



BUY A  
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VET

When we help our vets,  
we can all sleep better.

SEE OUR  
AD ON  
PAGE 7



Mount Vernon Estate's horticulturist, J. Dean Norton, with his family in front of the new barn. Joining him are, from left, daughter Isabelle Norton, daughter Zipporah Norton, wife Susanne Schrage- Norton, daughter Tallulah Norton, and daughter Penelope Norton.

## Estate's Horticulturist Celebrated For his 50 years of service.

Touted as a "Barn Warming Celebration," the Mount Vernon Ladies Association event on Friday, June 21, accomplished multiple objectives and achieved all of them at the same time. The Mount Vernon Estate completed and celebrated what could be considered a state-of-the-art livestock barn complete with all the accouterments of modern day barn design, showcasing the grand opening of George Washington's new livestock facilities.

In addition to a successful fundraising effort, the event featured a bluegrass band, line dancing lessons for interested guests, a barn dance, and a buffet-style barbecue. The Ladies Association also showcased perhaps the one celebration that exceeded all the others: Recognizing the work and dedication of one of its own, J. Dean Norton, who began his career at Mount Vernon at the age of 16, on June 23, 1969 and is still at it some 50 years later. In that time he became the Estate's horticulturist and won numerous awards for his outstanding horticultural work

— GERALD A. FILL



Demonstrating the measure of loyalty and appreciation the Ladies Association and staff have for Dean Norton, Anne Neal Petri, vice regent, Wisconsin, delivered a humorous monologue about Norton's life and times over the past half century working at George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate.



Hog Island sheep and lambs are kept in a nearby paddock area by the newly built barn. Mount Vernon Estate keeps the largest herds of rare Hog Island Sheep in the U.S. They are descended from an original flock on Hog Island in the mid-1600s.

## Youth Mobilize For the Environment

### Lessons from Fifth Annual Fairfax County Environmental Education Conference.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE GAZETTE

Environmental Student Leadership Initiative, formerly known as the Eco-School Leadership Initiative, presented its 5th Annual Fairfax County Environmental Conference. Held Saturday, June 22, inside and on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, the free, day-long event helped high school and college students learn how they, as student-instructors could get involved with environmental education initiatives. By teaching elementary school students using hands-on and engaging interactive games and activities, in the process, the young students would become interested in fighting environmental problems and become future leaders in

their communities.

In her Opening Remarks as Conference co-chair, Wendy Gao, a student at Oakton High School admitted to the 45 Northern Virginia high school and college-aged students seated before her, that when she joined ESLI two years ago, she didn't know how to solve climate change nor did she consider herself an "Earth enthusiast." Gao said she knew at the time that climate change was caused primarily because of fossil fuel corporations and "their political and economic lobbying power." Gao said she thought that creating policies to curb these corporations was the only way to solve the problem. She added that after joining ESLI, she understood that to reverse climate

**"There is a climate knowledge gap ... and that's why ESLI and environmental education is fundamental to the environmental movement."**

— Wendy Gao,  
Conference Co-Chair

change, all aspects of society — political, economic, social and academic — must "move in the same direction."

**THE MISSION of ESLI** is to create a network of young people who are passionate about environmental education. "Climate education is not a requirement in public school systems, and many schools don't offer environmental science courses," said Gao. "There is a climate knowledge gap ... and that's why ESLI and environmental education is fundamen-

SEE FOR THE, PAGE 4

6/28/19  
REQUESTED IN HOME  
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#WeAreAlexandria



### Del Ray | \$999,900

Contemporary 4-bedroom, 4.5-bath renovated home. Open floor plan with upgraded kitchen. Main level bedroom. Sensational master suite addition wows with personal deck. Finished basement. Large private yard with stone patio. Garage and driveway.

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### Warwick Village | \$639,500

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### The Plaza | \$259,900

2-bedroom, 2-bath condo in great condition. Balcony offers private quiet views. Extra storage unit & washer/dryer in unit! Deeded underground parking. The Plaza offers an outdoor pool, fitness center, sauna, party room, tennis courts. Near Amazon HQ2 & Shirlington.

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### Old Town | \$824,900

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Marvin Spychaj, Bingo committee chairman for the Knights of Columbus Council 5998, is pictured on left, giving a check to Angela Haney Clark, director of A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound, to go toward a new 4D color doppler ultrasound machine that she will use on college campuses and at women's health clinics to give expectant mothers free ultrasounds. Also present in the picture is Richard Hayden, treasurer for the Columbus Club corporate board that oversees Bingo, Life Director for the Council and also the Republican candidate for the House of Delegates, Virginia General Assembly, in the 44th District which encompasses Mount Vernon and part of Hayfield. The election is Nov. 5.



Marvin Spychaj gives a check to Antonio Coleman, chairman of the Board for New Hope Housing, to benefit Mondloch Place, Mondloch House and their housing program in general.

## A Night of Appreciation

The Knights of Columbus Council 5998 recognized volunteers at its Annual Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, June 15 at the Council Hall for their work and dedication which resulted in \$300,000 in charitable donations. The money is raised through the weekly Bingo operation and all net proceeds go to charity. The volunteers designate which charity they would like to donate to and, based on their total volunteer hours, a check in their name is given to that organization. Some area charities were in attendance to receive their check, but they were only part of the 88 total charities that received donations.

Council 5998 draws its members primarily from Saint Louis Catholic Church and Good Shepherd

Catholic Church along with other neighboring Catholic churches. They have been making donations and providing community services like Bread for our Brothers, part of the Saint Lucy Project, along the Route 1 corridor for more than 50 years.

The Knights of Columbus Council 5998 is located at 8592 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

**Grand Knight Leo McCormick and his wife Tanti McCormick along with their seven children receive a Family of the Month award for their collective volunteer efforts at Bingo and to the Knights of Columbus Council 5998.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Navy Sea Chanters Join Summer Concert Series

Weekly summer concerts at Workhouse Arts Center attracts families, music lovers.

BY ABBY SACKS  
THE GAZETTE

On Saturday, June 15, Mount Vernon Nights hosted the United States Navy chorus, the Sea Chanters, at Workhouse Arts Center. Mount Vernon Nights is one of several summer concert series put on by the Fairfax County Park Authority in districts across the county. Every concert in the series is free to the public and features local bands of varying genres.

The Sea Chanters began their performance with "Come Alive," a song from the movie "The Greatest Showman." Their set wasn't all musical covers, though. They also sang 1950s doo-wop, sea shanties, and patriotic songs like "God Bless America." The group closed the show with a medley of different songs, ranging from "Get Happy" to "Take Me Home, Country Roads."

The concerts at Workhouse Arts Center are popular activities for families to enjoy

summer nights together. Pru Bovee, a resident of Burke, was there with her son and sister and said she goes to the "Workhouse almost every time" there is an event there. "I love the atmosphere," she said. "It's very family friendly."

Tracy English from Springfield also went to the Sea Chanters concert with her family. She said they try to go to a few performances in the concert series every summer because they enjoy spending time outside. "It's something different to do," English said, rather than simply staying at home. Her family also attends concerts at the other Fairfax County Summer Entertainment Series venues, including Springfield and Braddock.

Many people choose which concerts to attend based on the music that will be performed that night. Mel Silberzahn went to see the Sea Chanters on Saturday because he is a Navy veteran. But, he usually goes to concerts that feature folk and bluegrass

SEE AT SUMMER, PAGE 17



The Sea Chanters perform "God Bless America."

PHOTO BY ABBY SACKS/THE GAZETTE



## VIEWPOINTS

### What Brings You to the Conference?

PHOTOS BY JULIA ZHOU  
THE GAZETTE



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE GAZETTE

**High school-aged attendees at the 5th Annual Fairfax County Environmental Education Conference take part in the Water Workshop led by Maria Harwood, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District.**

## For the Environment

FROM PAGE 1

tal to the environmental movement .... We do what we do because young people have a lot more power than we're allowed to believe," she said.

During the conference, attendees visited two out of five workshops; each illustrated a lesson student-educators could teach elementary school students. The interactive experience used available ESLI curriculum, lesson plans and materials which would be made accessible to student-educators who chose to volunteer their services as a teacher through an ESLI chapter — and how to start an ESLI chapter at their school if one isn't already established.

"This is what I expected as I wanted to get exposure to learning different aspects of the environment and implement teaching these concepts at local schools," said Gitika Gorthi, 15, of Oak Hill.

AGaurav Sethi, 16 and a student at South County High School in Lorton, was excited to network with other students his age. "I love to work with my peers, and this is the perfect opportunity for me because there are many people here with the same interest and passion," Sethi said.

At the "Water Workshop Lesson," co-led by Celeste Phillips, Madison High School student and Maria Harwood, Northern Virginia

Soil & Water Conservation District, attendees used a 3D EnviroScape Watershed education model. Through hands-on, multi-sensory experiences, conference attendees learned, as their future young students would learn, what a watershed was, how stormwater runoff carries pollutants through the basin to a pond, lake, river, bay, or ocean, and best practices to prevent this type of pollution from occurring.

Tim Turner, 16 of Lorton, said, "My main goal was to be able to understand more about our environment so I could inform younger children at elementary schools. ... The change starts with them."

AFTER LUNCH, Pat Hynes, Fairfax County School Board, Hunter Mill District, recalled seven years ago when the board received a presentation from the founders of ESLI, "we were very impressed ... but we worried about whether it would last after the founding students graduated. ... Well, not only has ESLI survived, it has thrived," said Hynes.

"The school board's strategic plan is grounded in what we call the portrait of a graduate. Those important skills we want our FCPS students to build, collaboration, critical and creative problem-solving, and effective communication, are best taught through project-based learning, real-world problem-solving through student-centered projects. ... We teach best and learn best in community through relationships and meeting real-world challenges," Hynes said, "I don't worry about ESLI continuing any more. Our challenge, as a school system, is to keep up and make sure we are taking full advantage of what you, as students are offering," she said.

