

Citizens Shape Assembly Agenda

Fairfax delegation to General Assembly hears from public before heading to Richmond.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

The 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly convenes on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Before the state senators and delegates head off for Richmond, many of the Fairfax County contingent met with constituents in a Saturday, Dec. 6, public hearing at the County Government Center.

More than 100 registered speakers and their supporters braved single-digit temperatures for the opportunity to tell their elected representatives just what they hoped to see included in the upcoming legislative agendas.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova welcomed the delegation, and then began the hearing as "Speaker # 1," representing the interests of the entire county.

Funding for the educational needs of the county was first on Bulova's ask list — a theme that was often repeated during the marathon five hour-plus hearing. She followed that request with an appeal for funding for WMATA, citing that reliable and safe public transportation is critical to the economic health of the region.

THE GROUP "More Recess for Virginians" came out in full, green t-shirted force, asking the delegation to support legislation that would include



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) meets with Bill Barfield, second vice president, Legislative Committee co-chair for the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Barfield, a mathematician who lives in Fairfax, and Tim Thompson, the Federation's president, presented their representatives with a list of 11 legislative issues for consideration.

recess as part of the "instructional hours" in elementary schools. Recess supporter Theresa Sheipe from Fairfax asked the legislators to provide the School Board more flexibility to better serve the children, and Shannon Hamilton, Ph.D., a neuroscientist from Alexandria, added "Science is on the side of recess. We hope you are, too."

Other topics included concerns for the environment and climate change impact, with many arguing for renewable energy sources, and several opposing what they consider the "influence of Dominion Energy" on Virginia policies. The Faith

SEE CITIZENS SHAPE, PAGE 4



Jeanne Lavelle of Fairfax, with the assistance of interpreter Jessica Holt, addresses the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly. Lavelle advocated for funding to ensure that deaf and hearing impaired children are not left "functionally illiterate" because they are not given the opportunity to learn language skills. "Many deaf kids leave high school with third and fourth grade literacy abilities ... and not because they are not bright," Lavelle testified.



State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) admits she has her work cut out for her in the 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia Legislature. She's tackling Paid Family Leave, Gun Safety, Domestic Violence Prevention, Medicaid Expansion, K-12 education reforms and improvements, and Equal Taxing Authority for Counties, to name a few.

'Hodie'

Fort Hunt High School alumna Hoda Kotb becomes The Today Show co-anchor.

BY VERNON MILES
THE GAZETTE

At NBC she's known as Hoda Kotb, but around Mount Vernon she'll always be Hodie.

On Jan. 2, Kotb officially became the permanent co-anchor of The Today Show, replacing Matt Lauer after his termination following accusations of sexual misconduct. Kotb joined NBC as a Dateline correspondent in 1998 and has been a fill-in host at The Today Show, but before all that she was a rising star in the Fort Hunt High School Class of 1982.

"We all called her Hodie," said Kelly Shawn, a classmate one year ahead of Kotb who ran track with Kotb. "I didn't know her real name was Hoda until I first saw her on NBC."

Kotb was born in Oklahoma to Egyptian parents and moved to Alexandria with her parents during junior high school.

"Her family was from Egypt, and that was new, different and exotic," said Karen Miller, who went to middle school and later high school with Kotb. "We weren't unused to international families in the area, but Egypt was not typical. But she blended in very quickly and made friends very quickly. She was a leader and a good friend."

Shawn said the distinction between high school classes never meant much to her and helped make her popular throughout the



Hoda Kotb, Fort Hunt High School Class of 1982

school. In her senior year, Kotb was chosen as the Homecoming Queen. Miller said it was memorable because the Homecoming royalty had generally been selected

among certain clichés, but Kotb drew the school together around her.

"That was really overwhelming," said Miller. "So many people liked her and she was chosen to represent us. It was kind of the antithesis of a popularity contest. Our senior class officers were people

who hadn't run for things before. We were speaking out against people who would be the typical choice."

"She was friendly to everyone," said Shawn. "When she was a freshman, she didn't care that she was an underclassman. She got along with everybody."

Many of her classmates and

mentors said Kotb was gregarious and very involved with athletics. The student superlatives from yearbooks say she was voted "most spirited", "most popular", "friendliest", and "jolliest jock." She lettered in two sports, Varsity Basketball and Varsity Field Hockey, and led the basketball team to its first Northern Regional Tournament in

SEE FORT HUNT, PAGE 3

"We were all very proud of her. The whole Fort Hunt community was proud. They couldn't have picked a better host."

— Kelly Shawn, Fort Hunt High School classmate

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PEOPLE

Local Landmarks Inspire Author's First Novel

Legal thriller meets murder mystery.

BY LOGAN BOTTS
THE GAZETTE

Driving along George Washington Parkway, the same way many Northern Virginia commuters start their day, is how Mount Vernon resident John Wasowicz, found the inspiration for his first novel, "Daingerfield Island." "Daingerfield Island," a legal thriller meets murder mystery, is a story based on and inspired by local attractions and landmarks. Though many people might drive past and find Daingerfield Island an idyllic marina, Wasowicz mused about a darker reality and set the stage for his murderous novel.

In addition to his local surroundings, Wasowicz was inspired by his career when writing his novel. A graduate of Catholic University Law School, Wasowicz has been practicing law in Northern Virginia for over 30 years. Following a stint as a prosecutor in Arlington County, Wasowicz spent 15 years working for private practices or as a



Wasowicz

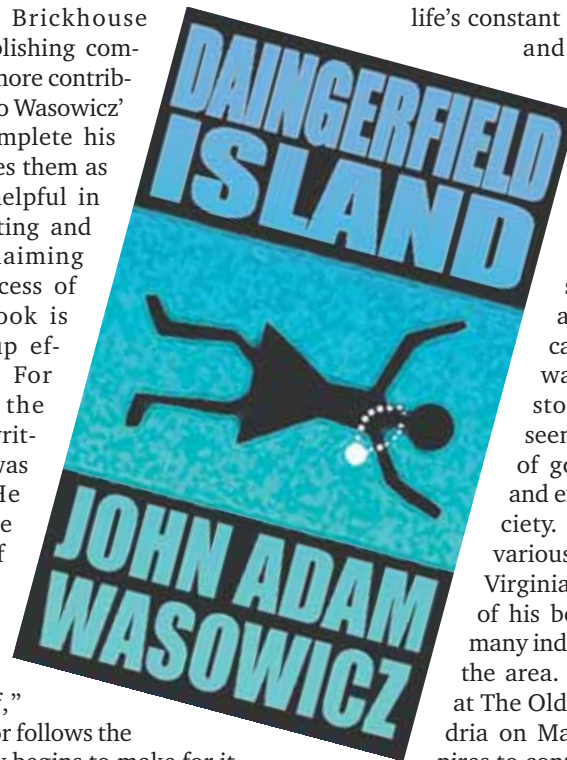
solo practitioner in law offices in Arlington, Fairfax, and the City of Alexandria. Wasowicz has since returned to the public sector where he has been for the past 12 years. Inspiration for the book began when Wasowicz was a prosecutor. Ideas for fictional characters emerged from his time in the courtroom and examining numerous cases. Many of the characters are a fictitious blend of the figures Wasowicz encountered over his legal career. The behaviors of many attorneys he has encountered and the observations he has made had a major impact on the characterization of some of the key figures in "Daingerfield Island." Having the experience of standing before judges and juries contributed to the detail Wasowicz was able to infuse into his writing.

