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Mount Vernon Gazette



MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Celebrating George Washington's Birthday

Crowds witness the pageantry at George Washington's Mount Vernon.

By MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Although George Washington's birthday is now called President's Day on the calendar, it was all about George on Monday, Feb. 18 at the Mount Vernon Estate. Muskets, colonial outfits, speeches and the Old Guard helped commemorate the first president of the United States of America.

Shannon Rubin of Arlington was there with her children to "celebrate President's Day," and maybe learn a little history as well. Gavin, 10, knew about George Washington already. "He was Commander in Chief of the Continental Army," Gavin said.

It was windy and a bit chilly but that didn't stop Paul Myers, a bicyclist from Manassas who parked in Belle Haven and rode the rest of the way with a cyclist group. "We wanted to do something to celebrate freedom," he said.

The crowd gathered in front of the mansion to see the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry's "Old Guard," do reenactments, marching and shooting, which startled the crowd at first. There was a cannon fired as well, as the announcer described



Ready, aim, fire!

the uniforms and formations. "They're armed with a smooth bore musket," he said.

Jessica Lynn sang "God Bless America," and the afternoon continued with a musical salute to the first president by the fife and drum corps, a salute to service members from the USS George Washington, and a tribute at the tomb. Inside the reception area, author Jeff Finegan was signing copies of his three books in the "I Knew George Washington," series. Finegan is from New Jersey and wrote the books through the eyes of "Billy," one of Washington's slaves.



The Commander in Chief's Guard stands at attention during the National Anthem.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE



Mount Vernon resident Lorraine Hausen hands out tickets to the mansion tour.



Jessica Lynn sings "God Bless America."



Twenty-five Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 888, sponsored by Heritage Presbyterian Church, for the fifth consecutive year served as tour hosts on President's Day for the annual public tour of the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at the Mount Vernon Estate, providing over 120 hours of service to the community.



Drummer and Staff Sergeant Gabriel Bacewicz.

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Huey and Sikorsky: Helicopters are put in place at the U.S. Army museum at Fort Belvoir. This is just one of the attractions the task force will be promoting.

District Forms Tourism Task Force

Mission includes highlighting “destination Mount Vernon.”

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

In a county district that has tourism sites from all ends of the spectrum, promotions begin with a big picture and fan out from there, aiming to attract the eyes of tourists looking to get more value for their visit. The newly formed tourism task force in Mount Vernon is a big picture group that is looking to highlight the district’s many historic sites.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck is behind the effort and wants everyone to know that “we have more tourist sites in Mount Vernon than in Northern Virginia,” he said. “People don’t know that.”

Whether it’s George Washington’s Mount Vernon, the Workhouse Art Center in Lorton

or the soon-to-open U.S. Army Museum in Fort Belvoir, the sites in Mount Vernon are part of the big picture. “The task force is somewhat of a joint marketing, joint collaborative effort,” Storck said.

The collaboration Storck is referring to includes several county entities, chambers of commerce, museums and neighborhood groups whose mission is to “look for opportunities to create synergy, combine resources, explore new transportation options between partner sites and ultimately create a placemaking strategy to provide a richer experience for all,” the task force information stated.

One element the task force has identified so far is a full-service hotel, similar to places in Old Town, Alexandria or Crystal City, which are a bit more upscale and have meet-

ing rooms, indoor pools, restaurants and other elements that make it a destination. This might attract an association’s annual meeting for example, where they fly in officials who stay for a week, using Reagan National Airport via the George Washington Memorial Parkway. “More of an upscale hotel,” Storck said. They’ve identified several possible locations for this hotel, including a spot near the intersection of Jeff Todd Way and Richmond Highway. “A couple of sites would be ideal, several places,” Storck said. Fine dining options was another element they will focus on.

The first official meeting of the task force took place in early February and the next meeting will be in March where they’ll discuss tasks for the upcoming summer tourism season.

Task Force Members

Tourism Task Force member organizations include:

- ❖ Mount Vernon Supervisor’s Office
- ❖ Visit Fairfax
- ❖ Fairfax County Planning & Zoning
- ❖ County Park Authority
- ❖ Fairfax County Office of Public-Private Partnerships
- ❖ Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ Neighborhood Restaurant Group
- ❖ Mount Vernon Estate
- ❖ Gunston Hall
- ❖ Workhouse Arts Center
- ❖ Arcadia
- ❖ Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum
- ❖ Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House
- ❖ Army Historical Foundation
- ❖ Mount Vernon residents with hospitality backgrounds.

Law Would Protect Elderly Against Financial Crimes

BY JAYLA MARIE MCNEILL
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

With bipartisan support, legislation headed toward approval in the General Assembly may help protect elderly residents and other vulnerable adults against financial exploitation by giving financial institutions more tools to help prevent this crime.

Both the House and Senate have passed versions of SB 1490, but the two chambers must resolve their differences over the measure. “This bill addresses the issue of financial exploitation of older Virginians, which has been on the rise in recent years,” said the sponsor, Sen. Mark Obenshain, R-Rockingham.

Del. David Toscano, D-Charlottesville, is sponsoring HB 1987, the companion bill in the House. That measure was unanimously approved by the House last month and, in a slightly different version, by the Senate

Rehabilitation and Social Services Committee on Friday, Feb. 15.

“I think it’s important for people to pay close attention to elderly folks and how they may be financially exploited. We’re all getting older, there are more of us and we’ve got to watch out for each other,” said Toscano, the House minority leader.

“This bill helps encourage banking institutions to do that.”

Toscano’s and Obenshain’s proposals would give financial institutions the ability to “refuse to execute a transaction, delay a transaction, or refuse to disburse funds” if the institutions believe in “good faith” that the “transaction or disbursement may involve, facilitate, result in, or contribute to the financial exploitation of an adult.”

“What we’ve been finding is that sometimes, elderly people are exploited by their caregivers or some relative by taking them to the bank and removing cash from their accounts. Once the cash is removed, it’s

hard to get it back,” Toscano said.

“So this gives lending institution some more teeth to make sure that they’re not giving away the money of folks who are being exploited and can essentially stop it before it happens.”

The legislation also would grant the financial institution’s staff immunity from civil or criminal liability for refusing to process transactions or for reporting suspicious financial activity as long as these actions are taken with due cause.

“Often the tellers at bank branches are in the last position to identify and stop these crimes, but too often they feel helpless because they cannot stop or delay suspicious transactions,” Obenshain said. “This bill will empower these bank employees to help protect vulnerable older Virginians.”

The financial exploitation of vulnerable adults is a widespread yet hidden problem.

The National Adult Protective Services Association identifies vulnerable adults as

Report Elder Abuse

To report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the 24-hour, toll-free Adult Protective Services hotline at 888-832-3858.

anyone who is “targeted due to age or disability, isolation, reliance on caregivers, or decreased physical or mental capacity.”

According to the association, 1 in 9 seniors has been “abused, neglected or exploited,” and 1 in 20 cases involves financial exploitation. About 90 percent of abusers are family members, caregivers or other individuals in a position of trust.

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitation Services reported 1,016 substantiated cases of financial exploitation in fiscal year 2015. But because most cases go unreported, the agency estimated there were more than 44,000 incidents of exploitation that year, costing elderly or incapacitated victims potentially more than \$1.2 bil-

SEE LAW PROTECTS, PAGE 4



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NEWS

Fixing Wage Discrimination

Assembly repeals 'Jim Crow' minimum wage exemptions.

By DANIEL BERTI
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A Democratic bill to repeal a Jim Crow era law that legalized wage discrimination against many African-Americans is headed to the governor's desk after being approved by the House of Delegates.

The bill, SB 1079, rescinds the law that allows employers to pay less than minimum wage to "newsboys, shoe-shine boys, ushers, doormen, concession attendants and theater cashiers" — jobs to which many African-Americans were relegated decades ago.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Lionell Spruill, D-Chesapeake, said the exemptions were rooted in Virginia's history of discrimination against African-Americans.

"It's clear that this law was put into place to keep African-American Virginians from advancing," Spruill said. "Hardworking Virginians deserve wage protections, regardless of the job that they do. I am proud to champion this long overdue legislation and to witness its bipartisan passage in the General Assembly."

Spruill's bill also eliminates the minimum wage exemption for babysitters if they work more than 10 hours per week.

The measure passed the Senate, 37-3, on Jan. 18. On Wednesday, Feb. 13, the House voted 18-14 in favor of a modified version of the bill. And on Friday, Feb. 15, the Senate unanimously approved that version and sent it to Gov. Ralph Northam to be signed into law.

In 2018, Del. Paul Krizek, D-Alexandria, carried a bill with the same intent, and it died in committee. Krizek said the minimum-wage exemptions were "obviously aimed at African Americans who were in these service jobs because those were the jobs they could get at the time."

Law Protects Elderly in Financial Crimes

FROM PAGE 3
lion.

The average financial loss per victim was about \$28,000, state officials found.

State lawmakers have been trying to address the problem since 2013, but legislation has failed in previous years. In 2016, for example, Del. Paul Krizek,

D-Fairfax, introduced a bill nearly identical to HB 1987; it died in a House subcommittee.

Toscano is confident that the legislation will pass this year after House and Senate members iron out their relatively minor differences.

"I think that we will resolve the technical differences, and it will pass," he said.