For information about those who supported ESLI and how to join an existing chapter or create a new one, visit [www.eslileaders.org](http://www.eslileaders.org).



**Jasmine Evans, 15, of Chantilly:** "I think as time goes on our environment is getting worse and worse. I would like to improve and make future generations know how to take care of it."



**John Ray Morriberon, 18, of Chantilly:** "I probably won't be able to use all this knowledge soon because I recently graduated. In the future, I might use what I learn because I homeschool my sister."



**Sarah Garcia, 14, of .DC.:** "I had this thing in school where I taught second graders about the environment. It was a school project. I was really interested in doing it more and my friend recommended me to ESLI."



**Hita Yalla, 16, of Ashburn:** "It's very simple to use resources that are very accessible to you, like plastic. ... It's important to teach children to use alternative sources so they don't fall into the mindset of 'this is accessible, so I will just use this.'"



**Aadi Karthikeyan, 16, of Chantilly:** "I'm here today because I think educating elementary school students as early as Kindergarten about environmental studies is the only way to instill awareness in the youth of today."



**Janhvie Hoshi, 15, of Fairfax:** "I wanted to learn ways we can spread the message of keeping our home, our bay clean. Because young minds are easily influenced... it's important to teach them the right way to respect and maintain the beauty of their home."



**Trisdan Ko, 16, of Lorton:** "People don't realize and need to begin to realize the ways we are able to conserve our planet. We don't realize how everyday products... contain harmful by-products. The only way to help solve this issue is to inform others."



**Daniel Huffman, 17, of Chantilly:** "I came to this conference because young people are the ones who are going to experience the worst of the climate crisis and it is important that they are equipped with the knowledge and awareness necessary to address it."



**Christy Gao, 17, of McLean:** "I'm the co-president of the ESLI club at Langley, therefore I'm here to learn about ways I can help to expand our club activities and help the kids in my community to start caring about the environment."



**Bridget Lee, 17, of Great Falls:** "Our actions are hurting our Earth's environment and therefore the health of plants, animals, and us. If we continue our harmful actions, the Earth will continue on this path. I want to join students like Greta Thurnberg in helping the environment for all our benefit."



**Raj Solanki, 15, of Herndon:** "[I came today] to learn about how we can help the environment by teaching others about how important it is."



**Devin Cates, 16, of Herndon:** "I hope to spread environmental awareness because there are a lot of people who don't know how fast climate change is coming."

—JULIA ZHOU

## ESLI Chapters

### ESLI High School Chapters in Fairfax County

Chantilly High School  
Langley High School  
South County High School  
Marshall High School  
Madison High School  
Oakton High School  
Robinson Secondary School  
Thomas Jefferson High School  
South Lakes High School

### ESLI Virginia University Chapters

The College of William and Mary  
Virginia Commonwealth University



# Barricade Ends in Arrest

A Mount Vernon man is in custody following a barricade situation that ended around 11:30 p.m. June 11. Officers were initially called to the 3100 block of Cunningham Drive around 6:30 p.m. for the report of a man acting erratically and threatening others in the home with a hammer. Officers arrived and saw a 52-year-old man outside before he ran into the home and refused to surrender.

## CRIME REPORT

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

**COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:** 2800 Beacon Hill Road (7-Eleven), June 23, 2:25 a.m. Two men entered the store, threatened the clerks with an axe and stole cash and merchandise. Both suspects are described as black and 40 to 50-years-old.

**ASSAULT:** 6100 block of North Kings Highway, June 22, 2:05 p.m. The victim was walking home when two men on bicycles threw a brick at him and rode away. The suspects were described as Hispanic, in their 20s with short dark hair.

**ASSAULT:** 8200 block of Russell Road, June 20, 12:04 p.m. The victim was approached by a man in a parking lot and an argument ensued over a shopping cart. The man punched the victim in the face then ran away. Officers saw the man and when they tried to stop him, he ran. Officers were able to arrest the 25-year-old suspect of no fixed address, after a short chase. He was charged with assault, drunk in public and obstruction of justice.

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:** 1401 Belle Haven Road (Belle Haven Pizzeria), June 18, 11:30 a.m. Someone broke into the business and stole cash.

**JUNE 25 LARCENIES**  
2400 block of Fairhaven Avenue, beers from business  
**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, 2012 Dodge Ram

**JUNE 24 LARCENIES**  
8500 block of Cyrus Place, headphones from vehicle  
1000 block of Dalebrook Drive, property from vehicle  
800 block of Eden Court, cash from vehicle

8100 block of Fern Lake, sunglasses from location  
8400 block of Frye Road, merchandise from business  
6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
7900 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from location  
6200 block of Sandlin Court, cell phone from location

**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
8000 block of Ashboro Drive, 2003 Dodge RAM  
8600 block of Cyrus Place, 2018 Honda CRV

**JUNE 21 LARCENIES**  
7200 block of Richmond Highway, tip jar from business  
**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
7100 block of Tolliver Street, 2006 Toyota Avalon

**JUNE 20 LARCENIES**  
7200 block of Fordson Road, bicycle from location  
8200 block of Keeler Street, gun from vehicle  
7700 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from location

**JUNE 19 LARCENIES**  
7900 block of Casa Grande, license plate from vehicle  
7100 block of Fairfield Court, wallet

from residence  
8200 block of Fresno Lane, purse from location  
2300 block of Huntington Avenue, beer from business  
7100 block of Huntley Creek Place, packages from residence

**JUNE 18 LARCENIES**  
2800 block of Beacon Hill Road, beer and wine from business  
7100 block of Mason Grove Court, packages from residence

**JUNE 17 LARCENIES**  
8100 block of Fordson Road, cell phone, shoes and cash from business  
2300 block of Huntington Avenue, merchandise from business  
3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, detergent from business  
2500 block of Parkers Lane, cell phone from vehicle  
3300 block of Pelican Place, wallet from residence  
5300 block of Remington Drive, jewelry from residence  
7200 block of Richmond Highway, bicycle from business  
7700 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business  
8000 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from location  
8700 block of Richmond Highway, computer and cell phone from residence  
1900 block of Windmill Lane, license plate from vehicle

**JUNE 14 LARCENIES**  
8700 block of Richmond Highway, cash from business  
2400 block of Windbreak Drive, license plate from vehicle

Patrol officers contained the scene while crisis negotiators and tactical officers responded. Officers obtained a warrant for assault on a household member. Several hours later, officers from the Fairfax County Police Department's Special Operations Division made entry and safely took the man into custody. No injuries were reported as a result of the incident. He is being held at the Adult Detention Center without bond.

# Auxiliarists Clean Up Litter

Besides assisting the U.S. Coast Guard in encouraging Recreational Boating Safety, volunteer Coast Guard Auxiliarists support many other Coast Guard functions including environmental protection. On June 1, Auxiliarists from Flotilla 25-08 (Mount Vernon), in cooperation with the non-profit Four Mile Run Conservatory Foundation, cleared litter from Four Mile Run Park in Alexandria. They removed nearly 75 pounds of trash, much of it plastic, from the park's shore lines, natural areas and playing fields, preventing it from polluting Four Mile Run stream and eventually harming the Potomac River.

Coast Guard activities in support of maritime safety include protecting the marine environment and economic waterways. Learn more about the Coast Guard Auxiliary at <http://join.cgau.org/>. Contact Flotilla 25-08's Vice Flotilla Commander Tudorel "Ted" Caliga at [johnbielli@gmail.com](mailto:johnbielli@gmail.com) to discuss joining the Auxiliary.

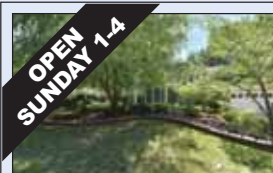


Flotilla 25 08 Marine Safety staff officer John Milkiewicz cleans stream bank at Four Mile Run Park.

PHOTO BY USCG AUXILIARY JOHN STEVENS



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OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4

**Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest \$654,900**  
**9209 Volunteer Drive**

Beautiful 2 lvl, 3BR, 3BA Split on a spectacular, landscaped .6 acre lot. Meticulously maintained & updated, i.e., roof replaced 2001, w/30 year shingles, furnace & A/C 2013, Superior Triple Paned Windows 2001, kitchen is open to the dining rm & has a lovely ceramic tiled floor & granite counters. Baths all updated in the past 3 yrs. Master bedrm expands into previous #2 bedrm & has a huge walk-in closet. The master bath is large & gorgeous. Finished lower lvl offers a huge (12x18) #3 bedrm & lovely L-shaped family rm w/wood burning FPL, also large & very organized laundry & utility rooms. The lower lvl walks out to a lovely, beautiful bkyd which backs to private woods. Great location for commuting-5 mins to the back gate of Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town, Alexandria (N), & 30 mins (N) to Regan National Airport - This is a Great Buy!!!



RENTAL

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$3,100/MO**  
**8405 Bound Brook Lane**

Beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA, 3 level Colonial w/carport & a stunning kitchen addition that creates a charming breakfast rm overlooking the scenic bkyd. Beautiful hwd floors & spacious rms. Bright, open floorplan on the main level. 2 FPLS. Walkout lower level. Lots of storage. Access the porch, deck & patio from the kitchen sunroom. This house is a nature lover's paradise - enjoy the beauty & the serenity!



UNDER CONTRACT

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$594,900**  
**8318 Cherry Valley Lane**

Popular updated "B" model Colonial w/4BRs, 2.5BAs, 2 gas FPLs & a single car garage, all on a beautifully landscaped lot. Numerous updates: refinished hardwood floors on main & upper levels, freshly painted interior, double pane windows & a delightful screened porch overlooking a beautiful bkyd. Family rm on main level w/a gas FPL & a 2nd gas FPL in the finished basement. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir- 30 mins to Natl' Airport. This market is hot so come on over & take a look.