As for the writing itself, Wasowicz notes that when writing a book "you spend a lot of time by yourself taking the ideas that have been percolating in your head during the day and putting them down on paper

at night." Brickhouse Books, a publishing company in Baltimore contributed greatly to Wasowicz' ability to complete his novel. He cites them as being very helpful in terms of editing and feedback, claiming that the process of writing a book is truly a group effort. For Wasowicz, the process of writing a book was exciting. He said that the best part of writing is when "the story begins to write itself," and the author follows the path the story begins to make for itself.

Wasowicz wanted to incorporate a moral into his story by making it a reflection of

life's constant balance between good and evil. His book is an acknowledgement of the fact that the force of evil sometimes nears the strength of the good. Throughout his career Wasowicz has observed that hubris and arrogance are the root cause of most crime. He wanted to ensure that his story demonstrated the seemingly constant efforts of good forces to unmask and expose the evil in our society. Wasowicz has visited various locations throughout Virginia to sign and sell copies of his book which are sold at many independent bookstores in the area. He is scheduled to be at The Old Town Shop in Alexandria on March 22. Wasowicz aspires to continue his journey as an author and his next book, which will feature characters from "Daingerfield Island," is set to be published later this year.



Fort Hunt Community Proud of Their 'Hodie'

FROM PAGE 1

the school's history.

"She was really just a good person," said Jeff Dietze, former athletic director at Fort Hunt High School. "She was a really good athlete. She played really good field hockey and basketball."

In the senior yearbook, there's a photo of a student's shots with the school spelled out across the back. While a popular trend now, Miller said it was unheard of and a little scandalous at the time. The photo is uncredited, but Miller says it was Kotb; a mix of her humor and school spirit.

But her friendliness in person didn't keep her from being competitive as an athlete. Dietze said she was a dedicated team player, at one point going to a field hockey game instead of a parade where she'd been selected as the Homecoming Princess. The team won 1-0 that day,



Hoda Kotb, now co-anchor of The Today Show.

with a 9-1 record for the entire year. "We used to say she filed her elbows before a game," Dietze joked. "I never heard a bad

thing about her, she was nice, but you didn't want to mess with [Kotb] during a game. She was about the nicest person you'd want to meet until you saw her on an athletic field, then she was all business."

Those who knew her said her selection as anchor of The Today Show doesn't come as much of a surprise.

"I wasn't surprised," said Miller. "You really could see her fun loving personality, but she also came from a background in serious journalism. You can see she'd really returning to that aspect of it."

"I was very excited," said Shawn. "I thought she had a great personality, was very smart and she'd be a great fit. We were all very proud of her. The whole Fort Hunt community was proud. They couldn't have picked a better host."

Hoda Kotb was Homecoming Queen at Fort Hunt High School.



FORT HUNT HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will present the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School at 7 p.m. The School Board plans to hold a budget work session on Jan. 22, and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on

Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019.

SATURDAY/JAN. 13

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.
❖ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.
❖ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

SUNDAY/JAN. 14

Film Screening. 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Mount Vernon AAUW presents a screening of the film "GerryRigged: Turning Democracy on Its Head." Representatives from the League of Women Voters and OneVirginia2021 will lead the discussion afterwards. The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. Call 703-780-8494 or visit mtvernon-va.aauw.net. Free.

MONDAY/JAN. 15

Schools Closed. All Fairfax County Public Schools will be closed on **for Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 16. See the 2017-18 school year calendar at www.fcps.edu.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. in Room 106 of the Herry Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold its annual public

comment meeting on the agency's proposed fee adjustments. The public meeting agenda includes a brief presentation on the fee process followed by an opportunity for public comment. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

The Match Game: Volunteering With Passion and Purpose. 10 a.m.-noon at Woodlawn Center at Woodlawn Elementary School, Entrance #7, 8505 Highland Lane. A
SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 4

Citizens Shape Assembly Agenda

FROM PAGE 1

Alliance for Climate Solutions, 350 Fairfax, and The Climate Reality Project put forth speakers representing their organizations, among the dozen or so individuals who also spoke on the issue. Social services advocates were also well represented.

Speakers from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, The ARC of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board, Northern Virginia Family Services, and Social Action Linking Together, along with numerous individuals, like Jeanne Lavelle with the Virginia Association for the Deaf, urged the delegation to consider the needs of the community's less fortunate and the more vulnerable.

Several of the social service organizations also supported the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth, as did speakers from the county government employees union, SEIU Virginia 512.

State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) responded to the "expansionists" that they wouldn't find many dissenters on that topic among the legislators on the dais.

Advocates for stronger gun safety laws, bipartisan redistricting and voter protection, the decriminalization of marijuana, banning solitary confinement in prisons, funding of judge-ships, immigrant support, and providing more

powers to the civilian police force review panel and auditor all had their turn at the microphone.

In past years, citizens had more opportunity to talk with their representatives after the hearing, but the length of this year's event saw several of the legislators called to other duties before the close, and even the majority of the citizen activists did not make it to the moment when Saslaw called "time."

A HANDFUL of the delegation did linger, including state Sen. Chap Peterson (D-34), state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), and Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86).

Petersen took a few moments to chat with his constituent Bill Barfield, who had testified and presented the legislative issues put forth by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association.

Boysko will be sponsoring the Dignity Act this session, and supporting in-state tuition legislation, as part of her agenda.

Favola provided information on her 2018 Legislative Agenda.

High on the list is working to get counties the same taxing authority as cities. "Counties are providing the same services as cities, and the discrepancy in taxing authority is really unfair," she said.

Paid Family Leave, Gun Safety, K-12 Education reforms and enhancements are also in her



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER

Theresa Sheipe of Fairfax of the "More Recess for Virginians" group spoke in favor of protecting and expanding recess in Virginia schools. Sheipe and others provided studies and analysis that demonstrates the benefits of increasing free time for youngsters.

sights. Favola admits that some of her proposed legislation requires taking some "big steps," but that on many of the issues, "many small steps have already been taken, so there's reason to be optimistic.

To track what state senators and delegates are up to in the General Assembly, to contact them, or to track the progress of proposed legislation, visit www.virginiageneralassembly.gov.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

workshop designed to help prospective volunteers match skills, hobbies and passion with volunteer opportunities in the community while learning about GrandInvolve — a volunteer experience that uses a volunteer's skills and experience to help students succeed in school. Email info@grandinvolve.org or visit www.grandinvolve.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26

Nomination Deadline. Nominations are being accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation for Virginia's 2017 Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year. Parents, students, and teachers are welcome to submit a nomination and photo online. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard for more.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Comment Period Closes. The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for review online, at the Park Authority's main office in the Herrity Building and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Job Fair. FCPS is searching for educators with a strong academic background and a passion for making a difference. To meet increased hiring needs FCPS is hosting an invitation only job fair during which they will be interviewing candidates in all instructional areas. The fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 3, with a snow makeup date of Feb. 24. To learn how to be considered for an invitation, visit www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 24

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

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 8

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Andrea Jensen, of Alexandria, was named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) trustee's list for the fall 2017 semester. Students on the trustee's list have achieved a 4.0 grade point average for two or more consecutive semesters.

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On behalf of all of us at United Community Ministries -- and especially the families we serve -- thank you for making our New Year brighter.

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Join us at the Give From the Heart Gala on Sat., April 14!

Staying Safe with SoberRide

A record 1,225 people in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free safe-ride service, SoberRide, this New Year's (from 8 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31, 2017 through 4 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"During WRAP's first year of partnership with Lyft, SoberRide has removed well more than two times as many would-be drunk drivers from Greater Washington's roadways as compared with the previous year," said John Undeland, former Chairman of the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program, the organization conducting the region's SoberRide effort. "There is no better way to ring in the new year than by saving more lives with SoberRide and we look forward to even greater success in 2018."