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Fire investigators seek the public's help in identifying person of interest following Jan. 30 fire at Mega Mart on Richmond Highway.

Bathroom Fire Being Investigated

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department is asking for the public's help identifying a person of interest in a fire that occurred on Wednesday, Jan. 30.

At 1:13 p.m., Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units responded for reports of a fire in a bathroom at the Mega Mart located at 8228 Richmond Highway. The fire was extinguished by a fire sprinkler system prior to fire and rescue department arrival. The fire is

under investigation.

The person of interest is described as African American and was last seen wearing a blue knit hat, light blue jacket, dark pants, and black backpack. Fire investigators would like to speak with this individual regarding their investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call Lieutenant S. Khan at 703-246-4738 or salman.khan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

CRIME REPORT

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

STOLEN AUTO/PURSUIT: 8100 block of Richmond Highway, Feb. 14, 1:39 a.m. Officers stopped a stolen car after a short pursuit. All the occupants ran off on foot and four of them were arrested a short distance away. Two men from Alexandria were arrested for obstruction of justice. Two juveniles were also arrested. Additional charges are being sought.

SEX OFFENSE: 8600 block of Village Square, Feb. 9, 5:20 p.m. A woman was walking home when she saw a man walking towards her while masturbating. The victim shouted and the man ran off. He is described as black, 20 to 25 years old, wearing a red sweatshirt and black pants.

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FEB. 14 LARCENIES
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FEB. 13 LARCENIES
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FEB. 12 LARCENIES
6600 block of South Kings Highway, cell phone from school

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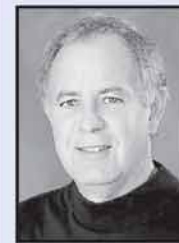
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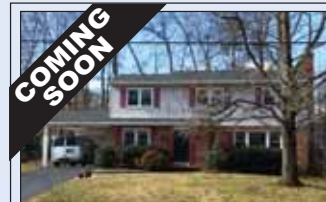
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Alex/Riverside Park Hessick \$670,000
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This house will take you breath away... Private & beautifully landscaped .39 acre yard. Large 2 car garage, stunning hwd floors on main & upper levels plus beautiful solid stained 6 panel doors also on main & upper levels. Beautifully painted interior, updated baths & double pane windows. A spectacular & enchanting kitchen w/beautiful lite hwd floors, stunning cherry cabinets, SS appliances, dark granite counters & a stunning center isle also w/granite plus 3 large pictures windows overlooking a fabulous front yard. The lower level offers a 4th BR, beautiful half bath, Family room, laundry room extraordinaire plus a floored crawl space for extra storage. This is a 10!!



Alex/Riverside Estates \$519,900
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$589,900
8312 Cherry Valley Lane
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Alex/Woodland Heights \$819,900
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OPINION

Be Part of the Pet Gazette

The Pet Gazette, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 22.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

EDITORIAL

Tell us the story of a special bond between a

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We Must Preserve Our Unity and Civility

BY DAN STORCK

MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

I was honored to be joined by several Mount Vernon residents and other elected officials at the Mount Vernon Estate on Monday, as we placed wreaths at George Washington's tomb and at the Slave Memorial, in recognition of our first President's birthday. As I prepared for my remarks, I came across Washington's Farewell Address to the Nation and found his remarks particularly poignant in today's current political climate. Washington believed deeply in the preservation of our great nation through national unity.

In his final address to the Nation, Washington pointed out the importance of a unified government to protect our independence, peace, safety, prosperity and liberty. He noted the people of these United States should never underestimate the "immense value of [our] national union to [our] collective and individual happiness." He forewarned of the danger of a divided union and the employment of mistruths to alienate parts of our country or its people.

Two generations later, my hero, Abraham Lincoln, saw exactly this premonition coming true as war loomed during the 1860 Presidential campaign. He cited Washington's Farewell Address frequently, calling out the divisiveness that had led the country to the brink of war. Lincoln noted Washington's warning against



Supervisor Dan Storck.

sectionalism, and as the war began and government unity was torn apart, Washington's worst fears came true.

In 1862, Lincoln rallied the Union by issuing a presidential decree to commemorate Washington's birthday with readings of the Farewell Address nationwide, including "at every military post and at the head of the sev-

eral regiments and corps of the Army." Lincoln chose excerpts from the speech that focused on the need to maintain a strong national union. I'd like to share with you one such excerpt: "The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. It is justly so, for it is a main pillar in the edifice of your real independence, the support of your tranquility at home, your peace abroad; of your safety; of your prosperity; of that very liberty which you so highly prize ... it is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness; that you should cherish a cordial, habitual, and immovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as of the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; watching for its preservation with jealous anxiety; discountenancing whatever may suggest even a suspicion that it can in any event be abandoned; and indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest."

As we pause in observation this President's Day, we should all be concerned that our national unity is in danger and we must all act to protect it. Mistruths are becoming too common, the freedom of the press is being undermined, entire nationalities and ways of life are being alienated every day in our country. It is time that "We the People" stand up for and protect our "more perfect union" and not allow bullies and bigots to endanger our "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Coordinating Anti-Trafficking Efforts

PAUL KRIZEK
DELEGATE (D-44)

Human trafficking is the business of stealing freedom for profit. It is akin to modern day slavery. Victims of trafficking are deprived of their basic human rights, dehumanized, brutalized, and objectified. Traffickers coerce their victims for labor or sex through force, fraud, and deception. Human trafficking business makes over \$100 billion annually, more than Apple, Starbucks, Microsoft, and Nike combined. The Interna-



tional Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally. This is a massive problem and, unfortunately, we have found that there are countless victims, some only young teens, living in these horrific situations right here in our own country and even in our own communities.

As a member of the Virginia Crime Commission, I have had the opportunity to study firsthand the chaos and damage human trafficking, specifically sex trafficking, has had on our Commonwealth. In 2017, the Human Trafficking Hotline reported 156 human trafficking cases in Virginia, 70 percent of which were sex trafficking cases. A closer look at this

COMMENTARY

through the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Initiative reports 526 identified victims, 312 of these victims were recovered from 2013-2016. 94 percent of these cases were victims of sex trafficking. Additionally, according to a 2014 report from the Department of Justice, more than 50 percent of trafficking victims are at least under the age of 17. It is important to note that while some data is available, this does not give the full picture of the problem. Sex trafficking data is scarce and has many gaps, due to a reluctance to report crimes.

Victims of sex trafficking are often targeted because traffickers have identified them as

SEE COORDINATING, PAGE 17

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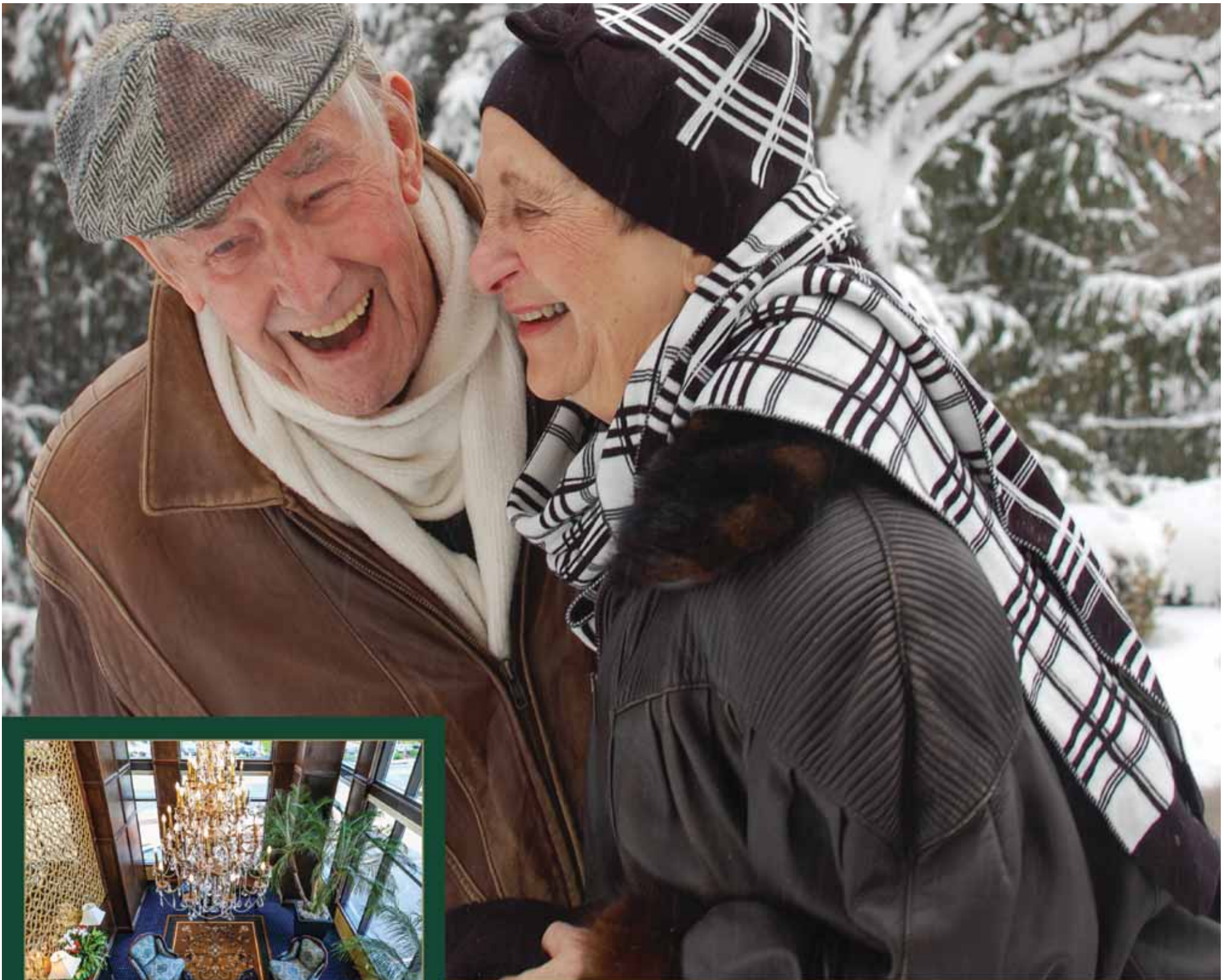
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**Richmond Highway
Corridor Improvements
Fairfax County**

Design Public Hearing

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Inclement Weather Date: Thursday, April 11, 2019

Mount Vernon High School
Auditorium/Cafeteria, use entrance 4
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road
Alexandria, VA 22309

Find out about plans to widen about three miles of Richmond Highway (Route 1) from four to six lanes between Jeff Todd Way and Sherwood Hall Lane.