UNDER CONTRACT

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$629,900**  
**3120 Little Creek Lane**

This is the Yorkshire everyone has been waiting for...Stunning & beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial w/2 car garage and spectacular yard backing to the woods. Roof, gutters, & HVAC 2019, HWH 2015, updated kitchen & baths w/ceramic, granite, & SS. Beautifully refinished hwd floors on main & upper levels, freshly painted interior & new carpet in finished lower level. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Alexandria, Old Town, 28 mins to National Airport & 30 minutes to the Pentagon! This is a gem!!



SOLD

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$564,900**  
**8309 Bound Brook Lane**

Riverside's largest Colonial model w/4 large BRs, 2.5 BAs & large 1 car garage. 2000 sq.ft. on the main & upper lvls plus 900 or so sq.ft. in the basement. A great floor plan w/a spacious kit, dining rm, living rm & family rm & half bath greet you on the main lvl. 4 large bedrms & 2 full baths on the upper lvl. The basement has a large "L" shaped rec rm & a separate utility rm w/a stairwell taking you to a beautifully landscaped & fenced bkyd. Updates include a brand new roof, double pane replacement windows, a remodeled half bath & stunning refinished hwd floors on the main & upper lvls. Priced in the mid 500's to allow you to create quick equity w/a fresh paint job & some updates in the kit. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & Old Towne (N).



SOLD

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$581,000**  
**3012 Battersea Lane**

Riverside's popular "Yorkshire" colonial featuring 3 finished lvls, 4 spacious BRs, 2.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage, all on a beautiful corner lot. Numerous updates include the roof, replacement double pane windows, HVAC system, hot water heater, refinished hwd floors on the main lvl w/Travertine flooring in the family rm. Additional finished space in the basement w/a rec rm & utility rm. Great location: 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, & 28 mins to Natl Airport. All this for less than \$580,000.



SOLD

**Alex/Riverside Estates \$671,000**  
**8332 Wagon Wheel Road**

\$100,000+ of outstanding renovations in Riverside Estates popular "B" model Colonial w/garage. New roof, deck, front door & A/C in '18. Kitchen & baths in '17. Kitchen totally gutted & opens to Living & Dining rms, includes: quartz tile counters, six burner gas range by Miele, new hwd floor, SS appliances & beautiful stained cabinets. All 3.5 baths are gorgeous. MBR combined w/another bedrm to offer a beautiful suite including a huge walk-in closet to die for. Beautifully finished lower lvl offers a 4th bedrm & 3rd full BA along w/an inviting Rec rm - perfect for a Nanny or Au Pair. DBL pane windows & 6 panel doors ....of course!!! Totally turnkey, enjoy!!!



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# OPINION

## Campaign Finance Reform? Yes

**Surprise! “No limits” can stimulate large amounts of campaign cash for many kinds of candidates and from many kinds of donors.**

Virginia is one of 11 states (Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Virginia) that impose no contribution limits on individual donors, says the National Conference of State Legislatures. The other 39 states restrict the amount of money that any one individual can contribute to a state campaign.

### EDITORIAL

But Virginia has no limits. No limits on what any individual can give to a candidate. No limits on what a state party can give to a candidate.

No limits on what a PAC can give to a candidate. No limits on what a corporation can give to a candidate.

No limits on what a union or employee organization can give to a candidate.

Only Utah, Oregon, Nebraska, and Alabama impose literally no limits as Virginia does.

Virginia's General Assembly, and established candidates, usually the primary beneficiary of this permissive environment for contributions, have chosen this stance deliberately. Supporters often cite disclosure requirements as somehow making unlimited campaign cash OK.

More money doesn't always lead to success for a candidate. The following information on contributions comes from Virginia Public Access Project.

Tim Chapman loaned \$845,094 to his own campaign seeking the Democratic nomination for chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Chapman also lost because even with all that money to get his message out, apparently his message did not resonate with voters. Jeff McKay, who won the Democratic nominee for chairman of the Board of Supervisors. McKay raised \$448,443.

Maggie Parker, running for the Democratic nomination for Hunter Mill supervisor, had

more than twice as much in contributions than the winning candidate. But more than half of her cash contributions, more than \$90,000, came from her employer, Comstock Partners, developer with multiple projects in Hunter Mill. Parker finished fourth out of five candidates.

Steve Descano ran on a platform of criminal justice reform. He loaned himself \$25,000 and received support from family. He also received more than \$450,000 from the Justice and Public Safety PAC; VPAP lists its business as “Democrat Advocacy.”

Descano won his challenge over Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh, who was facing his first challenge and had \$242,011 in contributions. Descano's message of progressive reform resonated with voters who turned out to vote.

Yes, let's have campaign finance reform and sensible limits on donations.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Update on RECenter

To the Editor,

The June 6, 2019 letter to the editor [Mount Vernon Gazette, “Still Waiting on Improvements”] concerning improvements at Mount Vernon RECenter needs clarification and a bit of fact checking. Thank you for this opportunity to provide accurate information and some project background. I want to emphasize that the entire process, from planning and evaluation, to design and construction scheduling has involved the public and welcomed community input. Furthermore, considering the scale of the planned improvements and expansion, our timetable is reasonable and in the best interest of the project and ultimately, the community.

The writer noted that bond funds from the 2008 Park Bond were used for improvements at Spring Hill and Oak Marr RECenters. However, it was the 2012 Park Bond which funded construction projects at both these sites. These projects were originally identified as future expansions when these RECenters were initially developed in the mid-1980s. The 2011 Park Authority Financial Sustainability Plan identified these projects as key to keeping the Park Authority's revenue fund solvent after the financial turnaround in the late 2000s.

The Mount Vernon RECenter was constructed in the late 1970s and early 1980s with the ice rink

being completed first and then the natatorium being added on. Funding in the 2008 Park Bond was allocated to begin feasibility and design studies to expand and renovate the Mount Vernon RECenter. To date a thorough facility assessment, feasibility study, and design/development plans for the renovation and expansion of the RECenter have been completed. As those plans were developed, they have been shared with the public. The facility assessment determined the existing pool and ice rink should remain with renovation and expansion of the RECenter occurring around these existing facilities. The feasibility study determined the need for expanded fitness space, additional multi-purpose space, modern locker rooms with accessible family changing rooms as well as updating the building systems that are at the end of their lifecycle. The feasibility study also indicated that there is a growing demand for indoor skating facilities and adding a second sheet of ice at the RECenter would be a cost-effective solution to meet the demand for additional skating facilities. Funding for the second sheet of ice is not currently identified.

Based on existing site constraints both the feasibility study and the design development process confirmed that adding a second story to the existing one-story building was the most effective way to provide for the additional facilities. Adding the second story brings the new front entry of the RECenter closer to grade with the

existing parking areas and allows for accessible access to the entry from the main parking area. Pedestrian and bicycle access will be accommodated via sidewalks and trails connecting to Belle View Boulevard and Fort Hunt Road from the new entrance.

The 2016 Park Bond included funding for the renovation and expansion of the Mount Vernon RECenter with a future phase for development of a second sheet of ice. Based on the need for additional ice the current design process allows for phased construction of the improvements to accommodate customer needs. The current project schedule has construction getting underway in December 2020, with an expected completion date in May 2023 based on an anticipated 30-month construction schedule. While project completion is later than originally projected in a May 2018 public presentation, we believe the complexity of the project, and the phasing of construction require a longer construction schedule.

Please keep in mind, that the potential addition of the second sheet of ice and supporting facilities, if funded in the 2020 Park Bond, could alter the projected completion date.

The Park Authority has a long and successful track record of capital project completion on time and on budget. We have no reason to suspect that this project will be any different from the many others we have undertaken. In fact, the phased approach to construction will allow us to open facilities as

they are completed during the construction period. Throughout the continued development process, the Project Team plans to update the public as significant milestones are achieved. We ask for patience as the work begins and look forward to a ribbon cutting and community celebration upon completion.

**Judy Pedersen**

Public Information Officer  
Fairfax County Park Authority

## Informing Constituents

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County Park Authority addressed the project concerns expressed in the June 6, 2019 letter to the editor [Mount Vernon Gazette, “Still Waiting on Improvements”] concerning improvements at Mount Vernon RECenter. There was also a request for additional communications regarding the project. Updates on the project can be found on the project website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/mount-vernon-recenter>. Also, as a reminder to the community, our office publishes a monthly newsletter – the Advisor, regular BOS (Board of Supervisor) Briefs and other community Updates. We also actively post to Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor. We are committed to keeping constituents informed on County projects and improvements, activities and developments.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

## Mount Vernon Gazette

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6  
ments occurring around the Mount Vernon District. To sign up for our newsletter, follow us on social media, and learn more about what is going on in the District, visit our website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/>.

Our office continues to work with county and Park Authority staff to ensure this project stays on schedule and provides the most benefits to our residents. We look forward to seeing the Mount Vernon RECenter improvements phased in over the coming years and ultimately to celebrating the ribbon cutting on this greatly enhanced facility with the community.

**Dan Storck**  
Supervisor,  
Mount Vernon District  
Fairfax County Board  
of Supervisors

## Legislative Fix Needed

To the Editor:


In Virginia, elected politicians can, in theory, be removed from office for various reasons includ-

ing criminal convictions, neglect of duty, misuse of office or incompetence. Virginia Code Sections 24.2-233 and 235 govern this issue. They require that a petition be signed by voters encompassing at least 10% of the number of votes cast in the prior election for that office. In reality, a recent Virginia Supreme Court decision has eviscerated these statutes.

In 1989, the Virginia Attorney General published the opinion that the only signatures requiring notarization are those of the persons collecting voter signatures. In 2018, the Virginia Supreme Court disagreed with that opinion, ruling that every one of the voter signatures must be notarized. This decision essentially renders elected politicians in Virginia immune from removal by voters. See Commonwealth of Virginia v. Erica W. Williams, 295 Va. 90, 809 S.E. 2d 672 (2018).