WRAP's most recent holiday SoberRide offering – which concluded on Monday, Jan. 1, 2018, after kicking off and running nightly since Dec. 15, 2017 – provided a total of 1,838 free Lyft rides to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking. During the evening hours, area residents celebrating with alcohol could download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home while supplies lasted.

The major jump in SoberRide usage is attributable to WRAP's partnership with Lyft, announced in March 2017, to provide SoberRide service in the Washington-metropolitan area. Lyft and other ride-hailing services have become a transportation mainstay of Millennials and iGen-ers, who statistically are more likely to drink and drive than older drivers. The SoberRide numbers demonstrate that would-be drunk drivers are much more apt to use a ride-hailing service than a conventional taxi. Transforming SoberRide into a more accessible service for potential drunk drivers was the rationale for WRAP's teaming with Lyft according to the nonprofit. The full roster of SoberRide sponsors is provided below.

The most recent New Year's ridership of 1,225 users surpassed WRAP's previous record ridership for the holiday, which had been 967 SoberRide users in 2010. Last year, 336 individuals used SoberRide during the overnight of New Year's Eve.

Since partnering with Lyft, ridership for WRAP's SoberRide program has well more than doubled: 4,248 riders in 2017 versus 1,655 riders in 2016. These full-year numbers include WRAP's provision

of SoberRide on St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, Independence Day, Halloween and the recent winter holidays.

"We're thrilled to see how many people took advantage of this initiative and used Lyft to get a reliable and convenient ride home after celebrating. Looking back on 2017, our partnership with WRAP made it possible for many people to take a Lyft ride on some of the busiest holidays of the year. We're looking forward to continuing this valuable partnership into 2018 and ensuring more passengers can safely get where they are going," said Steve Taylor, General Manager, Lyft Mid-Atlantic

Lyft provided SoberRide trips throughout the Washington-metropolitan area to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking. SoberRide was offered throughout Lyft's Washington, D.C. coverage area which includes all or parts of: the District of Columbia; the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William. The service was provided solely through the Lyft's mobile app.

Sponsors of this year's Holiday SoberRide campaign include the 395 Express Lanes, AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Brown-Forman, Constellation Brands, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Giant Food, Glory Days Grill, Heineken, Lyft, MillerCoors, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Since 1991, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 70,544 free safe rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Founded in 1982, the nonprofit [501(c)(3)] Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) is a coalition of diverse interests using effective education, innovative programs and targeted advocacy to end alcohol-impaired driving and underage drinking in the Washington, DC metro area.

Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths historically lower than the national average.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at www.soberride.com.

Coast Guard Auxiliary

Working with active duty U.S. Coast Guard personnel, Coast Guard Auxiliarist John Milkiewicz, a member of Auxiliary Flotilla 25-08 in Alexandria, prepares to open a shipping container during a Multi-Agency Strike Force Operation (MASFO). These container inspection exercises are conducted jointly by Coast Guard Marine Safety specialists, trained volunteer auxiliarists like Milkiewicz, and law enforcement officers from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and its Transportation Security Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, and Maryland Transportation Authority Police. To learn how to become a volunteer auxiliarist, visit cgaux.org/.



PHOTO BY JOHN STEVENS/COAST GUARD AUXILIARY



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OPEN
SUNDAY 1-4

Alex/Potomac Valley \$562,000
8807 Vernon View Drive
Lovely 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl, Split on a lg, beautiful .3 acre lot w/a fenced bkdy. Freshly painted interior & beautiful re-finished hwdws. Main lvl has a spacious & cozy Family rm w/gas FPL, 4th BR, & 2nd full bath. Upper level #1 offers an open kitchen plus Living & Dining Rm. Upper level #2 has a full bath & 3BRs. The lower level has a lg partially finished Rec rm. Good price on a super lot & very nice home that you can add some personal touches to. CS 3% on the house-Call Rex for an early visit 703-409-4784



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SUNDAY 1-4

Alex/Riverside Estates \$548,000
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Charming 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial w/3 finished levels. Kitchen has been updated w/granite counters, breakfast bar & porcelain flooring. All Baths have been updated w/new tile, vanities, & fixtures to include double sinks in the master & main bathrooms. Family rm on main lvl has gas fireplace. Beautiful hwdw floors throughout. Lower lvl Rec Rm & extra Den/5th BR. 2 car garage has work area (work bench conveyors). Walk-in attic access on upper lvl for lots of storage. Cozy brick patio w/screened gazebo (conveys). New roof in 2016. Walk to elementary & high schools. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 15 minutes to Old Town, Alex (N). Best Value in Riverside Estates! Call Rex for showing. CS3%



RENTAL

Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,775
8314 Bound Brook Lane
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UNDER
CONTRACT

Alex/Berkshire East \$439,000
5956 Berkshire Court
Lovely three level townhouse, 3BRs, 3.5BAs in walking distance to Huntington Metro! Freshly painted, new carpeting, beautiful kitchen. Spacious floor plan, recessed lighting, hardwood floors. Updated bathrooms. Wood burning fireplace in lower level. Family Room w/walkout door to bkdy patio. Minutes to Old Town, Alexandria.



UNDER
CONTRACT

Alex/Yacht Haven \$649,900
9417 Forest Haven Drive
Stunning immaculate 2 level Rambler on a large spectacular landscaped half acre lot. Updated: Kitchen w/corrian, SS appliances & cherry cabinets, 3 updated baths, 2 wood burning Fpls. Beautiful new/refinished hwdw floors-Large finished basement w/family rm, den/BR, 3rd bath & could be used as an in-law suite. Tons of storage available plus a 2 car garage- Great location in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates w/water front properties & an amazing Marina, Pool and Club House.



SOLD

Alex/Deer Run Crossing \$360,000
6810 Deer Run Drive
Spectacular & totally updated 3BR, 2.5BA Townhouse w/beautiful yard backing to woods-Brand new kitchen w/ceramic tile floor-granite, SS appliances & beautiful new cabinets. 2.5 updated baths w/new vanities & ceramic tile floors-New roof, siding & double pane replacement windows-Newly painted interior and exterior- Quick access to I-95 & I-495-Beautiful home for an affordable price- This is a 10!



SOLD

Alex/Woodstone \$329,900
7100 Cold Spring Court
This beautifully updated End Unit is one of the nicest properties in Woodstone. It has a beautifully fenced bkdy & expansive side yard. The interior is meticulous, updates include: kitchen w/granite counters, SS appliances, windows replaced w/double panes, plus front & rear doors replaced, all in '15. Main lvl floors replaced in '17, W/D in '14, roof in '12 & furnace in '14. BRs are huge & hall bath has a Jacuzzi tub. This is a 10!



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Pulling Legal Status from Local Salvadorans

Bad for communities, bad for the economy, bad for the families, and no upside.

It's going to hurt right here in Northern Virginia.

As this administration continues its persecution against immigrants, it will move to end protected status for more than 200,000 Salvadorans, tens of thousands of whom live among us as neighbors, coworkers, friends, business owners, homeowners.

These neighbors, Salvadorans who came here in the wake of terrible natural disaster and political unrest, have been living and working here legally since 2001 at least. Temporary Protected Status was given to approximately 217,000 Salvadoran immigrants living in the United States at the time of the disasters.

Their families have added almost as many U.S.-born children. They are intertwined with naturalized citizens and other legal residents from their country, with the withdrawal of protected status affecting a community far larger than the TPS recipients. These communities are concentrated, intensifying the overall impact, and more live here in the D.C. suburbs than anywhere else.