The project includes separate bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on both sides of the road, safety enhancements, as well as preserving the median width to accommodate Fairfax County's future Bus Rapid Transit plans for dedicated bus-only lanes.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and preferred design alternatives. A presentation will begin at 7 p.m. and project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/richmondhighway), at the public hearing, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2599 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **April 26, 2019** to Mr. Dan Reinhard, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email RichmondHighway@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "March 26 design public hearing" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact Dan Reinhard at 703-259-2599.

State Project: 0001-029-205, P101, R201, C501, B617, B618, D603
UPC: 107187, Federal: STP-5A01 (686)



OPINION

End of Session Nears

By **SCOTT SUROVELL**
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



It is hard to believe, but the last week of the General Assembly has arrived and we hope to gavel out by this coming Saturday. This past week was very busy as we tried to complete work on bills from opposite chamber and negotiated amendments to the budget.

First, the Governor and the money committees announced an agreement regarding tax conformity and the revenue side of the budget. The compromise provides a \$110 refund for each tax return (individual or joint) this year. From 2020 to 2026, it increases the standard deduction at the state level by \$1,500 for individuals and \$3,000 for joint filers – resulting in \$86 in savings for individuals and \$172 for couples. The bill also removes the \$10,000 cap on itemized deductions for state taxes. Given the state income tax is only 5.75 percent, the tax relief afforded is about \$57.50 for every \$1,000 of additional mortgage interest, state or local property taxes paid over and above \$10,000.

COMMENTARY

I was not happy with this proposal for several reasons. First, it takes about \$450 million per year out of the state budget which could fund desperately underfunded General Fund (non-transportation) priorities such as secondary education, higher education, childcare, healthcare, safety net, environmental protection, parks, and public safety. Second, most of the people receiving the bulk of these cuts are already receiving big federal tax cuts while we run the biggest deficits in United States history instead of following the Governor's proposal to target modest tax relief targeted to low wage working Virginia families. This week, negotiators will attempt to finalize the expenditure side of the budget.

Next, my legislation to modernize child support collection continued to move through the process. There is over \$2.4 billion of delinquent child support in Virginia. When child support goes unpaid with low income families, it is often paid by taxpayers through the state's Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) and it is recovered through the Commonwealth's Department of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE). In the last five years, child support deadbeats have begun to seek employment with "gig economy" companies as independent contractors such as Uber and Lyft who are exempt from child support withholding. My legislation would change that and passed the Courts Civil Subcommittee by one vote.

My legislation to change the Town of Dumfries Town Charter to move elections from May to November passed the full House and Senate. There is no need for taxpayers to fund separate elections, especially when they result in much lower turnouts. The legislation I introduced to create a pilot project to provide Fairfax County with an additional tool to fund underground utilities on U.S. 1 passed the House Commerce and Labor Committee and should be up for a final vote this Tuesday.

Next, my bill to give Fairfax County authority to fine retailers for rogue shopping carts after refusing to pick them up for 10 days failed in a House subcommittee on a tie vote. Several Mount Vernon and Springfield residents testified about the disruption loose carts cause in neighborhoods, sidewalks, and the environment – I have now removed over 250 shopping carts from Little Hunting Creek alone. We will try again next year.

Also, my bill to enhance prohibit cars from illegally passed other cars by using bike lanes and creating a new serious traffic offense for seriously injuring a cyclist or pedestrian while distracted passed the House Transportation Committee, but was killed by the House Courts of Justice Committee. Many rural members do not understand the need for better cycling safety rules.

Finally, my legislation to create consequences for destroying public records to avoid a Freedom of Information Act passed, but only after fines for violating the state's public meetings law were removed. I am moving the bill into a conference committee to negotiate a compromise because the closed meeting rule is routinely abused.

Finally, on Wednesday, I held my annual Facebook Townhall. Over 56 constituents posted questions and about 1,500 have viewed the 90-minute town hall. You can watch the recorded version on my official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/surovell.

Please contact me at scott@scottssurovell.org if you have any questions. It is an honor to represent you in the Senate of Virginia.

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Please contact me at scott@scottssurovell.org if you have any questions. It is an honor to represent you in the Senate of Virginia.

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COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Black History Month: A Look at African American Art

Promoting and preserving a part of history.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Despite his predilection for visual arts, Allen Carter, an African American boy growing up in pre-civil rights era Arlington, might not have been granted entrance into some of the nation's museums due to segregation. Still, he persisted, and years later he became a lauded artist, distinguished teacher and mentor to underprivileged children. And in February — African American History Month — his work is being shown in an exhibit, "Big Al Carter: A Retrospective," at the Fred Schneider Gallery of Art. While his work is part of the permanent collections of both the Smithsonian Institution and the Corcoran Gallery of Art, this is the first exhibit of Carter's work in the Washington, D.C. area since his death in 2008.

"Big Al's family has given us an incredible gift by sharing his art, allowing us to continue to reflect on his life, his art and his message for future generations," said Marty Schneider, president of Fred Schneider Investment Group and founder of Fred Schneider Gallery of Art.

As a painter, printmaker, sculptor and muralist, Carter, also known as "Big Al" drew inspiration from his life experiences,

art history and everyday life. He believed that his life's purpose was to use art to heal. "Art is my emotion. Art is my memories. Art is my life. I create the essence," he once said.

"He paints poor people, he paints people who are fishing or people who are having dinner at the table ... his work is very vast," said Carter's daughter, Cecilia Carter.

Carter's exhibit is particularly noteworthy to some African-American art historians who point to a recent study showing that just 2.4 percent of all acquisitions and gifts and 7.6 percent of all exhibitions at 30 prominent American museums have been of work by African American artists. The recent Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Art Museum Staff Demographic Survey of 181 art museums in North America found that African Americans are greatly underrepresented in mainstream art museums as directors, curators, conservators and educators. Those who study African American art say that solving this dilemma requires a year-round approach.

"We can't just focus on it during Black History Month," said African American art historian Crystal Johnson, Ph.D. "These two statistics go to hand-in-hand and prove what we already know. We need more African American students to explore their ar-



President of Fred Schneider Investment Group, LLC and Founder of the Fred Schneider Gallery of Art, Marty Schneider with Allen "Big Al" Carter's daughters, Cecilia Carter (left) and Flora O. Stone (right)

tistic talents and we need more students to take chance on a non-mainstream career and pursue jobs in museum administration. In order to make any changes, we need to have a seat at the table."

One such aspiring decision maker is recent a George Mason University graduate who landed a position as the co-curator of an exhibit at Howard University. "I'd worked with an exhibition, but I've never had the chance to curate before. I was excited and

nervous," said Kourtney Riles of the exhibit called, "An Examination of Feminist(s) Subjectivity in Modern and Contemporary African American Art."

Art plays a vital, but often overlooked role in African American history, not just during Black History Month, but all year long, advises Angela Black, who has taught art history. "Art is a way of preserving our history," she said. "It tells our story and we need more professionally trained artists who can do that."

Carter's exhibit, which features rarely seen artwork from his daughters' private collection, runs through March 3 at the Fred Schneider Gallery of Art, 888 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. Several pieces will be available for sale.

"The exhibit and his work reflect everything that he's been through, what he's seen, and what other people have been through and seen," said Big Al's daughter Flora O. Stone, Carter's daughter.

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NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA HART

Studying in New York

Metropolitan School of the Arts students performed and studied at NYC Broadway Center Master Classes, taught by renowned dance instructors earlier this month.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

DONATIONS NEEDED

UCM Needs Help. United Community Ministries (UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria. Inventory is low on disposable diapers especially sizes 4, 5, 6; canned tuna and other canned meats like chicken; and low-sugar breakfast cereals. Shop and donate with their Amazon Wish List at: bit.ly/UCM_FoodPantry_AmazonWishList. Email Assistant Food Pantry Manager Von at

vonnetta.jones@ucmagency.org or visit at www.ucmagency.org.