During the last legislative session, Senators Scott Surovell and Adam Ebbin and Delegate Paul Krizek held a town meeting at Walt Whitman Middle School. When it was my turn to speak, I brought this issue to the attention of these politicians noting that it is not a Constitutional issue but rather one

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18



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# Decision Helps Keep Drinking Water Safe

By SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court rendered a decision that has major significance for Virginia and especially for Northern Virginia, in addition to their decision on redistricting.

Few realize that Virginia has a series of uranium lodes that run along the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The largest lode is in Pittsylvania County on the North Carolina border, but a major series of lodes are in Madison, Culpeper and Fauquier counties at the headwaters of the Occoquan River. The Occoquan is a major source of drinking water for Fairfax and Prince William Counties.

After Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island near disaster in 1979, a partial meltdown of a nuclear reactor, the Virginia General Assembly in 1982 enacted a moratorium on uranium mining. While some federal permits are required for uranium mining,

most thought that the states were allowed to adopt more stringent environmental protections as they are for any other mining or environmental requirements.

Shortly after I was elected to the House of Delegates, the worldwide prices of uranium spiked after the supply of uranium recycled from Russian nuclear warheads was exhausted. The estimates of the value of the 119-million-pound Pittsylvania County lode rose to \$7 billion. There is still significant demand for uranium inside and outside of Virginia. Over 30 percent of electricity generated by Dominion Virginia Power comes from nuclear reactors on Lake Anna near Fredericksburg and the James River in Surry County. Also, uranium is imported from abroad and west of the Mississippi River.

In 2012, a team of international investors was assembled and their first step was to try to lobby the state legislature to lift the ban. They spread around campaign contributions and before the post-McDonnell gift ban went into effect, state legislators

were offered trips to France to see a uranium mine and from the proponents point of view, to show how uranium mining can be done safely. About 20 elected officials took the trip. I did not.

Ultimately, the legislature left the mining moratorium in place. Many of us were concerned about the environmental risk posed by mining and we respected the members who represented the affected areas who were strongly opposed, in part due to strong local opposition, even though, they argued, they were in dire need for jobs in Southside and Southwest Virginia.

I opposed lifting the ban largely because of the potential impacts on Northern Virginia drinking water. Over one million people depend on the Occoquan River for drinking water and any threats to that water must be taken seriously.

However, the mining advocates were not done. Two years ago, they filed suit seeking to overturn the Virginia uranium mining moratorium arguing that federal law pre-empted or prohibited any regulation by the state. The Trump Administration supported the pro-mining position.

Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court dis-

agreed in a 6-3 ruling. The gist of the court's decision was that Congress did not intend to take away states' discretion to regulate this activity.

The Occoquan River is still under threat. Prince William County is currently re-evaluating its rural crescent zoning policy. Earlier this year, we discovered that Micron's semiconductor manufacturing facility in Manassas was discharging water with elevated salt levels that was adversely affecting water quality in the Occoquan Reservoir. Fortunately, we were able to secure language in the state budget to require the Department of Environmental Quality to re-examine its permitting.

Last week's Supreme Court opinion was an important victory for clean drinking water. Uranium mining could pose a long-term pollution threat in Virginia and especially in Northern Virginia. Drinking water is a fragile resource and once mines start to leak, remediation is very difficult. Letting the ban stand is an important victory.

Please email me at [scott@surovell.org](mailto:scott@surovell.org) if you have any feedback.

# A Prevailing Wage Will Grow the Economic Pie

By PAUL KRIZEK  
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Virginia is only one of just eight states that has never had a prevailing wage law. A majority of states do. Construction workers on projects covered by prevailing wage laws must be paid the minimum "prevailing" wage and benefit levels that vary by occupation and geographical areas.

The best known prevailing wage law is the federal Davis-Bacon Act, a bipartisan bill from 1931 that applies to all construction with \$2,000 or more in federal funding. Previously, I introduced a prevailing wage bill in the General Assembly in an effort to prevent low bidders on state works projects from undermining local area wages. Though

it didn't pass, I expect that with a majority Democratic General Assembly after the November elections such a bill has much better odds of passage. That is a good thing for not just local construction workers who won't have to worry about their wages going down, but also to our Virginia economy, which will benefit because it supports local businesses with increased productivity, safety and quality workmanship, and provides the taxpayer with high-quality public works projects.

Three things can happen when big construction jobs are bid out without a prevailing wage. First, cut-rate contractors from out of state, or out of the country, may come in hiring less-trained workers and undermining the local market rate, thus bringing down wages for all local workers similarly situated; second, they take taxpayer dollars

back to their home states; and finally, they do not invest in worker training.

The old argument that a prevailing wage raises overall construction costs is a fallacy as higher construction wages are often offset by greater productivity, better technologies, and other employer savings, such as through increased safety. In fact, in Ohio, "The Economic, Fiscal, and Social Effects of Ohio's Prevailing Wage Law" peer-reviewed research study, which took 16 years, showed that there was no increase in construction costs based on their prevailing wage. Furthermore, prevailing wage laws increase the supply of apprenticeships and worker skills. Because, without a prevailing wage law, most construction workers change employers when they move from project to project, employers have little incentive to invest in worker training. Finally, worker safety increases because the skilled workers know what they are doing on dangerous work

sites, and that saves on workers' compensation costs and work hours lost to injuries.

The solution is to pay a prevailing wage rate that would be determined by the Commissioner of Labor for public contracts on the basis of applicable prevailing wage rate determinations made by the U.S. Secretary of Labor under the provisions of the federal Davis-Bacon Act. Then, these workers will have increased consumer purchasing power and spend the bulk of their money in our local community. They pay taxes locally and at the state level, so it's no surprise that states with strong prevailing wage laws have more money for schools, healthcare facilities, infrastructure, public safety, and vital services for our communities and our fellow citizens.

Enacting a prevailing wage will grow the economic pie for all Virginians. I'm proud to have patroned this legislation and I look forward to its passage as it is a top priority of mine.

# Joint Training Provides Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Practice

By BATTALION CHIEF ROCCO ALVARO  
BATTALION 406 C-SHIFT  
FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE  
DEPARTMENT

Recently units from Battalions 5 and 6, conducted mutual aid training with the Fort Belvoir Fire and Emergency Services Department. The training was an opportunity to practice aircraft rescue firefighting. As part of their annual certification process all Fort Belvoir personnel must

maintain their qualification in aircraft crash and rescue.

During their training sessions, personnel from the department were afforded an opportunity to hone their skills alongside their counterparts from Fort Belvoir. The training was sponsored by the Virginia Department of Fire Programs, which utilizes a mobile aircraft rescue training simulator. This computer-controlled simulator is fueled by propane and allows personnel to train within their local jurisdictions utilizing their own equipment.

These training sessions allowed personnel to practice extinguishing a fuel fire, interior cabin fire, and an engine fire. With Davison Army Airfield serving Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, and housing fixed and rotary wing aircraft, FCFRD personnel may be called in to assist with an emergency involving aircraft assets.

This type of training affords our personnel an opportunity to engage in specific skill sets in a somewhat realistic environment, while at the same time working jointly with our regional partners — this is truly a win-



**Firefighters practice aircraft rescue firefighting.**

win relationship.

See video at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=vacz3ENBLEY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vacz3ENBLEY)



# Answering the Call

BY LOLITA YOUMANS  
PRS CRISISLINK VOLUNTEER

I was treated like royalty this past month by PRS, a local nonprofit that helps people facing life crises and mental health challenges, as part of a variety of volunteer appreciation events. Although I appreciated being recognized, my work with PRS has become more than a volunteer job ... it is a calling.

My journey to become a PRS volunteer started a few years ago when I lost three people in my life to suicide within 18 months. The first was a coworker who had just survived a heart attack in the summer,

and came back to work full of energy. He died by suicide over Labor Day weekend. The next was a young friend of my daughter. They were all in their first semester of college. Her death by suicide was devastating. She had been a cheerleader, active in youth groups and just a sweet free spirit. The third death by suicide was a dear friend of mine, a few days before her 50th birthday.

Each of these heightened my awareness of suicide, and ignited a feeling that I should do something. I don't have a background in social work or counseling, so I was lost as to what I could do. One day a song came on the radio

about the suicide hotline, "1-800-273-TALK" by Logic, and that's when I knew.

I called PRS and signed up to volunteer for their CrisisLink program, which runs Northern Virginia's 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline.

From the first day of training, I felt like I was in the right place. It is so gratifying. Crisis workers serve as the containers into which callers pour their deepest hurts and disappointments about life. We don't try to fix things; we offer a safe haven for people to share their feelings without fear of judgement.

As I got involved, the biggest surprise for me was the vast range of circumstances that lead someone to consider suicide. We get calls from older adults who feel isolated; young children buckling from the pressures of school and their families; and successful people who feel they have achieved great professional success and come home to an empty house.

Last year during the holidays, I took a call from an older gentleman. He was in a nursing home and didn't have family to check on him. He talked about feeling lonely and didn't see any reason to keep living. He told me about his love of music. We started talking about all his musical interests, and I could sense his

mood lifting. As we were wrapping up, he sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth." It was beautiful and peaceful ... and reinforced for me that I was in the right place.

I answered the call, but it's so much more. Now other crisis workers have become friends, bonded by our shared desire to serve. After having been here for a year, I know that I have found my "tribe!" Of course, the need is great, and we always need more to join our tribe.