On average, Salvadoran TPS recipients have been in the U.S. for 21 years; one-third have mortgages. These are people who have had legal work permits, who suddenly will not be able to work legally here. Their mortgages, and the mortgages of people who depend on them, will be at risk. Removing the ability of recipients to work legally will increase the risk of foreclosure, with negative economic impact across communities.

Salvadorans with protected status pay sales and property taxes. The communities they live in will be damaged. Their children will be more at risk. Our economy will be damaged.

THE SALVADORAN IMMIGRANT population is most concentrated in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, where 165,000 El Salvador-born residents make up 2.9 percent of the population.

Salvadorans in the United States sent \$3.6 billion home to El Salvador in 2012, 16.5 percent of that country's GDP.

Virginia has nearly 45,000 El Salvadoran TPS residents, almost all in Northern Virginia, and

concentrated in particular neighborhoods. Arlington has identified just four census tracts with more than 1,000 Salvadoran residents each (two with more than 1,400). In 2015, the most common birthplace for the foreign-born residents of Virginia was El Salvador, accounting for 96,515 Virginia residents. Fairfax County in 2010 was home to 43,566 Salvadorans.

Analysis shows that when Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian workers with TPS are removed from the labor force, the United States will lose \$45.2 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade, according to Immigrant Legal Resource Center. When TPS holders lose their work authorization, it will result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, as calculated by the ILRC.

All of that shows why this will damage communities and the economy. It says nothing about the harm to families. But the harm is great.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Sources: American Progress, Pew Hispanic, Center for Immigration Studies, U.S. Census, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, local government demographic data.

Here's What Makes America Great

BY ERIC WOLF WELCH

In the spring of 1937, my grandmother realized she and her family had to leave Germany. My aunt had just come home from school, her hair dyed black with ink and the words "Jew" written all over her clothes. This was the final straw. Within a matter of days, my grandmother, grandfather, aunt, and my mother (only 3 years old) snuck out of the little town of Dudelsheim, Germany, leaving everything behind and paying

COMMENTARY bribes to officials to obtain visas to exit the country. They boarded a ship to New York and were fortunate enough to have cousins who could sponsor their entry into America.

My aunt and mother were educated in America's public schools and universities. My mother became a teacher and my aunt a doctor. My grandmother worked for the Girl Scouts of America and my grandfather became a die-hard Yankees fan. They became Americans. They loved this country and had a deep sense of patriotism, which continues through their children and grandchildren today. They would not have lived and I would not exist without America opening her doors to my family.

I am a high school teacher in Fairfax County. I teach many students who remind me of my mother and my aunt. These students and their families also came to America to escape violence, poverty, and religious or political persecution. And just like my family, they are Americans (whether a document officially says it or not). They love the opportunity this country has provided to them and want to make the most of it.

Each generation, the American dream is re-

newed and continued, by the ancestors of previous immigrants and by new immigrants. What made America great, and what will make America great again, is immigration. The first European immigrants to America came with the hope of religious freedom and economic prosperity. How is this any different than a family today wanting to come to America from Yemen or Guatemala? John Winthrop, an early leader of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, said America needed to be a "city on a hill" whose light is a beacon. Leaders, such as President Ronald Reagan, have reminded and challenged us to live up to this vision that truly makes America exceptional among the nations of the world.

The current anti-immigration movement, spurred on by President Donald Trump suspending the DACA program, demanding a border wall be built, and calling for an end to so-called "chain immigration," is troubling because it attempts to move our country in a direction different than our past. "Chain immigration" is why I am alive. It's also why students from Iraq, Sierra Leone, and El Salvador are in my classroom, safely learning and thriving, rather than being killed or living in squalor. Should we stop being a beacon to these people?

Unfortunately, the anti-immigration movement is fueled by a belief that to allow others to have the opportunities we have as Americans is going to take away from our own wealth and prosperity. A prime example of this is the argument Virginia state Sen. Richard Black made against DACA students receiving in-state tuition, "Every time you give free stuff to people here illegally, you have to take it away from an American." This understanding of econom-

ics is misguided as well as selfish. History has proven that the contributions of immigrants to America improves our economy, increases our tax base, and creates more jobs and opportunities for all Americans. Our region's economy is a prime example of this. DACA students, and their families, are trying to live the American dream, and in doing so, they are contributing to, not taking away from, what makes America great.

From a moral argument, I am reminded of the story a Lutheran pastor recently told. He said imagine two rooms. One is well-lit and another right next to it is completely dark. When the door is opened, the light from the well-lit room enters the dark room and illuminates it. Yet, as that light spreads, the well-lit room continues to stay just as bright as it was before.

When America opens its doors, we do not lose our own wealth, prosperity, and well-being. Rather, we allow it to grow and spread and become greater than it was before. I urge you to remind Congress, our President, and all of us who make up this country to remember that immigration is what has and will continue to make America great.

The writer, an Arlington resident, is a social studies teacher at JEB Stuart High School and coordinator of the "AVID" program, an academic mentoring program to help students attend college, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must include full name, home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Email Gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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Looking Back While Planning for the Future

BY DAN STORCK
MOUNT VERNON
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



As I reflect on the many achievements of the past year in our region, I am more excited than ever about the future of the Mount Vernon District! Throughout Fairfax County this past year, we celebrated our 275th Anniversary, launched One Fairfax to promote social equity and approved a Police Body Camera Pilot Program. Here in Mount Vernon, revitalization

COMMENTARY

and renewal are well underway. From new redevelopment projects like Lorton's Liberty and the Huntington Club, to transportation improvements such as the Richmond Highway widening from Jeff Todd Way to Telegraph Road and updating our Comprehensive Plan to allow for future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Metrorail on Richmond Highway, change is the new normal! Although many changes are on the horizon, we will also continue to respect our history and heritage.

As we modernize, other District advancements include establishing new community advisory committees to oversee the Original Mount Vernon High School redevelopment, the Lorton Community Center and the South County Police Station and Animal Shelter development. The South Flow Alliance was created to advocate for de-

creased airplane noise, while the District Domestic Violence and the District Environmental Advisory Committees will advance constituent services and environmental causes. While launched in 2017, this year these committees will be actively engaged in bringing community focus, ideas and leadership to these endeavors.

In the last week of 2017, the Covanta Fairfax Energy-from-Waste Facility reopened after a fire earlier in the year. Although this started in tragedy, the improved safety features and enhanced public communication plan developed during the renovation process are expected to benefit the District and its residents for decades to come.

In 2018 we plan to continue advancement and renewal in the District. Some key 2018 results expected are:

- ❖ The Police Body Camera Pilot at the Mount Vernon District Police Station will provide an opportunity to improve public and police safety throughout the District.
- ❖ The National Park Service will study safety and traffic patterns on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, leading to improved travel and increased safety.
- ❖ The District Domestic Violence Committee will be working to increase awareness and existing support systems, as well as continuing to plan to open a local shelter.
- ❖ The next phase of Richmond Highway widening from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road will advance to design phase, bringing it one step closer to fruition.
- ❖ Six schools in our District will continue

or complete their renovations.

❖ The new Lieber Gate at Fort Belvoir will open this summer.

❖ The Backlick Road Railroad Bridge will open this fall, with two more major railway improvements in planning stages, improving the I-95 Corridor commute.

❖ EnviroSolutions, Inc. (ESI) CDD landfill will begin the process of closing the facility, as it stops accepting debris in Fall 2018.