INPUT SOUGHT

Shaping the Future Together. Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together. The goal is to hear all voices and reach all segments of the community. This effort will span most of 2019, but in this first SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 18

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1. To qualify for this offer, you must have a new or existing Platinum Savings account and enroll the account in this offer between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. This offer is subject to change at any time, without notice. This offer is available only to Platinum Savings customers in the following states: CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA. In order to earn the Special Interest Rate of 2.08% (Special Rate), you must deposit \$25,000 in new money (from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates) to the enrolled savings account and maintain a minimum daily account balance of \$25,000 throughout the term of this offer. The corresponding Annual Percentage Yield (APY) for this offer is 2.10%. The Special Rate will be applied to the enrolled savings account for a period of 12 months, starting on the date the account is enrolled in the offer. However, for any day during that 12 month period that the daily account balance is less than the \$25,000 minimum, the Special Rate will not apply and the interest rate will revert to the standard interest rate applicable to your Platinum Savings account. As of 12/10/2018, the standard interest rate and APY for a Platinum Savings account in CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, MD, NJ, NY, SC and VA with an account balance of \$0.01 to \$99,999.99 is 0.03% (0.03% APY) and with an account balance of \$100,000 and above is 0.05% (0.05% APY). Each tier shown reflects the current minimum daily collected balance required to obtain the applicable APY. Interest is compounded daily and paid monthly. The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, standard interest rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. Offer not available to Private Banking, Wealth, Business Banking or Wholesale customers. 2. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 01/21/2019 and 03/22/2019. The 11-month New Dollar CD special requires a minimum of \$25,000 brought to Wells Fargo from sources outside of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., or its affiliates to earn the advertised APY. Public Funds and Wholesale accounts are not eligible for this offer. APY assumes interest remains on deposit until maturity. Interest is compounded daily. Payment of interest on CDs is based on term: For terms less than 12 months (365 days), interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or at maturity (the end of the term). For terms of 12 months or more, interest may be paid monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. A fee for early withdrawal will be imposed and could reduce earnings on this account. Special Rates are applicable to the initial term of the CD only. At maturity, the Special Rate CD will automatically renew for a term of 6 months, at the interest rate and APY in effect for CDs on renewal date not subject to a Special Rate, unless the Bank has notified you otherwise. Due to the new money requirement, accounts may only be opened at your local branch. Wells Fargo reserves the right to modify or discontinue the offer at any time without notice. Offer cannot be combined with any other consumer deposit offer. Minimum new money deposit requirement of at least \$25,000 is for this offer only and cannot be transferred to another account to qualify for any other consumer deposit offer. If you wish to take advantage of another consumer deposit offer requiring a minimum new money deposit, you will be required to do so with another new money deposit as stated in the offer requirements and qualifications. Offer cannot be reproduced, purchased, sold, transferred, or traded. 3. The Portfolio by Wells Fargo program has a \$30 monthly service fee, which can be avoided when you have one of the following qualifying balances: \$25,000 or more in qualifying linked bank deposit accounts (checking, savings, CDs, FDIC-insured IRAs) or \$50,000 or more in any combination of qualifying linked banking, brokerage (available through Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC) and credit balances (including 10% of mortgage balances, certain mortgages not eligible). If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the bonus interest rate on all eligible savings accounts, and discounts or fee waivers on other products and services, will discontinue and revert to the Bank's then-current applicable rate or fee. For bonus interest rates on time accounts, this change will occur upon renewal. If the Portfolio by Wells Fargo relationship is terminated, the remaining unlinked Wells Fargo Portfolio Checking or Wells Fargo Prime Checking account will be converted to another checking product or closed.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Pipeline Playwrights Presents 'The Wish'

Play reading to be held at MetroStage Feb. 25.

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Pipeline Playwrights is kicking off its Winter/Spring 2019 Reading Series with a play by its newest member, Crystal Adaway of Mount Vernon, and her dark and twisty comedy, "The Wish." The staged reading will be held Monday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria.

The play follows Barbara who has been wishing for the same impossible thing for 12 long, bitter years. For her 50th birthday, Barbara's daughter, Bonnie, concocts an elaborate scheme to make that wish finally come true. Will her combative sister, Lyla, bring it all crashing down? This dark comedy explores the twists and turns of family dynamics, choices, and accountability, says Adaway, a visual arts teacher and screenwriter.

"I wrote the first draft of 'The Wish' more than seven years ago. It was about half the length and explored a much darker subject matter. It was decent, but the characters needed greater depth and I wasn't happy with the ending, which felt like a runaway truck barreling into brick wall. No cushy gravel pit on that ramp. I set it aside for a

few years and worked on a screenplay and some other stage plays," she said.

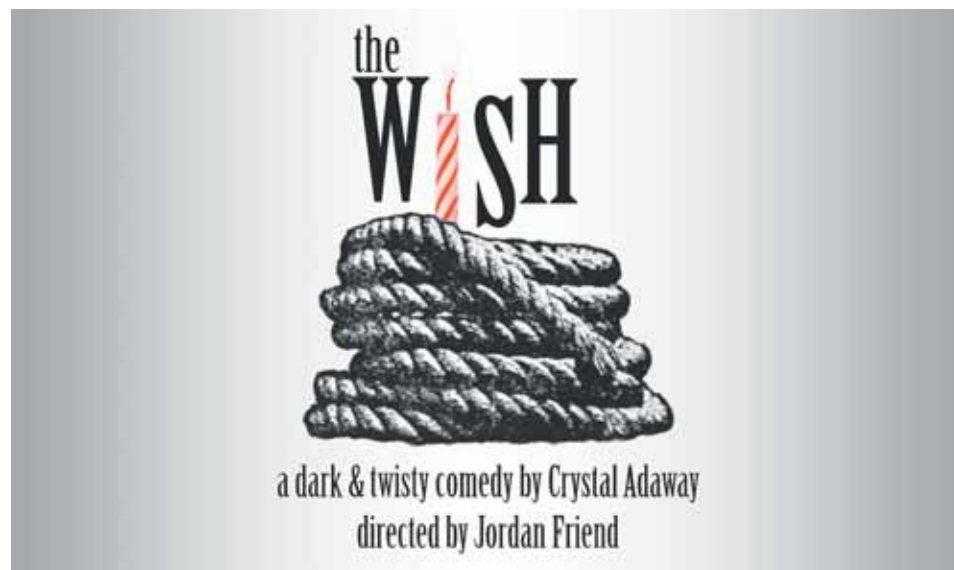
Last spring, she was invited to become a member of Pipeline Playwrights and presented with the opportunity to have a reading at The Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage New Play Festival. "I knew immediately that I wanted to dust off 'The Wish' and give it new life," she said. "Over the summer, and since, I worked to give my characters greater depth and humanity, as well as create a new ending that satisfies. It was quite well received at Page-to-Stage in September, and I've done some tweaking based on the helpful and insightful feedback I received from that audience."

Pipeline Playwrights is a group of women playwrights based in Northern Virginia who have decided to work together to support each other's work and get women's voices into theatre. The group's other members are Jean Koppen, Ann Timmons, Patricia Connelly, and Nicole Burton.

Adaway said her main intent in writing the play was to create compelling characters and a story that sucks in the audience from the first moment, holds them tight, and throws them for a twist at the end. "I wanted to explore the complexities of family relationships — sisters, mother, father, daughters, husband, and wife — and how our words and behaviors have long-lasting effects on the people we are supposed to love the most," she said.



Crystal Adaway of Mount Vernon wrote "The Wish."



A reading of "The Wish" will be presented on Monday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage in Alexandria.

As far as audience takeaways, she hopes they will enjoy the ride. "On top of that, I want what every playwright wants: I'd love for them to want to think about and talk about the characters and the plot and the questions the play raises — not only when they're leaving the theater, but weeks later when they're alone in their cars in traffic, or sitting down for drinks with a friend who loves a good story," she said.

"The Wish" is directed by Jordan Friend and features the talents of Annette Mooney Wasno, Ned Read, Angela Kay Pirko, Kira Burri, and Shaquille Stewart.

In her other works, Adaway's screenplay, "Bangers & Mash," was a finalist in the Virginia Screenwriting Competition. Her other plays include: "The Splintered Tale" (co-written with Jake Baskin); "Give & Take;" "Hoot-Nanny;" and "The Christmas Card;" which will be featured along with four other

short plays in Pipeline Playwrights' 2019 Capital Fringe production to be held in July. Adaway is a recent alumnus of The Kennedy Center Playwriting Intensive, and she is a member of the Dramatists Guild of America.

Next up in the Pipeline Playwrights' Reading Series will be "Rebellion in the Heartland," by Patricia Connelly — March 18; "The Best Worst that Can Happen," by Jean Koppen — April 8; and "The Whole is Greater," by Ann Timmons — April 29.

Pipeline Playwrights will present a reading of "The Wish" on Monday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at MetroStage, located at 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. The show is free, with a suggested \$10 donation. Stay for the post-performance discussion and reception with the cast, Crystal Adaway, and all the Pipeline Playwrights. Visit them on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pipelineplaywrights/

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Photography Exhibit: Fax Ayres. Through Feb. 24, Thursday-Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to embue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

"Three Sistahs." Through Feb. 24, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria. "Three Sistahs" is an intimate musical which exposes the souls of three strong independent women as they gather together in the family home one last time. Tickets are \$55 with student and active military and group discounts available. Four or more tickets are \$50 each. Call 703-548-9044 or visit www.metrostage.org.