PRS CrisisLink is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - 1-800-273-TALK, 703-527-4077 or text 'CONNECT' to 855-11. To learn more about becoming a crisis worker, visit [www.prsinc.org/crisislink](http://www.prsinc.org/crisislink).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The CrisisLink runs Northern Virginia's 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline.**

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# A Difficult Conversation

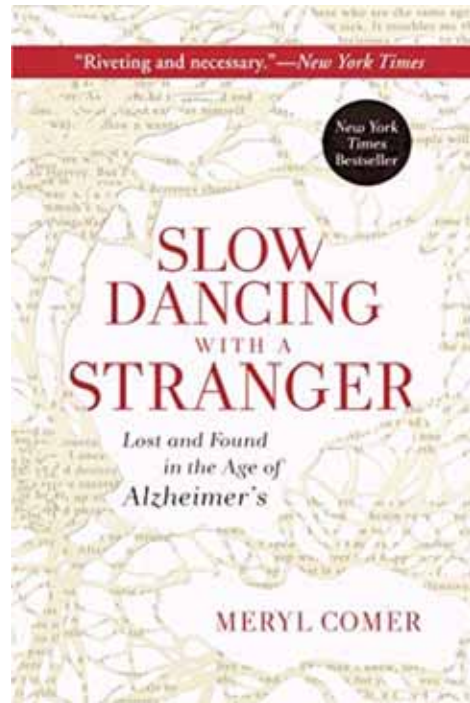
Talking to loved ones about Alzheimer's Disease

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

After witnessing the slow decline of family members with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, Ana Nelson knows the importance of early recognition of signs of the disease and enacting a plan as early as possible. During the month of June, Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, Nelson who is vice president of Programs and Services with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, is working to encourage family members who notice signs of cognitive decline in a loved one, to have an open dialogue, no matter how difficult.

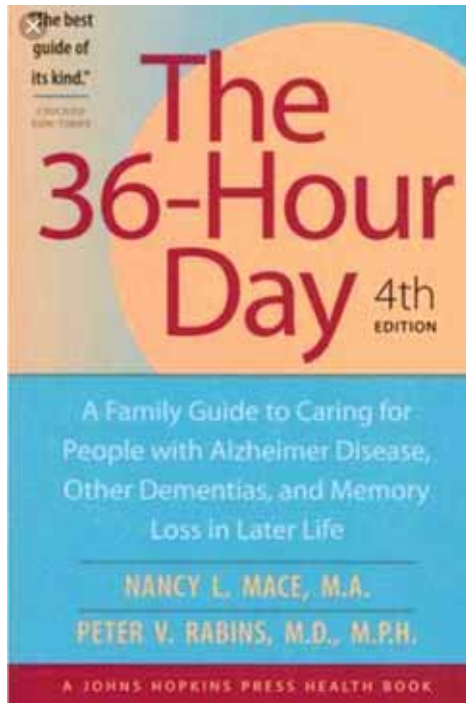
"You're always thinking that your parents or loved ones are going to be around for a long time, but we're talking about a disease where there's no way to stop it or cure it," said Nelson. "Alzheimer's is a progressive and incurable disease. You need to have the conversation as soon as you notice symptoms so that you can plan for it. Families sometimes wait too."

A new survey released by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that nearly 9 in 10 Americans say that if there were experiencing signs of cognitive decline they would want their loved ones to share their con-



Among the resources recommended for those dealing with Alzheimer's are books entitled, "The 36 Hour Day" and "Slow Dancing with a Stranger."

cerns. However, nearly three out of four Americans say talking to a close family member about such a decline would be chal-



lenging for them.

To offer ideas for closing that communication gap, Nelson points to a recently

## For Assistance

The Alzheimer's Association offers help to families as they navigate the challenges of the disease. It offers face-to-face conversations with local experts and a free 24/7 Helpline 800-272-3900. Additional resources can be found at alz.org.

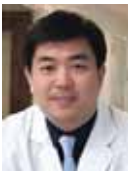
launched national campaign and partnership between the Alzheimer's Association and the Ad Council. The project, called "Our Stories" uses stories from people who've noticed cognitive changes in a family member and initiated a conversation.

An early diagnosis allows families to plan both financially and legally for the future. Recognizing the signs of mental decline allows for a timely diagnosis. "The most common early symptom of Alzheimer's is difficulty in remembering recent events," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., licensed clinical psychologist and associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Later symptoms are getting lost, problems with language, mood swings, lack of self-care, impulsivity, or lack of motivation."

Before initiating a conversation, plan the way in which it might begin. "You can

SEE TALKING, PAGE 11

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## Senior Living

# Talking about Alzheimer's

FROM PAGE 10

share what you have observed," said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C "For example, 'It seems you are having trouble with remembering some things' and give examples. You can ask, 'Is this frustrating for you? Have you noticed or spoken to your doctor?'"

"I recommend being direct, yet warm and caring," added Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Montgomery College.

Offering comfort and support can make the conversation less daunting, "You might say, 'I'm beginning to feel concerned about your health because I've noticed that you are having some trouble with your memory lately'" said Bagshaw. "Have you noticed that as well? How can I support you?"

Even with advanced preparation the conversation might not go as planned, says Nelson. "This is a delicate issue that might require multiple conversations," she said.

Encourage the family member to seek medical advice for an accurate diagnosis, suggests Barnaby. "Some mental confusion can be caused by certain medications, so it isn't always dementia," she said.

Be flexible realizing the conversation might not go as planned and raise concerns subtly. "Ask them if they have any concerns," said Barnaby. "You might say, 'I have been wondering how you are doing. You haven't seemed your usual self. I am wondering if you have noticed anything.'"

The Alzheimer's Association offers resources and assistance to those living with Alzheimer's and their families, says Nelson. "We are just a phone call away," said Nelson. "We offer help 24 hours a day, seven days in week and in more than 200 languages. It doesn't have to be a crisis situation. You can call even if you just need help."

**"Alzheimer's is a progressive and incurable disease. You need to have the conversation as soon as you notice symptoms."**

— Ana Nelson,  
Vice President of Programs and  
Services, Alzheimer's Association  
National Capital Area Chapter



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# ENTERTAINMENT



FILE PHOTO BY TOM ROTH

As a tradition that spans over 50 years, the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), organized an Independence Day Commemoration at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, with over 40 members of the SAR participating. The 2018 parade up the bowling green in front of the mansion was led by the Frederick Town Fife and Drum Corps 1745-1817 and the VASSAR Color Guard. Independence Day will be celebrated at Mount Vernon Saturday-Sunday, June 29-30 and Thursday, July 4 with festivities including daytime and evening fireworks. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Band Members Needed.** Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit [www.mvbands.com/join-us/](http://www.mvbands.com/join-us/).



Sheila Moses

**Riding the Rainbow.** Through June 30, gallery hours at Scope Gallery at 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Blinding color and vivid mixes are in the glaring spotlight for the "Taste the Rainbow" tribute to LGBTQ Pride Month at the Torpedo Art Center's Scope Gallery. Hues are huge as Ceramic Guild artists play with clay with an eye for celebratory color. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

**Art Exhibit: Landscape X3.** Through June 30, gallery hours at Gallery 311 at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Studio 311. In a new exhibit at the Torpedo Factory, painters Ellen Delaney and Gale Wallar and

photographer Jo Ann Tooley take on the traditional subject of landscapes. Delaney's paintings consist of larger-than-life abstracts while Wallar's work emphasizes a majestic topography with defined shapes and edges. Tooley's black & white photographs strip nature of its color. Visit [torpedofactory.org/partners/gallery-311/](http://torpedofactory.org/partners/gallery-311/).

**Art Exhibit: "Art in Meditation – the Chakras."** Through June 30, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. "Art in Meditation – the Chakras" features area artists interpreting the chakra energies. The exhibit, juried by contemporary artist Jeff Erickson, will have an associated Art-To-Go marketplace and Well Ray June 22. Summer solstice reception Friday, June 21, 7-9 pm. Visit [DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits](http://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits).

**4Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists.** Through July, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists highlights the work of African American men and women who have made important contributions to the growth and productivity of the City of Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

**Art Exhibit: More Than A Body.** Through Aug. 4, gallery hours, at Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents their competitive annual solo exhibition featuring Northern Virginia-based artist Julia Kwon. Kwon uses traditional Korean inspired textiles to create a dialogue on othering and objectification she

experiences as a Korean-American woman. Julia Kwon: More Than A Body will be on view June 14-Aug. 4. Visit [torpedofactory.org/target](http://torpedofactory.org/target).

**Creative Summer Programs.** Through Aug. 31 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in photography (macro and SmartPhone), painting, sculpture, mixed media, jewelry-making, sketching, and more; and discover how to use art for affirmation, communication, and intention. Details and registration at [DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/](http://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/).

**Mount Vernon Farmers Market.** Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets).

### THROUGH JULY 28

**Art Exhibit: Labyrinths and/or Mazes.** Gallery hours, Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, Labyrinths and/or Mazes. Sometimes one is led to success and sometimes one hits a dead end.

Gallery embers have pushed their paths and have come up with wonderful results. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 28

**Sunset Movie Night: Captain Marvel.** 7-11 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Summer Sunset Movie Nights at Mt. Vernon RECenter are back every Friday in June. Free. Visit [ZelsmanPowersGroup.com](http://ZelsmanPowersGroup.com) for details.

**Mount Vernon Nights: Empty Bottle String Band (Old-time, String Band).** 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 28-29

**Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon.** 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Start the celebration early with a patriotic evening filled with fireworks, Mansion tours, musical performances, and games. This fireworks show, beginning at approximately 9:30, is synchronized with patriotic music. Visit Washington's Tomb at night—this event is one of the few times this



# ENTERTAINMENT

area is open in the evening—and learn how 18th-century ice cream was made in the days before freezers. Concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant will also be available. Rain or shine. A separate ticket is required. \$20-\$36. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) or call 703-780-2000.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 28-30

**Waterfront Beer Garden.** Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekends. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Visit [PortsideInOldTown.com](http://PortsideInOldTown.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 29

**Workshop-Terra Cotta Succulent Container.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (16-Adult) Pot up a tabletop terracotta container with eye-catching succulents. A Green Spring horticulturalist demonstrates how to mix balance, scale, proportion, contrast and rhythm to make dynamic container designs for these fascinating plants. \$39/person for the program and \$25/person for the supply fee. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code D46.BA22 or call 703-642-5173.