In addition, we will continue to bring you great community events throughout the year. Key events will include the Feb. 3 Town Meeting, the Ides of Bark Dog Festival, the Mount Vernon Nights Summer Concert Series, Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride and the Holiday Open House. We will also look for opportunities to educate and inform our community through events like the District Forum on the County Budget, Teen Job Fairs, the Senior Safety Summit and a Rabies Clinic, to name a few. See planned events listing below.

As you consider what this new year brings for you, resolve to engage in your community in 2018! We want and need you! There are many ways to be active, from trash cleanup days to joining a District Board Committee. Come to the 31st Annual Town Meeting on Feb. 3, at Mount Vernon High School to find out more about our District and how to get involved. The day will begin with the Exhibit Hall opening at 7:45 a.m., followed by the Program, Audience Q&As and a Virtual Tour starting at 9:30 a.m. Visit our website for more information

on how to connect with us! #ConnectMVD

As always, it is my pleasure to service as your District Supervisor. I welcome your feedback and want to hear from you. Please contact my office at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-780-7518, any time with any issues, concerns or suggestions!

2018 District Events

- ❖ Feb. 3: Town Meeting
- ❖ Feb. 7: District County Budget Forum
- ❖ March: Development Forum
- ❖ March 6: Board Authorizes Maximum Real Estate Tax Rate for FY2019
- ❖ March 18: Ides of Bark Dog Festival
- ❖ March 13/15: Tax Relief Forum
- ❖ March 17: Teen Job Fair at South County HS
- ❖ April 14: Teen Job Fair at Mount Vernon HS
- ❖ April 29: Rabies Clinic
- ❖ Spring: District Boards, Authorities and Commissions Representatives Meeting
- ❖ Spring: Community Walk
- ❖ Spring: Trash Clean Up Day
- ❖ May 24: Board Adopts FY2019 Budget
- ❖ Summer: Senior Safety Summit
- ❖ Summer: Mount Vernon Nights Summer Concert Series
- ❖ June 30: Workhouse Arts Center Fireworks
- ❖ August: Deer Management Meeting
- ❖ Aug. 4: Workhouse Brewfest
- ❖ Aug. 7: National Night Out
- ❖ Oct. 27: Tour de Mount Vernon
- ❖ Dec. 6: Holiday Open House.

Proposing Bills for New Legislative Session

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



The legislative session began on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and it promises to be a very bizarre year after the 2017 election and fiasco that followed. I am hopeful that we can come to some kind of power sharing agreement that will allow us to get to work for the good of the Commonwealth.

The drama has not slowed down my legislative agenda, which includes measures that will grow our economy and provide better jobs for all Virginians, repeals lingering "Jim Crow" laws in the Minimum Wage Act, and improves the experience of our teachers.

I will join my house colleagues to support Medicaid Expansion to ensure affordable healthcare in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and provide for nonpartisan redistricting reform. I will continue to fight for seat belt safety and other common sense legislation.

I wrote previously about HB 8, my legislation to allow Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) on state contracts — this will be a key item in my legislative agenda, along

with the Apprenticeship Utilization Act (HB 557), which will set a 15 percent floor on the number of apprentices working on large state contracts. This will create needed wage growth for hard-working Virginians and ensure that our state projects with PLAs benefit young people in the building trades.

In my efforts to draft legislation to update the minimum wage, I noticed that many minimum wage exemptions to the definition of "employee" were holdovers from the Jim Crow era. Not counted in the definition of employee are "farm laborer or farm employee;" "Any person employed in domestic service or in or about a private home;" "Newsboys, shoe-shine boys, caddies on golf courses, ushers, doormen, concession attendants and cashiers in theaters;" "taxicab drivers and operators;" — all categories of workers that were historically held by African Americans. It's 2018 now and past time to make these changes.

Also, another category that still pays subminimum wage and needs to be updated is "Any person whose earning capacity is impaired by physical deficiency, mental illness, or intellectual disability." Maryland removed this exemption from their minimum wage statute and it is the right thing to do.

The goal should be to promote opportunities for all working-age individuals to gain

compensated employment at or above the minimum wage within an integrated setting, with or without supports, engaging employers that value the contributions of their employees with disabilities.

Other labor legislation I will carry this year include employee protections against wage theft and the deliberate misclassification of employees.

Looking out for working-class Virginians is my top priority this year. That is why I have also introduced HB 47, which will end the practice of predatory payday lending in Virginia.

Regarding education policy, I will patron HB 380, also known as a "Grow Your Own Teacher" program that will establish a fund

to provide scholarships to low-income high school graduates who are committed to attend a baccalaureate institution of higher education in the Commonwealth and to subsequently teach in high-need public schools in their school divisions of residence.

This measure would help address the teacher shortage in low-income school districts.

I am looking forward to informing you on the status of these bills in the coming weeks. Please don't hesitate to visit my office at any time in Richmond during the session. It is an honor and pleasure to serve as your state representative in the Virginia General Assembly.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Teen Job Fair. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mt Vernon Road, Alexandria. Employers will gather, take applications and resumes for part time jobs. Contact Mount Holly Dougherty: hollydougherty@mtvernon-leechamber.org at Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at www.dulleschamber.org for more.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Boater Safety Classes. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church,

3921 Old Mill Road. Boater Safety Classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Students who pass the test receive a boater education certificate recognized by the Coast Guard, Virginia and all other states that require boater education. Contact Moses Pettigrew at msgtop@verizon.net or 202-616-8987.

SATURDAY/MAY 19

Boater Safety Classes. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Boater Safety Classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Contact Moses Pettigrew at msgtop@verizon.net or 202-616-8987.

LETTER

Ignoring Gum Springs Conservation Plan and Its Redevelopment Plan

To the Editor:

What does a community mean to Fairfax County?

Answer: Depends whether that community is Gum Springs.

Fairfax County Department of Redevelopment & Housing Authority (Authority/RHA) and Fairfax County Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ) have purposefully not spoken to Gum Springs for more than two years through no fault of Gum Springs. It appears the exclusion is an orchestrated effort to “reshape” and bypass Gum Springs by silencing the voice of Gum Springs leadership.

During the past three years, more than one project was implemented without any consideration to the quality of life for Gum Springs residents. The Gum Springs Conservation Plan and the Gum Springs Redevelopment Plan are two major guiding policy documents that provides Gum Springs a certain level of engagement and protection from adverse impacts. However, those documents are being ignored by the county.

The latest exclusion by the county is a special exception application that requires a rezoning of residential property to commercial. Although the county met with the applicant and owner during the review process, the county excluded Gum Springs. Such action by the county violated more than one established requirement in the Gum Springs Redevelopment Plan. For example, Section VII.B (Regulations and Standards for Development Review) states in part that the “Authority will also coordinate all such reviews with the Gum Springs community.”

By not being afforded the opportunity to participate in the required review process, Gum Springs questioned the land use requirement as stated in Section VI.B (Land Use Provisions) which states in part that “residential development shall comprise no less than 70 percent of the land use.” Gum Springs asked the county (1) What is the current residential percentage; (2) How will a rezoning of lot 79A from residential to commercial achieve the required land percentage; and (3) what effect will a waiver of lot size affect the residential land percentage?

The county responded in part via email that “In consultation with the county attorney’s office, as well as Supervisor Storck’s office, it has been decided that community outreach would be best accomplished by individual property mailings. This outreach is above and beyond what would be

done for a typical zoning case. Your comments will be taken into consideration as part of the staff report preparation. Furthermore, you will have an opportunity to address the Planning Commission and Board with outstanding concerns at the upcoming public hearings.”