Winter Golf. Through Feb. 28, try the

indoor studio at Pinecrest Golf Course's Valis Family Golf Learning Center, featuring three indoor hitting bays or a private session with the TrackMan Golf Simulator Suite (five person max.), both reserved by the hour. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

African-American Experience During the Civil War. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. In celebration of Black History Month, Audrey Davis, the Executive Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum, will lead a conversation on the African-American experience during the Civil War. The lives of Contrabands in occupied Alexandria, how they worked, survived and succeeded in moving towards freedom will be discovered. Furthermore, as the only Alexandrian that consulted in the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," she will lend insight into the making of the show. \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Lecture: Did You Know? 7 p.m. At Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St., Alexandria. Presenting

interesting and little known facts about George Washington. Rather than focusing on one aspect of George Washington's remarkable life in some detail, Professor Henriques will touch on a variety of interesting and relatively little-known facts about Washington, including some that are not very complimentary. \$12 per person, \$10 for members of the Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society and Gadsby's Tavern Museum volunteers. Tickets available online at shop.alexandriava.gov.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

George Washington's Birthday Celebration. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Celebrate the national observance of George Washington's birthday by visiting his home and burial site free of charge. The traditional wreath-laying ceremony at Washington's Tomb takes place at 10 a.m. followed by Mount Vernon's official celebration on the bowling green including a keynote speaker and 21-gun salute to the first president. Special military demonstrations and patriotic music

will follow at 11:15 a.m. Mount Vernon celebrates Washington's 287th birthday with a naturalization ceremony. Visit mountvernon.org.

Mount Vernon in AR. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt. Vernon. Celebrate Washington's love of emerging technologies with the estate's formal debut of "Mount Vernon in AR" tour with immersive 3D imagery layered over a view of the real landscape. Holograms of George and Martha Washington, 360-degree recreations of former buildings and gardens, and images of artifacts placed in their original context, are among the many tools used in the one-of-a-kind storytelling. This tour is \$12.50 in addition to general admission. "Mount Vernon in AR" availability is weather dependent. Visit mountvernon.org.

Movie Matinee - "The Hate U Give." 3:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1704.

Artist Reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The

Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative features more than 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent. Returning for 2019's collaborative event are students from Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Visit ourconvergence.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 22-23

Tales from the Nest. 7:30 p.m. at Evolution Home, 6239 Shields Ave., Alexandria. Featuring an evening of comedic short plays, written by local playwright, Veronique Autphenne. These tales offer a snapshot of family life and relationships in the beautiful, flawed, absurdly competitive, and often hilarious suburbs we call home. \$15. Tickets available at eventbrite.com/e/tales-from-the-nest-tickets-55087694778.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Screen-Printing Activity for Families. At Alexandria Black

ENTERTAINMENT

History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Materials are limited, so reservations are encouraged via Office of Historic Alexandria website. This event is co-sponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the City of Alexandria Office on the Arts. Free. Reservations strongly suggested. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

Madeira Tasting. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Learn about early seaports in America through the lens of Alexandria's recent archaeological excavations and sample the Rare Wine Company's "Historic Madeira Series." Taste a variety of madeira wines from Rare Wine, Inc. that were created specifically to showcase regional preferences along the nation's coastline - from Boston to Savannah. \$50; all proceeds benefit Alexandria Archaeology's #SaveOurShip preservation campaign. Tickets available at shop.alexandriava.gov.

Opening Expo for New Patrick Henry Recreation Center. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Patrick Henry Recreation Center, 4653 Taney Ave. The Opening Expo will feature free activities for all ages, including class demonstrations, fitness room and functional fitness demos, soft play room use, exhibitors, summer camp information, facility tours, face painting, DJ music, and a "meet and greet" with center staff. On-going class demonstrations will include yoga, boxing, creative arts, tumbling, martial arts, tai chi, basketball, performing arts and more. For more information, visit the event page on the City Calendar. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation or contact the Patrick Henry Recreation Center at 703-746-5557.

Specialty Tour: A Complicated

Hospitality. 10-11 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Through the stories, experiences, and archival traces of those enslaved by John Gadsby, consider how the nuances of urban slavery expand the understanding of slavery and Alexandria. Advance purchase of tickets recommended; limited space available. \$15 per person, \$12 for Gadsby Tavern Museum members. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Talk on Urban Agriculture. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Discussion on Urban Agriculture - "Grow What You Eat: Starting Your Own Vegetable Garden." Learn easy-to-implement practices for selecting a site, and evaluating and improving soil. Find out which plants grow best locally, which are best planted directly via seeds and which are typically transplanted as seedlings. Discover how to attract pollinators and other beneficial insects. Learn to identify and manage pests, weeds and diseases. Get free seeds and a vegetable garden calendar customized for the region. Free. Advance registration requested at mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Locals' Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Sweet Sophia local honey product tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

A Breath of Floral Sunshine. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens is located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Create a lush compote arrangement that holds the promise of spring. Join Certified Floral Designer Betty Ann Galway for the



Fun Dog Show & St. Patrick's Day Parade

More than 2,000 participants will march in the parade, including dog rescue groups, pipe and drum bands, the Notre Dame Alumni Band, historical re-enactors, Shriners and Kena cars, and Irish dancers. Parade-goers come early for the Fun Dog Show on Market Square, which benefits the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. More than 30 costumed dogs will compete in a range of categories, including Best Human/Canine Look-Alike, Most Talented and Most St. Paddy's Spirit. The dogs will then kick off the parade. The parade starts at King and Alfred streets and ends at Lee and Cameron streets; the Fun Dog Show is on Market Square in front of City Hall at 301 King St. Visitors and residents are invited to don their green and line King Street to kick off the region's St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 38th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Saturday, March 2, Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon; parade starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Visit www.ballyshanners.org for more.

"Floral Design Workshop: Dutch Design." Designed for participants age 16 to adult. \$39 per person, plus a \$30 supply fee. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring.

George Washington Symposium. 1-4 p.m. At George Washington

Masonic National Memorial. Free. The theme is "George Washington: Symbol of an Age." The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. Mark Tabbert,

the Memorial's director of collections, serves as the symposium's master of ceremonies. Attendees are asked to pre-register at www.GWMemorial.org.

Civil War Winter Drill Day. 1-4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road, Alexandria. Members of the 3rd U.S. Regular Infantry, Company K, will interpret the life of the Union soldier. The program features drills, discussion of equipment, uniforms, weaponry and army life, and information on the popular field of Civil War reenacting for military and civilian interpreters. The public will be invited to "fall in" with the troops and learn some basic drill maneuvers. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Alexandria Big Band Winter Bash. 4-5 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 East Windsor Ave. Hear some of the biggest #1 hits in Alexandria's fun-filled Big Band Winter Bash featuring the Alexandria Citizens Swing Band. Free. Call 703-920-8675 or visit bigbandwinterbash.eventbrite.com.

Birds' Courtship Rituals. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. In springtime, a young bird's fancy turns to thoughts of love. Sign up for the "Evening Woodcock Walk" and journey through the park with a guide to one of Huntley's largest meadows. Listen for the call of the male woodcock and hopefully see his elaborate courtship dance and flight. This program for adults involves a walk of approximately 1.5 miles on uneven terrain. Cost is \$9. Bring a flashlight and meet at the South Kings Highway entrance to the park. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/



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Urbano 116 Brings Fresh Fare to Lower King

BY HOPE NELSON

Fans of Mexican food, rejoice: The fresh, festive fare has carved out a new location on lower King Street. Urbano 116, the latest concept from Common Plate Hospitality, opened its doors Dec. 21 and has begun to settle in some seven weeks on.

"I'd always wanted to do a Mexican restaurant; that's always been my dream growing up," said Common Plate co-founder Chad Sparrow. "... I couldn't ask for a better location because there's no other Mexican down there really on the lower part of King."

The tacos, the enchiladas, the tostadas – it's all there. As well as a passel of surprises that may delight – or, sometimes, challenge – new customers. All of this is the grand plan of Chef Alam Mendez, a Mexico native who moved to the United States specifically to take the helm at Urbano 116.

When touring Mexico to firm up ideas for Urbano 116, Sparrow said, the team met Mendez. The rest fell into place over the course of the following weeks and months.

"The best food I had (in Mexico) was at his restaurant there, so I asked him would

he consider coming over to train me and the staff in traditional cooking methods of moles and tortillas," Sparrow said.

Mendez agreed and came to visit the States, trained the culinary team and "we really kind of hit it off and we had very similar visions," Sparrow said.

After a series of back-and-forth discussions, Mendez decided to pick up stakes and make the move to Alexandria, where he's settled in as the restaurant's top chef, whipping up the likes of carnitas tacos and mushroom soup on a daily basis. Some dishes customers will find inherently familiar; some dishes, perhaps not.

Either way, Sparrow warns, don't come in expecting a typical Tex-Mex style experience.

The portions, he says, aren't as gargantuan as many of the region's Mexican restaurants have set as precedent. And the menu items? Alongside the familiar, one will also find chapulines – heirloom, farm-raised grasshoppers that "taste almost like a sunflower seed a little bit," Sparrow said – as well as the likes of cactus, which is "also a unique thing to try as well."