**Young Writer's Workshop.** 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Author Sheila Moses will conduct a workshop for young writers (grades 8-12). Parents are welcome to stay. Learn how to tell a good story, what a publisher looks for in a new author and how to make story ideas a reality. Free. This workshop is limited to 15 people. Snacks will be provided. Bring a lunch. Call 703-746-4356.

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join



**High-fire sea otter and raccoon mugs by Peggy Reichard of Accokeek, Md.; high-fire sculptural wavy reed vase by Marsha Lederman of Arlington, Va.; crystalline-glazed soft Summertime blue and green bowl by Bikki Stricker of Falls Church, Va.; and Woodfired tea set in seafoam by Stephen Lally of Alexandria.**

## Ceramics Go Casual

The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists.

Drift dreamlike into endless combinations of color as lazy glazing encour-

ages hues in dreamy greens and soothing blues on vases, bowls and plates. The show runs July 1-Aug. 4, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**Workhouse Fireworks.** 5-10 p.m. at Workhouse Art Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year, the US Navy Band Sea Chanters – the United States Navy's official chorus – will treat guests to a performance that ranges from traditional choral music to opera, Broadway, and contemporary music. Guests at Workhouse Fireworks will also be able to enjoy local food trucks and craft beer and fine wine, as well as soft drinks. Free admission; \$25 per vehicle parking (purchase in advance online). Visit [workhousearts.org/fireworks](http://workhousearts.org/fireworks).

## SUNDAY/JUNE 30

**Dyke Marsh Meetup Walk with a Ranger.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh

Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm).

**In Transition Class.** Noon-3 p.m. at Salon deZEN, 118 North Fayette St. At deZEN people in transition can find a safe and sacred space where they are encouraged to explore how to visually represent themselves in the most authentic way. Meet others in the Trans community in a safe and supportive environment. Visit [www.salondezen.com](http://www.salondezen.com) for more.

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features the US Army Band Chamber Players and String Quartet. Free. Donations are

appreciated. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

**Fort Hunt Park Concerts.** Through Aug. 25, Sundays, 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. All are welcome for free community concerts held at Fort Hunt Park every Sunday. Free. Visit [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthuntconcerts.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forthuntconcerts.htm) for performer.

## JULY 1-AUG. 4

**Ceramics Go Casual.** Gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit [www.scopegallery.org](http://www.scopegallery.org).

## THURSDAY/JULY 4

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For more information contact Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, 703-360-6925 or [info@mtvernon-lee-chamber.org](mailto:info@mtvernon-lee-chamber.org)

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Tuesday - Kids 12 & under Eat Free with accompanying adult. 1 child per adult.

Wednesday - Roast Turkey Special

Thursday - Lasagna Night

Friday - Fish Fry

Saturday & Sunday - Full Brunch Buffet with Omelette Station

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## Mount Vernon Gazette

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# ENTERTAINMENT

8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Salute the first commander in chief during Mount Vernon's annual Independence Day event. Celebrate Independence Day with daytime fireworks, military reenactments, and a wreath-laying ceremony. Enjoy birthday cake (while supplies last) and visit with General and Mrs. Washington. Listen to a performance by the National Concert Band during its "Red, White and Blue" concert and observe a ceremony to honor new citizens. Rain or shine. Included with general admission. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/an-american-celebration](http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/an-american-celebration) or call 703-780-2000.

**July 4th Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Waynewood Recreation Park, 1027 Dalebrook Drive. Plants known to thrive in this area will be sold by the Garden Club of Waynewood, whose members will be available to answer questions. Email [bjbulleit@gmail.com](mailto:bjbulleit@gmail.com) or [pattimorrison1613@yahoo.com](mailto:pattimorrison1613@yahoo.com).

**Declaration of Independence Reading.** Noon-1:30 p.m. in Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The community is invited to a reading of the Declaration of Independence in Historic Pohick Church by historical re-enactor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Costa, portraying the Rev. Mr. Massey, rector of Pohick Church in 1776. The reading will take place at noon, with free docent tours of the colonial church of George Washington and George Mason following the reading. Free. Call 703-339-6572, or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

**Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon.** 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Enjoy a patriotic evening filled with

fireworks, Mansion tours, musical performances, and games. This fireworks show, beginning at approximately 9:30, is synchronized with patriotic music. Visit Washington's Tomb at night—this event is one of the few times this area is open in the evening—and watch sparks fly at blacksmith shop. Concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant will also be available. Rain or shine. A separate ticket is required for this special evening. \$20-\$36. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/independence-fireworks](http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/independence-fireworks) or call 703-780-2000.

## FRIDAY/JULY 5

**Mount Vernon Nights: Ellis Dyson & The Shambles (Gypsy Swing).** 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

**Serenade! The Human Journey.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S Pitt St. Classical Movements and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts copresent the 9th annual Serenade! Choral Festival, welcoming vocal ensembles from all over the world over for a meaningful exploration of "The Human Journey: Music, Migration & Identity," part of the Kennedy Center's year-long series of programs, The Human Journey. Free with registration at [www.eventbrite.com/e/serenade-the-human-journey-st-pauls-episcopal-in](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/serenade-the-human-journey-st-pauls-episcopal-in)

[alexandria-va-tickets-59775560310](http://alexandria-va-tickets-59775560310).

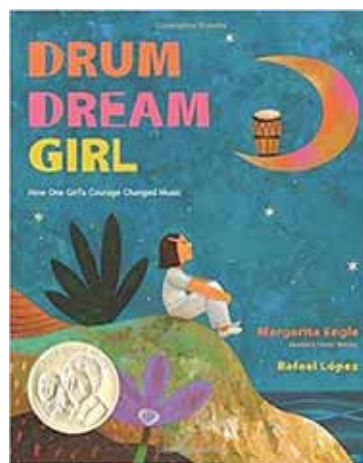
## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 5-7

**Waterfront Beer Garden.** Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy award-winning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekends. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Visit [PortsideInOldTown.com](http://PortsideInOldTown.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JULY 6

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwood-regional).

**Story Time for Little Historians.** 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All



## Story Time for Little Historians

Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. Saturday, July 6, 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at [shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx).

children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at [shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx). **Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a

summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**Mount Vernon Nights: The Tom Cunningham Orchestra (Big Band).** 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

## SUNDAY/JULY 7

**Chamber Concert Series.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features composer and pianist Haskell Small.

Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org) or call 703-799-8229.

## MONDAY/JULY 8

**Yoga for Gardeners I.** 9:30-10:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) This class features a gentle introduction to the Vinyasa method which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary

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**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

**MOUNT VERNON ATHLETIC CLUB**

**KIDS' ART CONTEST**

Summer is the perfect time to celebrate kids and their creativity!

Kids in the community who want to be part of the art contest should draw a picture (on 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper) of mommy and / or daddy exercising!

We'll have 3 age categories:  
1-4 years old  
5-9 years old  
10-12 years old

**A fun PRIZE basket** will be given to each age group winner and a 30 minute massage for one parent of each winner (see image to right)!

**ENTER TODAY!**

**THE DETAILS:**

- Open to children in Alexandria
- Must submit artwork to the front desk at MTVAC by 6/30
- Full name of Parent & Child legibly printed (no cursive) on back of art
- Phone number, an email address & birthdate of child must also be included
- One entry per child
- 6/30 is the last day to submit!

All artwork submitted will be displayed for 2 weeks while votes are collected and then winners will be contacted!

The members and the community will vote and then we'll publish the results in the local Mount Vernon Gazette, at the club and on our social media pages. Good Luck & Have Fun!

Questions? Email: [lwant2bfa@mtvac.net](mailto:lwant2bfa@mtvac.net)  
7950 Audubon Ave., Alexandria, VA 22306

**Another Alexandria Gazette Packet Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership**



# ENTERTAINMENT

## 4 Dates to Circle in July

BY HOPE NELSON

**W**ith summer's official dawn comes a treasure trove of activities to surprise and delight a multitude of diverse palates. From ice cream to watermelon, tequila to tea, Alexandrians can taste a wide array of experiences throughout July. Here are some of the most interesting bets.

### Ice Cream Hands-On History Day at Lee-Fendall House, July 13

Tis the season for ice cream, and the Lee-Fendall House is scooping it up with a side of history. Kids and adults of all ages can learn the backstory of how ice cream came into being, as well as get a hands-on lesson in making it the old-fashioned way from scratch. And what good would all this learning be without a taste test at the end? Take a tour of the house to finish out the proceedings (and maybe burn a couple of those calories back off). 614 Oronoco St. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$4 for adults, \$2 for children 2-12, free for infants under 2.

### Watermelon Day at Nalls Produce, July 20

What good is summertime without a hearty watermelon or two? Nalls Produce has you covered. Sample a slice of watermelon, and if you like what

you taste, purchase a chilled whole fruit to take home. Nalls has activities for the whole family — and a plethora of plants and produce to pick up, too. 7310 Beulah St. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Taste of Tequila at Trademark, July 24

Summer's not complete without a tequila or two to wash things down. The Trademark is hosting a "Taste of Tequila Reception" to celebrate the drink. The restaurant will sport four stations set up with different tequila cocktails, each paired with one of the Trademark's food items to go alongside. Lift a glass and toast to the warm weather. 2080 Jamieson Ave. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$48.

### The Bougie Girlfriend Tea at the Lorien, July 27

Looking for an opportunity to bust out your favorite fascinator? The Bougie Gals are hosting a posh tea at the Kimpton Lorien Hotel and Spa that will give you the chance to dress up, meet new people and nibble on an assortment of tea-party goodies. Dress in your garden-party finest to enjoy scones, smoked salmon and dill cream on pumpernickel, ham and Brie sandwiches, mimosas and more. 1600 King St. Noon-3 p.m. \$85 early-bird; \$100 general admission.