Such a response from the county

generated additional questions from Gum Springs to include: (1) Should not these concerns be addressed prior to any public hearings; (2) How can individual property mailings by the county be considered as meeting the community review requirement since the mailing is a one-way communication tool for the county; (3) If the

county considers individual property mailings as service above and beyond and refusal to answer community questions based on policy that conflicts with county actions, what does the county consider mediocre service; (4) How can the county view such mailings as community outreach particularly when the mailings were used as a

“workaround” to not address community questions and concerns; and (5) Why is RHA and DPZ allowed to circumvent established policies approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors?

Queenie Cox

President, New Gum Springs Civic Association



CAREGIVER SUPPORT WORKSHOP: CONFESSIONS OF AN IMPERFECT CAREGIVER

Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP Virginia present the 2018 Speaker Series

Please join us on January 20 as Bobbi Carducci, the author of *Confessions of an Imperfect Caregiver*, talks about her journey as a caregiver. Her story is one of honesty that will resonate with caregivers.

There will be representatives from Insight Memory Care and Legacy Navigator talking about programs and resources for those serving as caregivers. Participants will be able to ask questions and get information on resources in the Alexandria and Northern Virginia areas.

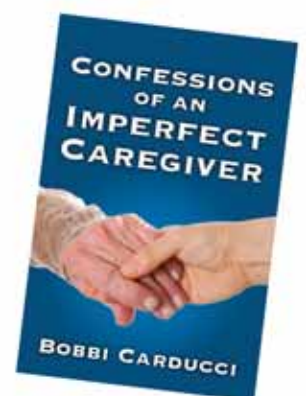
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Registration opens at 9:30 a.m.

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Please RSVP online at seniorservicesalex.org or by calling **703-836 4414**, ext. 110.

This workshop is free and open to the public with light refreshments. The first 30 registrations will receive a free copy of *Confessions of an Imperfect Caregiver*.



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In 2017, AWLA Cared for 2,145 Animals

Euthanasia rate below state average.

BY VERNON MILES
THE GAZETTE

In an update to City Council at its Jan. 9 meeting, Animal Shelter Director Megan Webb offered a snapshot of the shelter in 2017.

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria cared for 2,145 animals in 2017, the majority were cats at 822. Unlike other shelters, which mostly pick up stray, Webb says the majority of their animals come in as surrenders. These are pets whose owners are no longer able to care for the animal.

"This is unusual for a shelter," Webb said, "and our high cat numbers come from that."

The shelter and animal services in Alexandria operated on a \$2.8 million budget in 2017. The majority of the funding, \$1.5 million, comes from fundraising while \$1 million is from a city contract. Over \$200,000 was raised in in-kind support.

One of the main goals of the shelter has been reducing its euthanasia rate. Across all of the shelters in Virginia, the euthanasia rate at shelters is 25 percent. At Alexandria, the euthanasia rate is 8 percent, which includes animals that have to be put down on intake. Webb says the animals put down by the shelter are ones with medical issues too costly or dangerous to fix that are causing the animal pain or distress.

These euthanasias are a last resort for the Animal Welfare League. Webb pointed to a case this past year where Arielle, a dog with dens aplasia, a condition that causes severe spinal instability and damage. It was looking increasingly likely, despite extensive care from the shelter, that Arielle would face euthanasia. But a last minute donation paid for the expensive surgery the dog needed and it was able to make an ongoing recovery with a new adopted family.

Webb said there are also changing philosophies on animal care that are changing operations at the Animal Welfare League.



PHOTO BY VERNON MILES / THE GAZETTE

Shelby was left after the owner became so ill he had trouble caring for himself. Shelby was severely matted and bug infested, but foster owners came forward and helped the dog recover.



Fluffaluff, a rabbit at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.



A cat reaches out for an animal foster parent during a tour of the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

Animals Cared for in 2017

(up to 12/7/17)

Dog	765
Cat	822
Bird	69
Other	222
Wildlife	267
TOTAL	2,145

"Some of the thoughts of what was appropriate in 2009, has changed," said Webb. "Many of the cats we get show aggression in the cage, and many times assumed those cats were aggressive. But now realized most of the cats will calm down and become very friendly cats later. Making assumptions based on the way a cat or dog behaves in a kennel or shelter setting means making decisions that may not be based on what animal is like outside of the shelter."

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Connecting Business and Community

LETTERS

Treat Home-schooled Children Fairly

To the Editor:

Last Saturday, members of the General Assembly whose districts include at least some part of Fairfax County held a public meeting at the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting Room where members of the public could bring to their attention issues of concern. Over 100 community members testified. I was one of them. I discussed three important issues, one of which I mention here.

For the past several years, Bills have been proposed which, if enacted, would permit home-schooled children to participate in interscholastic activities at the public schools near where they live. Such a Bill passed the General Assembly in both 2016 and 2017, but Governor McAuliffe vetoed it. Most of our local General Assembly membership opposed these Bills. When I questioned Senator Surovell about his opposition, he responded that he was uncertain home-schooled students met the academic achievement of students educated in our public schools.

I point out that, clearly, this is a non-issue because Virginia Code Section 22.1-254.1 requires home-schooled students to be periodically evaluated to ensure they are meeting appropriate standards of educational progress.

Looking at Bills pre-filed in the General Assembly session about to commence, I noted House Bill No. 496 which essentially proposes to permit home-schooled children to participate in interscholastic activities. It includes mention of Virginia Code Section 22.1-254.1.

The question of whether to support or oppose this legislation is not a political question. It is a choice between fairness and unfairness.

The parents of home-schooled children pay the same taxes supporting our public schools as do those with children attending public schools as well as those with no children. Depriving home-schooled children of the opportunity to participate in interscholastic activities deprives them of the opportunity to enhance their educational resumes as they must do if they wish to have the opportunity to seek admission to an elite university.

Without those enhancements, elite universities will not seriously consider an application for admission and those students are consigned to less competitive colleges and universities that don't care about extra-curricular activities. This is just unfair. Period.

As far as I am concerned, the vote our local politicians take on this issue will be a window into their character and will be revealing as to their view of fairness to children who are being home-schooled in the Commonwealth of Virginia as they are le-

gally permitted to do. I urge support of House Bill No. 496.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Fall Cankerworm Program Unjustified

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to The Gazette's Jan. 4-10, 2018 article titled "Trees in County Continue To Be Targets of Insects." This article is missing key information that Fairfax County residents need to understand. As an ecologist, I believe that public policies such as pest management should be based on sound science. In the case of the Fall Cankerworm program, the scientific evidence to justify this insecticide spraying program is lacking. The program's stated purpose is "to minimize tree mortality." Yet the county only monitors Fall Cankerworm populations, and sprays where the populations are considered to be high. Where is the evidence that periodically high Fall Cankerworm populations are killing trees, or harming the health of Fairfax County's forests? Defoliation is not the same as tree mortality; the trees may lose some leaves in spring due to inchworms, but these leaves generally grow back within a matter of weeks.

The native Fall Cankerworm has evolved with our ecosystem, including our trees,

wildlife, and other natural controls, for many millennia. The article's parallel to the non-native Emerald Ash Borer is highly misleading, since that species was introduced from Asia and lacks natural predators here in the U.S.

We know well many of the things that are killing trees in Fairfax County, including land clearing and new roads, non-native forest pests, invasive plant species, and unnaturally high deer populations. But I have seen no evidence that Fall Cankerworms are actually killing our local trees. Fairfax County staff have not shown that Fall Cankerworm defoliation leads to tree mortality in the county; they do not even monitor tree mortality. Nor have they shown that the spraying program is improving forest health, or that it is a smart use of county taxpayer funds. With no scientific evidence and no measure of effectiveness based on the stated purpose of the program, the county has not met its burden of proof to justify continuing this costly program.