But don't let the food get in the way of a good cocktail. Urbano 116 prides itself on its mezcal program. The bar currently boasts 16 varieties of the smoky-tasting li-

If You Go

Urbano 116, 116 King St.

Hours: 11 a.m.-midnight Monday-Wednesday; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Thursday-Saturday; 10 a.m.-midnight Sunday.

Try this: The corn tortillas. "A lot of people have a thing in America against corn tortillas, which I understand because they're made with masa flour," Common Plate Hospitality co-founder Chad Sparrow says. Urbano 116 grinds the corn, imported Oaxaca, in-house for a fresh final product. "The only ingredients are corn and water."

quor and has its sights set on more as time goes by.

"A huge thing that they do in Mexico when you sit at the table is instead of a glass of wine, you get a mezcal," Sparrow said. At Urbano 116, patrons can drink the liquor like a shot or try it mixed into a cocktail – of which the bar has several.

The Old Oaxacan, for instance, is a Mexican take on an old-fashioned, mixing mezcal with agave syrup and bitters, allowing the savory undertones of the star ingredient to shine.

As spring finally dawns, keep an eye out for a churro window to open up, serving the sweet pastry treat to King Street pedestrians as they saunter by. Sparrow hinted at the possibility for street tacos, as well – to be ordered right there on King Street.



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON

Urbano 116 at 116 King St.

A new restaurant, new cuisine, new chef, new customers – it's been a busy winter for Common Plate Hospitality and Urbano 116. But Sparrow is taking it in stride.

"We're really thrilled about it," he said.

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

CALENDAR

huntley-meadows.
Annual Washington's Birthday Gala. 5:30-10 p.m. At George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Formal (white tie optional). Reception at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:45 p.m. Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet. Tickets are \$150. Reservations are required. To purchase tickets, visit www.GWMemorial.org or call 703-683-2007.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24
Mikah Meyer Discussion. 9:30 and 11 a.m. At Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria. Meyer, a national parks adventurer and National Cathedral countertenor singer, will share music and a message inspired by his nonstop, three-year road trip to all 418 National Park Service sites. Come hear how the church has played an inspiring role in this project. Following services at 12:15 p.m., there will be a light lunch and Q&A session with Meyer in the church fellowship hall; the lunch event is free and no RSVP is required. Visit fairlingtonumc.org.

Harry Allen Winter Lecture Series. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Get tips from horticulturalist Karen Rexrode as she leads a lecture on the "Uncommon Cut Flower." She will share some of her favorite plants that are both beautiful ornamentals in the garden and unusual cut flowers. Adults. \$10 in advance; \$12 at the door. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring or call 703-642-5173.

Walking With Washington Tour. 2-4 p.m. at Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor's Center, 221 King St., Alexandria. Explore important sites

associated with George Washington in his hometown of Alexandria. This guided walking tour of historic Old Towne covers significant people and events in Washington's life and in American history, with stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, Carlyle House, Wise's Tavern, Duvall Tavern/Charles Lee House, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, The Lord Fairfax House, the "Light-Horse" Harry Lee house and Christ Church. Sponsored by the City of Alexandria's George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee. Free. Visit washingtonbirthday.com.

Artist Talk: Fax Ayres, Photography. 2:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Fax Ayres' photography employs a 'lightpainting' technique to imbue his subjects with an almost surreal quality. He sets up still life vignettes in the dark and then carefully paints individual components with light, assembling multiple images together to create the final photograph. Fax Ayres lives and works in Charlottesville. The exhibition runs Jan. 10-Feb. 24, 2019. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Pohick Church Coffeehouse Fundraiser. 5-7 p.m. at Historic Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Come for an evening of entertainment, snacks, coffee and hot chocolate. Performers will include youth, adults and local musicians. All are welcome. The event is free, but donations are encouraged: all proceeds go toward the summer Sr. High Mission Trip. Contact Rusty Booth at 703-339-6572 or rusty@pohick.org, or visit www.pohick.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 25
Whither Landmark: What Happens After Wonder Woman? 7:15 p.m. At The Hermitage Auditorium, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Find out

about the Howard Hughes Corporation's big plans for a redeveloped Landmark Mall, which will be an open-air mixed-use community with retail, residential and entertainment. Part of the Agenda:Alexandria program, which falls on the fourth Monday of the month, begin at 7:15 p.m. Programs are \$5 each or free with \$35 membership, payable on-line at www.AgnedaAlexandria.org/sign-up page or at the door by check or credit. All are invited to a pre-program dinner, if desired. Dinner is 6:45-7:15 p.m., prices starting at \$32 with reservations by the Friday prior to the program. Visit www.AgnedaAlexandria.com.

Manumission Tour Company. 7:15-8:30 p.m. At Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. The Manumission Tour Company brings the knowledge from their manumission walking tour to the Barrett Branch Library for an evening immersed in the history of African-American Alexandrians. Free. Visit alexliblibraryva.org/event/1557299.

Liberated Muse Arts Group. 7-8:30 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Liberated Muse Arts Group Presents: "Zora Past the Sun" a musical and poetic tribute to Zora Neale Hurston. Call 703-746-1702 or visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Reading "Sapphira and the Slave Girl." 7-8:30 p.m. at Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Dr. Janie Mitchell returns to Duncan to lead a discussion of Willa Cather's "Sapphira and the Slave Girl." Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705.

Journalist Jim McElhatton. 7-9 p.m. At Burke Branch Library Meeting Room, 4701 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Talk with journalist Jim McElhatton as he highlights 60 Years of Integration of Alexandria Schools and the stories of ordinary people

who helped change civil rights in Alexandria Schools. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1704.

TUESDAY/FEB. 26
Preschool Storytime Class: Black History Month. 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. At Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join in a storytime featuring picture books based on real people and events in African American history. Ages 3-5 with adult. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27
Amazing African American STEAM. 4-4:45 p.m. At Barrett Branch Library - First Floor, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Hands-on art and science projects for ages 5+. No registration required. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1703.

African-American: Keeping Heritage Alive. 7-8 p.m. At Duncan Library Meeting Room, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Join in a special presentation of African-American: Keeping Heritage Alive by Sheila Arnold Jones in honor of Black History Month. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28
Ties that Bind Two Historic Homes. 10 a.m. At Huntley Meadows, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Discover the connections between two of Northern Virginia's historic properties. See the letter from Historic Huntley that's on exhibit at Mount Vernon, and discover how slavery links the two homes. The program includes tours of the slave quarters at Mount Vernon and Huntley, as well as the mansion houses.

This tour for adults begins at 10 a.m. at Historic Huntley and departs for Mount Vernon at 11 a.m. The van returns to Historic Huntley at 3 p.m. The cost is \$64 per person, which includes van transportation and admission. The trip cancellation deadline is Feb. 13. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/historic-huntley.

Preschool Storytime Class: Black History Month. 10:30-11:15 a.m. At the Story Room at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join in a storytime featuring picture books based on real people and events in African American history. Ages 3-5 with adult. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

STEM Extravaganza. 6-8 p.m. at Grace Episcopal School, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria. Scientists, young and old, are invited to create, learn and innovate with Grace Episcopal at their first ever STEM Extravaganza designed for children ages 3-13. This family-friendly evening will feature hands-on activities selected by Grace Episcopal School's fourth and fifth graders. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Visit graceschoolalex.org for more information and to RSVP, or email admissions@graceschoolalex.org with questions.

Film Screening: "Thicker Than Blood." 6 p.m. at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. In recognition of Black History Month and National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, and to increase awareness about the "Getting to Zero Alexandria" campaign, the City of Alexandria will host a free screening of "Thicker Than Blood." Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the 80-minute film will start promptly at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to register online. To register for the film screening or to learn more about Getting to Zero Alexandria or free HIV/STI testing services, visit alexandriava.gov/

ENTERTAINMENT



Handel's 'Messiah'

The Blessed Sacrament Festival Choir is rehearsing the "Messiah" oratorio which it will perform in its entirety with a professional orchestra at 7:30 p.m., Friday, March 1 at the church, 1427 W. Braddock Road in Alexandria. Soloists are Michelle Kunz and Joshua Hong, Washington National Opera, and Sally Mouzon and Philip Pickens, San Francisco Opera. Free-will offering at the door. Champagne at intermission and reception following the performance. For more information, contact John McCrary, 703-998-6100 ext. 103.



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SHOW DATES:
FEB. 23 - MAR. 16, 2019



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CALENDAR

Health.

"Soil Tilled by Free Men." 7-9 p.m. At Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society presents "Soil Tilled by Free Men: The Formation of a Free Black Community in Fairfax County." Historians Susan Hellman and Maddy McCoy will discuss their study published by the Virginia Historical Society about the free black community on lands close to the Mount Estate, prior, during and after the Civil War. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/soil-tilled-free-men-formation-free-black-community-fairfax-county.

Tom Teasley and Chao Tian Performance. 7 p.m. At The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Two local music icons, world percussionist Tom Teasley and Chinese dulcimer specialist Chao Tian join forces to showcase tunes from their recent collaboration, Dong Xi. Cost is \$15/person. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Opening Reception: For The Artist. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "For The Artist" exhibit features artworks that Del Ray Artisans members have always dreamed of creating. The diversity of expression and creativity in this exhibit is inspiring to artists and art appreciators alike. Two and three-dimensional works, paintings, mixed media, and photography are on exhibit. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/events.