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

## CALENDAR

for gardening. Class held indoors. \$91/person for eight hour-long classes. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code 6E6.C2FC or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Garden Sprouts Summer- Nature Playgroup.** 10-11:30 a.m. (3-5 yrs.) Your preschooler enjoys nature-themed toys and puzzles while you meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. Through games, songs, activities and a garden walk we explore July's topic: Camping. \$8/child. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code F8D.F5EB or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

### TUESDAY/JULY 9

**Simpson Gardens Stroll.** 10-11 a.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stroll through Simpson Gardens with Extension Master Gardeners as they describe the gardens' variety of demonstration beds that combine sustainable gardening practices with appealing aesthetics: waterwise gardening, scented plants, plants that attract pollinators, plants that prefer shade, and plants that have appealing structure and texture. Free. To reserve a spot, register online at [mgnv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/](http://mgnv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/). Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email [mgarlalex@gmail.com](mailto:mgarlalex@gmail.com).

### JULY 11-29

**Musical: "Be More Chill."** at the Ainslie Arts Center on the campus of Episcopal High School, 3900 West Braddock Road. Be More Chill follows nerdy loner Jeremy, who ingests a supercomputer called a "SQUIP" in order to become cool and popular. Be More Chill is directed by Izzy Smelkinson with music direction by Marika Countouris. In addition to

mounting the first professional production of the show in the D.C. metro area, Monumental Theatre Company will also be employing an all-female design team. Visit [www.monumentaltheatre.org/be-more-chill.html](http://www.monumentaltheatre.org/be-more-chill.html) for tickets.

### FRIDAY/JULY 12

**Mount Vernon Nights: The 19th Street Band (country rock).** 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/mt-vernon-nights) for more.

### SATURDAY/JULY 13

**Workshop: Casting Concrete Leaves.** 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Capture the beauty of ornamental leaves by casting them in concrete to decorate home or garden. Green Spring staff demonstrates casting and painting techniques and assists participants in making a treasure to take home. The cost is \$43/person for the program and \$25/person for the supply fee. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code 95A.5596 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Watercolor Workshop: Monet & Water Lillies.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Monet contributed to the art world with his monumental water lily paintings. Be inspired by Monet's style and create water lily paintings using techniques like glazing, dry-brush, wet on wet, washes and more with the help of instructor Dawn Flores. Supply list e-mailed before class. The cost is \$93/

person. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) using code 7A1.D2F2 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

**Beyond the Battlefield.** 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. A guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town featuring locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. \$15 in advance, \$20 gate. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or call 703-548-1789.

**Here is to a Healthier You.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church (Education Building), 301 N. Patrick St. Min Kirshnamurthy, in-store nutritionist at Giant in Fairfax, VA, will present "Eight Steps to a Wealth of Health." Free. RSVP required at 703-683-1473 or [www.eventbrite.com/e/here-is-to-a-healthier-you-tickets-62311502381](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/here-is-to-a-healthier-you-tickets-62311502381).

**Summer Saturdays.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit [www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events](http://www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events).

**Old Town Pub Crawl.** 1:30-6 p.m. Port City Brewing Company will host its sixth annual Old Town Pub Crawl in Alexandria. Over the course of the afternoon, more than 1,000 participants will visit eight bars and restaurants in Alexandria's Old Town. Port City team members will be handing out pub crawl passes at all eight pub crawl stops from 1:30-2:30. Participants who have their passes stamped at all participating venues can pick up their commemorative pint glass from 5-6 p.m., while supplies last; no purchase required. Visit [www.portcitybrewing.com/events/6th-annual-port-city-old-town-pub-crawl](http://www.portcitybrewing.com/events/6th-annual-port-city-old-town-pub-crawl) for more.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of a public evening event, Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, June 28 between 9:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. (15 minutes)  
Saturday, June 29 between 9:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to [Events@MountVernon.org](mailto:Events@MountVernon.org)

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# New Board Members Elected at Good Shepherd Housing

**F**our new members have been elected to Good Shepherd Housing's board of directors.

"Good Shepherd Housing has long been an established force to reduce homelessness in our community," said Board Chair Alexis Feeney Tallman. "We are excited to welcome these four new board members who bring added depth of experience in affordable housing development, government relations and advocacy."

❖ LaShaunda Ford is a senior technology services manager for

Dell Technologies, a licensed Realtor and the owner of Edible Bliss – A Southern Cake Bakery which grew out of her love for desserts and entertaining. Her technical career began after she received her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Math from Prairie View A&M University in 1997 and subsequently obtained her Masters in Business Administration from Meredith College in 2004.

Ford is also an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Junior League of Northern Virginia, Women in Technology –

Girls in Technology Program, National Society of Black Engineers, and National Black MBA Association, Society of Women Engineers, as well as, an active member of Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria. She continues to serve in leadership roles in many of these organizations as well as volunteering her time to civic and political causes.

❖ Peter G. Gartlan is president of Donohoe Development Company, as well as vice president of The Donohoe Companies, Inc. His responsibilities include the direc-

tion of the day-to-day operations of the Development Division. He began his career with The Donohoe Companies in 1981 as an estimator for Donohoe Construction, working on a range of projects including residential, commercial, hospitality, institutional and Metro facilities. Prior to his current role, Gartlan was president of Donohoe Construction Company. He has built or developed thousands of apartments, condominiums and hotel units, plus millions of square feet of commercial and institutional projects.

Gartlan holds a Bachelor of Science in Building Construction from the Virginia Tech College of Architecture and a Master of Business Administration from the Virginia Tech Pamplin College of Business. He is a former Board and Executive Council Member of the DC Building Industry Association; an Advisory Board Member for the DC Coalition for the Homeless; an Advisory Board Member for the Alexandria-based Child & Family Network Centers; and a member of the Urban Land Institute.

❖ Steve Hartell is a director of Public Policy at Amazon and leads the Congressional Affairs team in Washington, D.C. Additionally, Hartell leads Amazon's public policy engagement on a number of corporate policy priorities including intellectual property, workforce, and corporate taxation. Before joining Amazon, he worked in similar positions at Cisco Systems, Inc. and EMC Corporation. Prior to joining the private sector, Hartell worked for Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC) and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. He continues in service to Hollings through his board seat on the Hollings Center for International Dialogue, a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to fostering dialogue between the United States and countries with predominantly Muslim populations in the Middle East, North Africa, South Asia, Eurasia and Europe.

Hartell is married and has three daughters. The family resides in Alexandria where Hartell is active in the community. He recently served as the president of the board of New Hope Housing, an organization that provides shelter and transitional housing to homeless individuals and families in Northern Virginia. He is currently on the board of the Alexandria Soccer Association. Hartell received his B.A. from the University of South Carolina and his M.A. from The George Washington Uni-

versity.

❖ Lisa Sales is the chairman of the Fairfax County Commission for Women (CFW) and serves as the Mount Vernon District Commissioner. Ms. Sales also sits on the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council (DVPPCC), chaired by Supervisor John Cook. She has been active with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and is a Task Force Member of Supervisor Dan Storck's

Moving On Safe Haven Project. In March 2019, Sales was part of the team acknowledged for bringing a new domestic violence shelter to the Route 1 corridor. Recognizing there is a link between the lack of equality for women and the sexual violence perpetrated against them propelled her into the VARatifyERA campaign, coordinating efforts in the Northern Virginia region for its ratification.

Sales is a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, advising federal government clients such as the Department of Defense on matters of policy, strategic communications, project and change management. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and a Master of Public Policy and Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.

The new members join the GSH Board of Directors which includes officers:

❖ Chair: Alexis Feeney Tallman, director of Strategy and Planning, Anthem, Inc.

❖ Vice Chair: Willie Tate, vice president - relationship manager, TD Wealth

❖ Treasurer: Michael E. Bennett, chief financial officer - Ourisman Automotive Group

❖ Secretary: Joyce Zoldak, retired, associate general counsel, Office of General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons



Ford



Gartlan



Hartell

## Ventura Inducted into Leadership Society

**N**oah Ventura, member the Boy Scout Troop #1509 and Venturing Crew #1022 and a resident of Alexandria, has earned the honor of being inducted into the National Capital Area Council Youth Leadership Society. Only three Scouts have ever attained this honor.

Ventura, Eagle Scout, 15, demonstrated outstanding commitment and dedication to leadership through his roles in Order of the Arrow – Boy Scouts Honor Society, National Youth Leadership Training Staff, and Council Venturing Officers Association.

"Scouting has a tremendous impact on my life and has shaped me into a better leader and person," said Ventura. "It has taught me humility and to give back to my community that has given me so much more in return."

Ventura was honored at a Court of Honor on June 10 at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church. His award was presented by David Florenzo, Scout Ventura's current Venturing Crew advisor and previous Cubmaster from Pack 1509.



Crew 1022 Advisor David Florenzo and Eagle Scout Noah Ventura

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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## Supporting Alice's Kids

**Student Council leaders from St. Louis Catholic School in Alexandria, present an \$800 check to Alice's Kids. The students raised this money from a May "Comfy Clothes" day and the Student Council voted to donate all the proceeds to Alice's Kids. From left: Travis Nienaber, Student Council vice president; Samantha Rough, Student Council president; Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of Alice's Kids; Julie Dunn, 6th Grade Student Council representative; and Kathleen McNutt, principal of St. Louis School.**





PHOTOS BY ABBY SACKS/THE GAZETTE

Pathway between two buildings of the Workhouse Arts Center leading to the center field.

## At Summer Concert Series

FROM PAGE 3

music because those are his favorite genres. Bovee also chooses concerts according to music taste. She prefers pop songs and “anything [she] can sing along to,” she said.

Mount Vernon Nights will continue hosting free outdoor concerts through Aug. 31 every Saturday at 7 p.m. It will feature bands of all genres, from jazz to R&B to Bollywood. Families and pets are welcome.



Audience members watch as the Sea Chanters sing.



Pru Bovee from Burke likes concerts at Workhouse Arts Center for the family friendly atmosphere.



Mel Silberzahn likes going to concerts across Fairfax County because the spaces are “all nice venues,” he said.