It is time for Fairfax County to cease its misguided monitoring and insecticide spraying program directed against the native Fall Cankerworm. Staff should focus their work on actions that would actually improve the health of our forests and woodlands, rather than target this native insect that helps to sustain many of our birds and other wildlife.

George C. Ledec, Ph.D.
Ecologist



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2018 Color of the Year: Ultra Violet

Mixed reactions from local tastemakers who offer design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

It's a moment that interior designers anticipate all year: the announcement of the Pantone Color of the Year. Ultra Violet is the selection for 2018, and local designers are giving it a mixed reception.

"Interiors have gone so neutral, I look forward to suggesting... Ultra Violet, a color [that] can bridge warm and cool gray neutrals," said Moira Denson, interior designer and assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University.

"There's nothing subtle about Ultra Violet. It's one-dimensional and difficult to decorate with, except in very small doses," said interior designer Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Interiors and Bossy Color. "I find the color loud. 'Look at me!' It screams."

The selection by Pantone, the self-described global authority on color, is intended to be a harbinger of the hue that will be on trend in the coming year. The organization's color gurus spend about nine months observing trends in industries ranging from film and entertainment to art and fashion.

This year's pick can add a burst of vibrancy to a home's interior in impermanent ways, advises interior designer Cathleen Gruver of Gruver Cooley. "Some quick easy ways to use the color are adding throw pillows, which are relatively inexpensive and easy to trade out," she said. "Accent plates on a dining table are an option for those who may not want to commit in their home."

"Use this color in extremely small doses," added Elliott. "If you really love this color, I suggest using it as part of a larger pattern. Don't buy a solid purple pillow; choose a pretty floral that has some Ultra Violet in it."

For those with less trepidation about Ultra Violet, interior designer Sarah Glenn of Braswell Design + Build in Alexandria, said, "The powder room is a great place to incorporate deep colors in interesting ways. Install a graphic violet wallpaper behind a bright white pedestal sink, or paint the ceiling a high gloss violet to reflect the decorative lighting in the room."

Dark and dramatic cabinetry, which Glenn says is trending this year, offers an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOIRA DENSON

"Ultra violet sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded," says artist Moira Denson, who is an assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University

other use for the Pantone pick. "Go bold and incorporate a deep violet island or base cabinets into a new kitchen," she said. "Incorporate a violet glass mosaic tile on your shower floor or as an accent stripe around tub walls. I especially love violet glass paired with the grey and taupe tones of

wooden white marble tile."

Some designers describe Ultra Violet as commanding, particularly when used inside a home. "This shade of purple is a powerful color and one that I would use as an accent," said interior designer Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors. "A little bit will go a long way. It is also a great color to pair with other colors, it is a very friendly complementary color."

"Good pairings include green and purple, a classic combination, but I've always liked red with purple," added Elliott. "Ultra Violet is a vivid color, so make sure you use equally strong colors with it so it doesn't dominate a palette."

Pair it with gold and yellow tones, suggests Denson, who is also an artist. "I paint skies all the time," she said. "It's what watercolorists do. To me, shades of the ultra-violet are the most pleasing sky. It works super well with what we traditionally think of skies: blue toned. It sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded."

In announcing the selection, Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute described Ultra Violet as, "a blue-based purple that takes our awareness and potential to a higher level. Ultra Violet communicates originality, ingenuity and visionary thinking that points us toward the future."

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ENTERTAINMENT

ACCT Presents Dr. Seuss

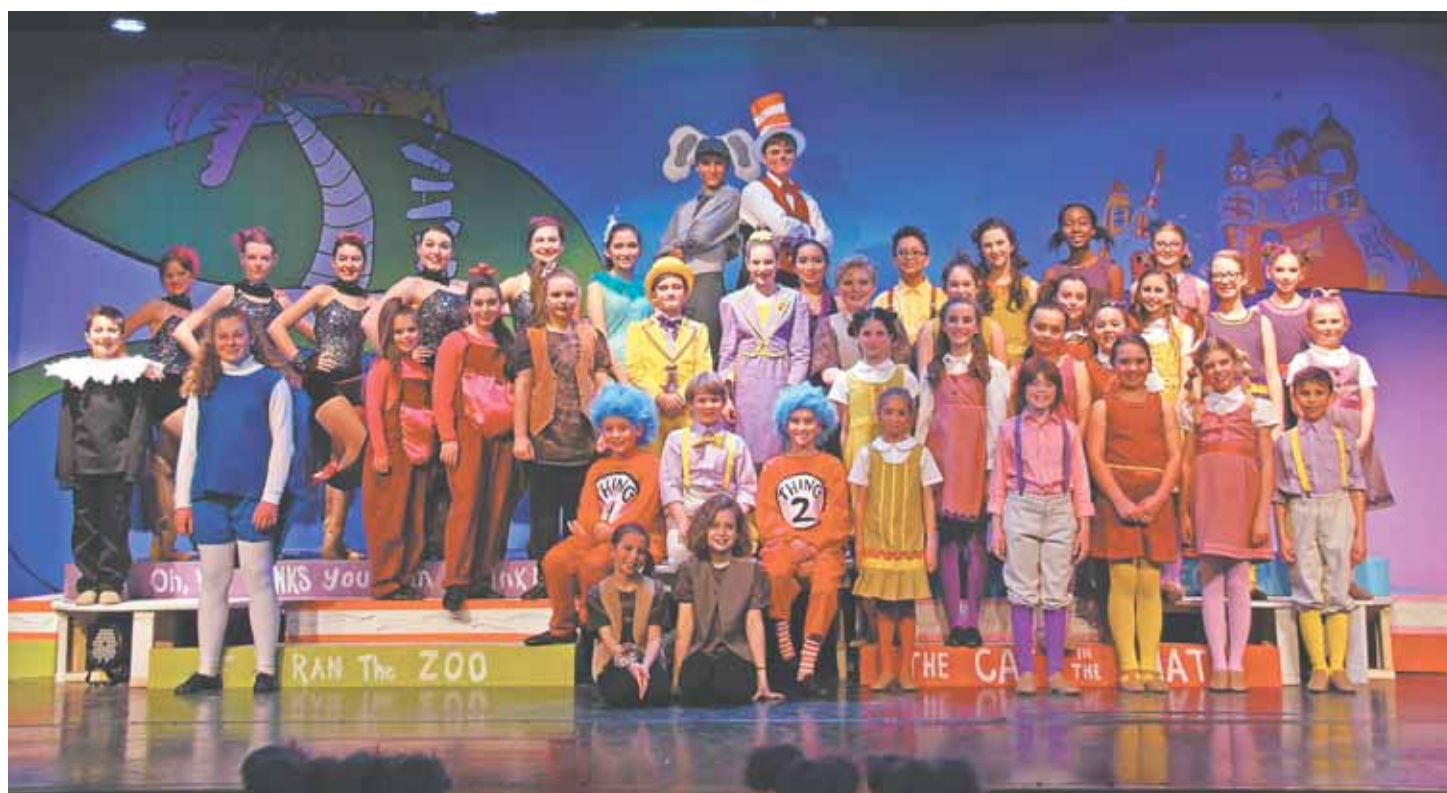
Favorite characters come to life in “Seussical, Jr.”