MARCH 1-31

Art Exhibit: For The Artist. At Del
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The "For The Artist" exhibit features artworks that Del Ray Artisans members have always dreamed of creating. Two and three-dimensional works, paintings, mixed media, and photography are on exhibit. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

Spring Tasks for a Great Garden. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol shows participants how to prepare a garden for a beautiful spring. Learn what plants can and should be divided now, the most effective pruning techniques and more to set a garden up for fresh spring growth. \$18/person. Adults. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 656.6BC1 or call 703-642-5173.

St. Patrick's Day Parade. The Fun Dog Show is from 11 a.m.-noon; parade starts at 12:30 p.m. and ends at 2 p.m. Parade starts at King and Alfred Streets and ends at Lee and Cameron streets; the Fun Dog Show is on Market Square in front of City Hall at 301 King St. Visitors and residents are invited to don their green and line King Street to kick off the region's St. Patrick's Day celebrations at the 38th Annual Alexandria St. Patrick's Day Parade, presented by the Ballyshanners, a nonprofit organization that aims to promote and preserve Irish heritage. Visit www.ballyshanners.org.

Home with the Herberts. Noon-4 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. John Carlyle's son-in-law, William Herbert, immigrated to America from Ireland and married Sarah Carlyle. He

became an influential merchant, banker, and politician in Alexandria, resigning as Mayor on the eve of the War of 1812. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Visit www.novaparks.com/parks/carlyle-house-historic-park or call 703-549-2997.

Locals' Alley Saturdays. 12:30-2:30 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 S. Union St. at King Street. Meet the makers of local goods, featuring: Crum's Hot Sauce tasting. Call 703-684-4682 or visit www.TheOldTownShop.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Winter Lecture-Rose Care 101. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the fundamentals for selecting and growing fabulous roses. Lewis Ginter Botanic Garden horticulturalist Laurie McMinn will introduce participants to old family heirloom roses as well as many new roses that may become favorites. Adults. \$10/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 402.44A7 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Concert at St. Luke's. 5 p.m. At St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire, spanning a variety of musical genres. Including recent film composer, Don Davis's works to Celtic to J.S. Bach and Debussy. Followed by a reception to meet the performers. Cost: \$20 adult; \$15 senior; free to students 18 and under. Visit saintlukeschurch.net for more.



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Tolls Off the Table for Area Parkways

Public opposes Express Toll Lanes on Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) planner Thomas Burke told the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee that “tolls were not included in the strategies under consideration” as improvements to the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways at their meeting on Feb. 12 at the Government Center.

Burke was there to update the committee on the progress being made by FCDOT and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the “Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study” of the two major thoroughfares. The multimodal corridor study spans the often-congested 31 miles from Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) in the north, to Route 1 (Richmond Highway) in the south and includes 17 interchanges and 83 intersections.

FCDOT is leading the long-range aspect of the study, reviewing today’s deficiencies along the network and projecting future needs in order to make recommendations for improvements for 2040 and beyond. VDOT, in conjunction with the county, conducted an Existing Conditions study in 2017, developing more than 350 recommendations for immediate or near-term improvements to the roadways. To date, said Burke, 49 of those recommendations have been implemented. Still in the works for VDOT is a planned widening of a section of the Fairfax County Parkway from Route 29 to Route 123, including the interchange at Popes Head Road and Shirley Gate Road extension.

In October of 2018, FCDOT held three public outreach meetings to inform the com-



Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation’s Thomas Burke presented an update on the study of the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways which included a summary of the public’s feedback the department received after a series of outreach meetings last October. A number of proposals met with public approval, however the notion of adding Express Toll Lanes to either roadway received opposition.

munity of the project and to solicit public feedback before developing recommendations.

Some of the questions being posed included:

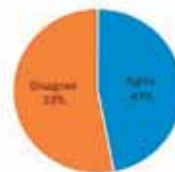
- ❖ How transit should be integrated into the corridor
- ❖ Addition of, or improvements to, interchanges and intersections
- ❖ Bicycle/pedestrian considerations
- ❖ Possible implementation of Toll and/or HOV lanes

At the meetings, attendees were invited to participate in several interactive exercises to offer their own suggestions. Comments sheets were also made available and, in addition, project managers pro-

Public Outreach Summary “Fall 2018”



Average Feedback on Comprehensive Transportation Plan



FCDOT and the project planners were pleased that their efforts to engage the public through numerous methods, including social media, resulted in “so many voices being heard.”

Burke summarized the responses for the committee. While HOV lanes were generally ranked below road widening and addition of transit options, the idea of adding toll lanes to any segment of either parkway was met with significant opposition.

FCDOT got the message. None of the preliminary strategies under review will include toll lanes as an option, although HOV-2 lanes, possibly just at certain junctures, are still being considered.

Burke’s presentation was met with appreciation for the work already done and still to come.

Supervisors John Cook (Braddock) and Pat Herry (Springfield) however, cautioned that they would like to see any strategies for improvements take a “more regional outlook” before recommendations are developed, with Cook asking “how do these concepts affect others roads in the region?”

Supervisor McKay (Lee) also asked that the FCDOT team keep up communications with the county’s delegates in Richmond, in light of upcoming legislation that could affect the project.

Burke says there will be more public outreach events in the next few weeks to report on the survey results to the community and gather additional feedback before further recommendations are brought before the committee and the full Board of Supervisors.

The update presentation, as well as history and additional information, are available on the county’s website.

FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

Virginia Joins States to Sue Trump Over Wall Funding

Concern over loss of funds for local military bases.

BY JAYLA MARIE MCNEILL
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Virginia has joined a coalition of 15 other states to challenge President Donald Trump’s declaration of a national emergency and to block the diversion of congressional funding to build a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico, according to a lawsuit filed Monday, Feb. 18.

“Concocting a fake emergency to build a needless wall goes against the Constitution and the values America was built on,” Attorney General Mark Herring said in a statement.

“President Trump’s ill-advised plan could divert critical funds from actual national

security priorities, including military construction projects at bases and facilities throughout Virginia. We must stand up to this administration when it violates the law and attacks our values.”

According Herring’s statement, the complaint was filed to block Trump’s “fabricated” national emergency declaration and the “unconstitutional” diversion of appropriated federal funding to pay for the construction of the border wall.

On Friday, Trump said he would declare a national emergency in order to bypass Congress to fund the construction of a wall along the southern border.

The White House released a statement stating that the president has “clear authority” to declare a national emergency and that Trump is taking “necessary steps” to “ensure we stop the national security and humanitarian crisis at our Southern Border.”

“We fight wars that are 6,000 miles away, wars that we should have never been in in many cases, but we don’t control our own

border,” Trump said in his speech Friday at the White House. “So we are going to confront the national-security crisis on our southern border. And we are going to do it one way or the other.”

The administration estimated that the national emergency declaration will make over \$8 billion in taxpayer funds available to build the border wall.

Other states participating in the lawsuit includes Hawaii, Colorado, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, New York and California.

The states contend that Trump’s emergency declaration is only a means to justify using federal funding to pay for his border wall. “The states allege that the Trump Administration’s action exceeds the power of the executive office, violates the U.S. Constitution and federal statutes, and would illegally and unconstitutionally divert federal funds appropriated by Congress for other purposes,” Herring’s statement

said.

“The suit seeks declaratory and injunctive relief to block the emergency declaration, the construction of the wall, and any illegal diversion of congressionally-appropriated funds.”

According to the attorney general’s statement, Virginia could potentially lose over \$130 million in military construction funding — money that is currently allocated for projects at Dam Neck, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Belvoir, Humphreys Engineer Center, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and the Pentagon.

Trump said that he expected his contentious national emergency declaration to prompt lawsuits. He remains confident, however, that his decision will be upheld by the Supreme Court, similar to the way his 2017 travel ban was upheld by the court in a 5-4 decision.

“We will have a national emergency and we will then be sued,” Trump said. “Hopefully we will get a fair shake and win in the Supreme Court just like the ban.”

OPINION

Coordinating Anti-Trafficking Efforts

FROM PAGE 6

vulnerable and highly susceptible to their sophisticated ploys. Victims often do not realize they are being trafficked because they form an emotional and psychological bond with their trafficker. As a result of this, victims are not easily identified and the criminal justice system too often treats them as criminals. No survivor needs to be prosecuted for the unlawful conduct which their trafficker coerced them to do.

Sex trafficking is a multifaceted problem that includes law enforcement, health care providers, social workers, legislators, and the education system. To combat sex trafficking, a proactive and collaborative approach is needed to address all areas of this problem.

This includes addressing preventative efforts such as identifying and providing intervention services to at-risk individuals as well as reducing recruitment and demand of prostitution services. Both of these preventative efforts can be accomplished through increasing awareness, education, and training. Furthermore, it is essential to properly identify, recover, and treat victims so that they are able to assimilate back into society and live free, happy, and healthy lives.

Various localities and agencies in Virginia have taken steps to combat sex trafficking; however, there is not a centralized point of contact at the state level or a statewide response plan. The Crime Commis-

sion identified this gap and recommended the creation of a Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator. I am proud to take the lead on this critical issue with the passage of my bill, HB 2576, which creates a Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Thankfully, this legislation passed both the House and the Senate. Additionally, my budget amendment to fund the Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator passed in the Appropriations committee that I sit on and is now included in the budget.