Tracy English from Springfield went to the Sea Chanters concert with her family for a fun and different kind of night out.

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### Legals

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SSN Fort Belvoir LLC trading as Hampton Inn & Suites Alexandria Fort Belvoir, 6843 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria, Fairfax County, VA 22309-1508. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on and off Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Pi-yush Bhaidaswala, Manager/Member authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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## That of Which I'm Most Proud



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not ending the title of this column with a preposition?

Not starting either of these sentences with a "so?"

Not beginning any of the first three sentences with an "especially" or an "and" (although I do begin many sentences with "And," just neither of these so far)?

No, of what I'm most proud, at least in the context of the nonsense I've presented so far, is my ability, going on a few months now, to ignore the illuminated warning lights on the dashboards of both of our cars: "Maint Req'd" on one and the low tire pressure icon on the other.

Typically, these kinds of non-stop reminders would have bothered me – like having an itch you can't scratch or a stone in your shoe.

Not anymore. These dashboard reminders barely register a blip on Kenny's radar.

I place the key in the ignition. I turn on the car. I see the various dashboard lights illuminate. And after the engine has begun idling, I see the remaining lights.

No problem. I just place my foot on the accelerator and go.

Though I might give these "idiot" lights a first thought and a second look, I will not be giving them too many more thoughts or looks as I drive around. Nor will they bother me in arrears when I arrive at my destination. Out of sight and out of mind, "totally," to quote my late mother.

As you may have discerned from reading the two preceding paragraphs, as it involves cars, I'm not exactly a hands-on person. More like, hands off.

Granted, this lack of interest and, dare I say, manliness, has no doubt cost me thousands of labor-rate dollars at the dealership/mechanic.

But it's just not me. It's never been me. I'm a sports and chocolate person. The only thing I want my hands on is the television remote or something sweet.

And tools? To quote your favorite Italian mobster: "Forget about it."

Definitely hands off, literally, especially if there's a car in the driveway. As far as I'm concerned, that's the danger zone. Nothing good will ever come from yours truly entering it.

In fact, I'm almost positive the repair will end up costing me more if I do it myself (which I couldn't do anyway). Throw in the frustration and perspiration involved and you have a match made nowhere near heaven.

Heaven will have to wait, I suppose.

Spending the repair dollars I have over the years doesn't thrill me either. But I have no choice. I can't do anything about my lack of abilities.

To quote the great philosopher, Popeye the Sailor Man: "I 'yam what I 'yam." And I have to pay what I have to pay. I remember always dreading the repair cost when a dashboard warning light would appear.

I knew that light (like the wedding invitation George received in a long-ago Seinfeld episode) was going to cost me hundreds of dollars. Hundreds of dollars which I did not have. That warning light, to invoke George from the same episode was "a bill." But as I've proved recently, that's a "bill" I've been able to ignore.

I know, ignoring a warning light seems stupid. Where's the future in that?

The repair is unlikely to fix itself and unless the bulb illuminating the warning light burns out, my negligence/ability to ignore it, is likely making a bad situation worse. Unfortunately – or not – however, I don't have a Pavlovian response to seeing that light. Seeing it doesn't make me instinctively react anymore.

It's not like banging one's knee with a "doctor's hammer." My wallet doesn't just open when the dashboard warns me. I just drive on.

Now if the light starts flashing, that's a different story, and one I haven't written yet, and I hope I never do. Because if that light does start flashing, I won't be able to ignore it, and likely, not be able to afford it, either.

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

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

that only requires a legislative fix. They expressed their unawareness that this had occurred and explained that they could not initiate the fix during that legislative session because internal rules of the General Assembly limit the number of bills each one can propose, and each of these politicians had already submitted their full limit. They all pledged to address and resolve this issue in the next legislative session.

I am submitting this letter to the Gazette at this time merely to get a head start on the decision making process these politicians employ to decide which bills they will propose in filling up their quotas. Since each of them pledged to take appropriate action to fix this problem during the next legislative session, this letter is intended, during the current election season, to remind them of and hold them to that pledge. The appropriate fix is to clarify these statutes to make clear that the only signatures that need be notarized are those of the persons collecting voter signatures, verifying under oath that they indeed verified the identities of voters signing the petition.

H. Jay Spiegel  
Mount Vernon

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SOBER-RIDE FOR JULY 4

**Free Sober Rides.** Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Friday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 6 p.m. on July 4 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 29

**Forum on Disability Inclusion.** 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and The Arc of Northern Virginia will host a Disability Inclusion Conference, which will include over 25 display tables, a panel discussion, and community breakout sessions on topics such as employment, housing, public safety, social opportunities, and business-to-business tips for creating inclusive retail spaces. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided. Free to attend. All members of the community are welcome. More information and registration is available at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/disabilityinclusionconference2019](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/disabilityinclusionconference2019).

### MONDAY/JULY 1

**Application Deadline.** Each year, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia provides a grant opportunity to help public schools encourage healthy lifestyles through increased exercise and better nutrition. Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded in a competitive grant process. Public elementary, middle and high schools located in Northern Virginia are all eligible to apply. Visit [www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/healthy-kids-grants](http://www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/healthy-kids-grants) for more.

### TUESDAY/JULY 9

**Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group.** 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's topic is After Hospitalization: What's Next? Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.



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## 9348 Mount Vernon Cir

Opportunity is knocking at Mt. Vernon on the Potomac - the area's premier waterfront community! Amazing price below tax assessment provides opportunity to put your personal stamp on this solid brick colonial! Huge potential with many features to work with including: recently installed "Andersen" windows, three finished levels, four large bedrooms, family room off kitchen, custom built ins throughout and oversized 2 car garage. Gorgeous private yard enhanced by custom pool with massive pool deck backing to private woodland. Bring your boat too!

**NEW PRICE!**



## 4296 Neitzey Pl \$1,994,000

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!

**JUST LISTED!**



## 3249 Woodland Ln \$1,060,000

Stunning opportunity! Custom home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading luxury home builder. No expense was spared in this estate caliber property which was built with numerous upgrades and expanded floor plan. Special features include: stunning bright and open floor plan, 2 story entry foyer and family room, Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

**JUST LISTED!**



## 3717 Carriage House Ct \$950,000

Riverwood gem with all the updates and improvements you're looking for. Classic colonial façade enhanced with custom brick work and trim. Floor plan enhanced by 2 sunrooms creating open and bright interior.

Special features include: 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, sun room additions, freshly refinished hardwoods, large deck overlooking serene back yard with ponds, basement with fireplace and custom bar, oversized 2 car garage. Great opportunity to be in one of the area's premier neighborhoods for under \$1 Mil!

**JUST LISTED!**



## 4706 Tarpon Ln \$715,000

One Story luxury-expanded & updated Ranch just steps to Mount Vernon Yacht Club. Prime location on 1/2 Acre Lot Just steps from river, spectacular property, bright, White custom Kitchen, updated baths, main level master suite, newly finished lower level with direct walkout, 2 Fireplaces, oversized 2 Car Garage, spectacular grounds with large brick patio!

**JUST LISTED!**



## 9223 Allwood Dr \$615,000

Fully updated and turn key home on incredible almost .80 acre lot! All designer finishes and style enhances this 5 Bed/3 Bath home. Special Features include: Full HVAC system replaced, new designer kitchen, some new windows, hardwoods just refinished, interior paint, new tile basement flooring, huge deck just re-stained overlooking private grounds, covered parking, and a short stroll to Mansion House Club neighborhood pool! Incredible value for stylish turn key home in heart of Mt. Vernon!

**SOLD!**



## 3808 Colonial Ave \$849,500

Updated colonial in prime location on quaint street near Mt. Vernon Estate! Fabulous home features bright, open floor plan and many updated items commonly found in \$1 Mil+ homes! Special features

include: high ceilings, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite, finished lower level, and side load 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks back yard and private conservation land. Gorgeous setting!

**SOLD!**



## 9316 Heather Glen Dr \$775,000

Fully renovated and expanded. Idyllic pool scene emphasized by walls of glass allowing views of the pool and tranquil back yard scene from many rooms! Special features include: 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, 4 bedrooms on upper level, incredible pool scene, and 2 car garage. Your own private oasis in Mt. Vernon!

**SOLD!**



## 9505 Lynnhall Pl \$1,250,000

Just completed: Top to bottom renovation maintains the stunning Antebellum character and charm! Potomac River views, expansive verandas & half acre lot give this home a classic Tidewater Virginia feel. Brand new kitchen, baths, fixtures, flooring, the list goes on and on! Great opportunity for virtually new home in desirable Oxford neighborhood!

**SOLD!**



## 9112 Volunteer Dr \$655,000

Spacious Colonial in the Williamsburg tradition featuring premier setting on large level lot in the desirable Westgate community near Mt. Vernon Estate. Features include: 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths, huge master suite with 2 large closets

and private bath, 2 fireplaces in family and living room, hardwood floors on both levels, two car garage, & incredible sun room overlooking half acre rear grounds complete with two storage sheds.

**SOLD!**



## 3601 Riverwood Rd \$785,000

Nicely situated 4 Bed, 2.5 Bath updated home in lovely Riverwood Community. Home features: updated custom Kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, beautiful hardwood floors on main and upper level, master suite with private bath and custom closet, replacement windows by Pella, gas fireplace, screened porch, fenced rear yard, and side load 2 car garage. Community has serene riverfront walking path and beachy area!

**SOLD!**



## 4710 Dolphin Ln \$629,500

Exceptional opportunity near river just steps from marina and club house in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates! Imposing home in commanding setting on elevated grounds overlooking neighborhood with some views of water, huge room sizes and very few steps offer great potential for creating your own estate with close to one level living. Features include 5 bedrooms/4 full baths and amazing oversized two car garage. Rare opportunity to acquire property with true nautical estate vibe in premier setting for remarkably reasonable price!

**SOLD!**

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**CHRIS WHITE 703.283.9028**

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