE DISCOUNT**

**\$15.00 OFF** when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99

**\$30.00 OFF** when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99

**\$45.00 OFF** when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99

**\$50.00 OFF** when you spend \$400.00 or more

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**BATTERY CHECK-UP**

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of  
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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**TRUESTART™ BATTERIES**

**SPECIAL  
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**\$99<sup>95</sup>**

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,  
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Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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**ALIGNMENT SPECIAL**

**\$69<sup>95</sup>**

Your car's alignment suffers, and can  
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.  
**INCLUDES:** Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts  
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 8/31/18.



**ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA**

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **8/18, 9/18,**  
or **10/18**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

**VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION**

**FREE**

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**





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## **4417 Neptune Dr | \$775,000**

Exceptionally unique and spacious Colonial on private .72 acre lot. Special features include: updated kitchen, updated baths, family room with gas fireplace opens to patio overlooking serene pool scene, detached two car garage, extra parking area for RV/ Boat. Short walk to Mount Vernon Yacht Club and riverfront area! So much house and property for the money!

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## **3032 Battersea Ln | \$559,500**

Vacation at home! Spacious 4 Bed, 3 full Bath home with many impressive amenities including: refinished hardwoods, updated Kitchen, updated baths, replacement windows, large family room with fireplace, & 2 car garage. Resort like atmosphere highlighted by large deck overlooking gorgeous pool & grounds. Exceptionally attractive price makes it a super value!

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