A coordinator will have the ability to organize efforts, conversations, and training among all stakeholders. Identifying gaps in service areas, treatment providers, and resources for victims will allow localities and organizations to establish comprehensive victim services across Virginia. This person will be able to serve as a liaison for governmental agencies, community members, and private organizations to identify victims of sex trafficking. Additionally, they will be able to track and monitor trends for the prosecution of sex trafficking.

Now, Virginia is taking the lead on this issue as one of only three states to have this position. There are many organizations throughout the Commonwealth working to combat sex trafficking and this coordinator will be the crucial first step Virginia needs to align efforts and create a statewide response plan that will save countless lives, many of them just young teenagers.

Seek Forgiveness, Reconciliation

At the invitation of state Sen. Scott Surovell, Rev. Dr. Keary C. Kincannon from Rising Hope Mission Church (A United Methodist Congregation) gave the following prayer before the Senate as calls continue for Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General to resign:

God our Creator and Redeemer, we follow you because we trust you to lead us to an abundant life. Where there is pain you bring healing. Where there is mistrust you bring hope. Where there is estrangement you bring reconciliation. Where there is sin you show the way to transformation.

Forgive us we pray for the sins of our nation and our commonwealth, and our individual sins – past and present – that have caused great pain and suf-

fering to many.

Give us the awareness to admit where we have sinned as a Commonwealth and as individuals. And give the maturity to seek accountability, forgiveness, reconciliation and restitution.

And, in these contentious days, give us the faith to offer forgiveness, trusting that in following your path, we and the Commonwealth we all so love, will be strengthened and restored, not diminished.

Be with this assembly of leaders, and with us all, to provide confidence and vision for the future of our state and county. Amen

— REV. DR. KEARY KINCANNON, RISING HOPE MISSION CHURCH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Cannot Wait

To the Editor:

My name is Havana and I am 8 years old. I am writing to ask Sen. Tim Kaine and Sen. Mark Warner to co-sponsor the Green New Deal. Since I was born, I have lived in five different countries and visited 20 more. And that is how I learned that girls, especially brown and black girls, are hurt the most by climate change.

Girls are the ones who are kept out of school when families become refugees due to climate disasters. I know because I have met these girls. I have lived in the same cities as these girls. I am writing to you for those girls who don't have a voice.

When I fight for human rights like clean air, clean water, or the right

to live without violence, it's because I want every girl in America and around the world to have the chance to reach their goals and dreams, because I think girls are going to save the world. I am only 8, and people underestimate me every single day. But I am writing you because I know you are never too little to make a difference. Kids have more to lose when it comes to climate change than

adults do — because we are going to live longer. I am asking you and all the members of the Senate to be stronger than fear. Senator Kaine and Senator Warner, I am asking you to join the movement and fight for a Green New Deal. The world cannot wait. Kids like me cannot wait.

Havana Chapman-Edwards
Alexandria

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Enough About Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

At least that was my intention when I sat down to write this column. I was planning on highlighting a couple of my pet peeves: One was about people who back into parking spaces, an all-too common practice (which does not make perfect) that irks me no end and often inconveniences me while idling in my car waiting for the driver to crane his neck and coordinate his mirrors while backing into a head-first space, all while blocking my passage.

The second peeve also involves cars, but this action has potentially far more dangerous consequences: Drivers who, while motoring along, completely ignore my car's blinkers/indicator lights – WHEN THEY'RE FLASHING.

I was taught that when driving a vehicle and needing to turn/switch lanes, I was to indicate that to other drivers by using my blinkers, look into my mirrors and then move right or left accordingly. Moreover, when I observed those same lights flashing in other vehicles, I was to respect their intentions and give them a wide berth. I was not to speed up and interfere with their indications. Unfortunately, the exact opposite often happens.

Though I am still respectful when drivers flash their blinkers, it often happens that when many of my driving brethren see those lights, they react much the same way as a bull does when he sees red: they SPEED UP, and in their vehicle's acceleration, they put me and my passengers at risk. If it has happened once – which it has – it has happened a thousand times.

Unfortunately, neither of these car-related "misbehaviors" has been able to block out one of my key cancer anniversaries: Feb. 20, 2009, and as such, I will now be returning to the scene of the semi crime. And though I am not Billy Shears 20 years after the band taught me how to play, I am a lung cancer survivor who 10 years ago on Feb. 20 learned that I had cancer. That was the day when my primary care physician called me at work, about noon-ish on a Thursday to discuss the results of my previous week's surgical biopsy.

After declining the offer to come to his office, I encouraged him to just tell me – which he did: the growth was malignant. Dumbfounded, I asked for further details, which he politely deferred to an oncologist (a specialty with which I was totally unfamiliar), with whom, while we spoke on the phone, my primary care physician scheduled a Team Lourie appointment for the following Thursday.

This officially ended the diagnostic process which had been going on since I showed up at the Emergency Room on Jan. 1, 2009 complaining of pain in my right side, an inability to take a deep breath and difficulty bending over.

With an inconclusive X-Ray to not corroborate, an otherwise healthy patient with no family history of anything relevant – especially cancer, the doctor was perplexed. Fifty days later I learned I had cancer. And so I remember that day/date, a day which will go down in infamy, so to speak – in my family anyway.

The intervening days, as I have written about recently, were spent investigating the cause of my original symptoms. Eventually all test results led to one conclusion: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

Meaning metastatic and inoperable, meaning "terminal." It was Feb. 20 when I learned my fate. (The following Thursday, Feb. 27, is another anniversary; that's when we met my oncologist for the first time and learned that my life would never be the same, or last nearly as long.)

But yet here I am, alive and reasonably well, writing about nonsense, mostly, instead of cancer, for this week, anyway. Good therapy for sure, and a nice change of pace.

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

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FROM PAGE 11

- phase, the community is being asked to visit fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan and:
- ❖ Take a short five-question online survey
- ❖ Join a community conversation in person: Feb. 25 – Alexandria; Feb. 26 – Fairfax; March 6 – Falls Church.
- ❖ Share the survey and conversation invitation with neighbors, co-workers and county family and friends.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Supervisor Dan Storck will be joined by County Executive Bryan Hill, County Chief Financial Officer Joseph Mondoro and FCPS staff to inform the community about the proposed budget, listen to feedback and further explain the budget process. Provide input during the budget public hearings at the Fairfax County Government Center on April 9, April 10 and April 11. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meets. 1-3 p.m. at the Hunter Mill District Office, Community Room A, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Planning Commission Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. For agendas or to sign up to speak, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planningcommission. For more Planning Commission information, questions or a printed copy of the agenda, call the Planning Commission office at 703-324-2865 (TTY 703-324-7951).

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Selective Mutism. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 – Room 100, Dunn Loring. Learn about the diagnosis of Selective Mutism and how symptoms are maintained and persist. Dr. Kristin Swanson is a clinical psychologist, specializing in work with young children (ages 2-12) and their families. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Fairfax County Police Recruitment Hiring Event. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Walmart, 7910 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. The County Police Department will be holding a mobile hiring event at the Mount Vernon Walmart this Friday. Meet officers and recruitment specialists, learn what the job entails, and start your application all in one place. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police for more.

Scholarship Application Deadline. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will award scholarships to African American female students who demonstrate a high degree of scholarship, leadership, and community service. Applicants must have a 3.0 or higher grade point average on a 4.0 scale and be a resident of Fairfax County.

Download an application at www.fcacdst.org/scholarship-application. Email fcacscholarship@fcacdst.org with questions.

Language Immersion Lottery Registration Deadline. Immersion lottery registration will close on Feb. 22 for grade 1. A SIS parent account is required to register. More information about Immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Super Transition Saturday. 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. This workshop is for parents and educators of students receiving special education services. Learn about Career and Transition Services (CTS) programming and course options for students with disabilities. This event also includes a student/parent panel where members describe their personal experiences. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

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9416 Old Mt Vernon Rd.
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1400 Oakbrooke Ave
\$637,500

Lovely spacious home in sought after Fort Hunt area. Special features include: 4 Bedrooms, 3 Full Baths, Gourmet Kitchen, FR with Fire Place, massive screen porch off FR, and garage parking!

SOLD!



8902 Beauchamp Dr.
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Expanded and updated contemporary on gorgeous half acre lot near Mt. Vernon Estate. Fabulous features include: bright open floor plan, glass window wall, gorgeous hardwood floors on two levels, and oversize two car garage. Large deck overlooks private grounds. Freshly painted interior makes this one move in ready!

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8314 Wagon Wheel Dr
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3 level Colonial situated on serene elevated lot overlooking natural wonderland. Private dock for your canoe, kayak, or small motor boat! Home has huge potential & features: 4/5 Bedrooms, large room sizes, hardwood floors, fully finished lower level w/ outside entrance, sunroom overlooking creek. Won't find another one like it!

SOLD!



3708 Carriage House Ct
\$810,000

Truly special property in prime location on gorgeous lot bordering Mt. Vernon Estate grounds. Fabulous home in pristine condition. Features include bright open floor plan, stunning glass walled addition, updated expanded kitchen, gorgeous hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms including master suite with recently remodeled bath, & 2 car garage. Custom deck & brick patio overlook backyard & MV Estate

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