BY STEVE HIBBARD

Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) in Alexandria is presenting “Seussical, Jr.” from Jan. 12 to 21. Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat and all of the favorite Dr. Seuss characters spring to life onstage in this musical from Tony-winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty.

Transporting audiences from the Jungle of Nool to the Circus McGurkus, the Cat in the Hat narrates the story of Horton the Elephant, who discovers a speck of dust containing tiny people called the Whos. Horton must protect the Whos from a world of naysayers and dangers, and he must also guard an abandoned egg that’s been left in his care by the irresponsible Mayzie La Bird. Although Horton faces ridicule, danger and a trial, the intrepid Gertrude McFuzz never loses faith in him. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, loyalty, family and community are challenged and emerge triumphant.

Director Shelagh Roberts said this is the first time ACCT has staged “Seussical, Jr.” so it fits well into the family-friendly nature of Aldersgate Church Community Theater. “Everyone knows the famous Dr. Seuss characters, such as Horton the Elephant, the Cat in the Hat, and Gertrude McFuzz; and everyone knows the classic books such as ‘Oh The Thinks You Can Think’ and ‘Horton Hatches the Egg,’ but many people haven’t heard the amazing score that Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty created when they en-



The Aldersgate Church Community Theater cast of “Seussical, Jr.” in rehearsal.

PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

visioned a musical based on the writings of Dr. Seuss,” she said.

She said the two most compelling reasons to stage it are the wonderful characters and the amazing songs from the show. “Most people know the characters and are excited to see them come to life, but the bigger surprise is just how fun, clever and moving the music is. It’s really impossible not to get excited when the entire ensemble comes out for the opening number — ‘Oh The Thinks You Can Think’ — or to resist being transported into the Jungle of Nool with the infectious number, ‘Biggest Blame Fool,’ or to keep a dry eye when our wonderful JoJo and Horton the Elephant are singing about being ‘Alone in the Universe.’ Every song is great, in my opinion. I love them all,” she said.

She said they were trying to share this creation of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty which tackled the ambitious challenge of trying to capture in song the spirit and genius in Dr. Seuss’s writings and put it into one narrative that audiences can enjoy.

As far as challenges, there were 33 musi-

cal tracks in the junior version, and very little dialogue. “It’s most like Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat’ in that way; it just rolls along, one song after another, and the songs represent many different musical stylings along the way,” she said.

She added: “We have an extremely accomplished music director in Heather Gifford who was able to expertly teach our young actors some pretty complicated musical arrangements in a short time. Fortunately, we also have a very dedicated choreographer in Michele Koros and she really stepped up to handle much of the movement required through the course of the show.”

“So our most important challenge is to present these different worlds as authentically and realistically as possible, and to convince the audience that all of these characters and environments are real and that they matter,” she said.

Charlie Ruppe plays the role of Horton the Elephant. “Horton has a very strong sense of what’s right and wrong, and he’s not afraid to stand up for what he believes

in even though the last thing he’d do would be to be rude to anyone,” he said.

He said he finds a dust speck with a whole town on it and is determined to save it. “Even being tormented by the other jungle creatures because he believes there are people on a dust speck, Horton has hope because he has found friendship in a tiny ‘who’ named Jojo that lives on his dust speck. Horton stays true to his character throughout the show, and in the end it pays off for him. Horton ends with all of the jungle behind him and his dust speck,” he said.

He said he hopes that everyone watching the show understands the parallels with the real world. “I think this show demonstrates how we should not only respect other people’s lives, but also those people’s ideas Seussical teaches its audience that ideas should be respected even if you don’t believe in them, and that just because a lot of people believe in something doesn’t mean it’s true,” he said.

Brett Medley plays the role of the Cat in

SEE “SEUSSICAL, JR.” PAGE 18

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

“Interlude: Unfinished Works.”

Various times, through Jan. 21, at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space of the Torpedo Factory, spotlights the artistic process in Interlude: Unfinished Works. Art has been left unfinished, both intentionally and unintentionally, and creates a dialogue on what it means for art to be “finished.” Features 21 artists from across the globe, including nine artists from the region. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

“Déjà Vu,” Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 4, various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Studio 29. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery show “Déjà Vu,” highlights the work of artists Elizabeth Davison, Elise Miller, and Dianne Harris Thomas. Visit torpedofactory.org.

“Form and Void.” Various times through Feb. 25 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellyn Weiss’s work is guided by a commitment to environmental sustainability and scientific truth, and her sheer delight in working with materials to make art. Using tar, wire, liquid plastic, printing on acrylic, and large-scale drawing, Weiss’s creations are a reflection on survival and regeneration. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

“Terracotta Warriors” in Market

Square. Through March 11, all day in Market Square, 301 King St. Two replicas of the famous “Terracotta Warriors.” Each replica stands six feet tall and weighs about 500 pounds, and will be on display through March 2018. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

“Alexandrians Fight the Great War.” Various times at The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington St. This new exhibition traces the experiences of local people during the first World War. The homes, hospitals, factories and shipyards of wartime Alexandria come back to life through the use of rare images, archival and modern-day video clips, quotes from participants, original objects including weapons, period music, and scale models. Call 703-746-4994

or visit www.alexandriahistory.org. “Before the Spirits are Swept Away.” Various times at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. This exhibition, featuring 20 of Sherry Sanabria’s African American historic site paintings, is made possible by the Sanabria family, who generously donated 23 of her paintings to the Alexandria Black History Museum. These paintings are part of Sanabria’s “Sites of Conscience” series, which has as its focus African American heritage, prisons, concentration camps, and mental hospitals. Free, but donations are appreciated. Call 703-746-4356.

THURSDAY/JAN. 11

Second Thursday Art Night. 6-9

p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Second Thursday Art Nights feature after-hours receptions and open studios throughout the building’s three floors, as well as Torpedo Talks. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Meet the Artist. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Art League, 105 North Union St. Sally Canzoneri’s “Lenticular Photographs,” combine DC’s past and present. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Local Author Thursdays. 7 p.m. at The Old Town Shop, 105 South Union St. Ralph Peluso, the featured author of the week will be talking about his book “512.” Visit theoldtownshop.com.

Native Plant Interactions. 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. A talk by Charles

ENTERTAINMENT

A Table for Pho

BY HOPE NELSON

Forget bomb cyclones and polar vortexes and single-digit windchills. The answer to our cold-weather problems can be found in a piping-hot bowl of pho, a Vietnamese delicacy akin to a noodle soup, layered with a hearty broth, vegetables and a choice of protein. Here are a couple of spots to get your fill.

Caphe Banh Mi, 407 Cameron St.

Walk past this tiny storefront in the shadow of City Hall on nearly any night of the week and you'll find a throng of customers waiting outside. In the cold, in the rain, in the heat of summer or even in the snow, the gaggle waits patiently (or, sometimes, not so patiently) for their turn inside the restaurant, a veritable shoebox of a café that churns out bowl after bowl of hot, flavorful pho.

Not to worry: Your wait will be rewarded. When you get a seat, order up your beverage of choice — a Vietnamese beer is always a winner — and then peruse the menu for your main course. At Caphe Banh Mi, pho is never a mistake, in any of its various forms. Concoct the perfect combination yourself, or let the good folks in the kitchen do it for you with one of the restaurant's specials.

An advantage to choosing your own pho adventure: You can put together precisely the proteins you want. From brisket to meatballs, skirt flank to filet mignon, choose three meat selections and await the final piping-hot result. Or go with "The Works," which is exactly how it sounds — more than half a dozen protein selections put together in one bowl.

Not into red meat? Not to worry. Chicken pho comes to your rescue. And vegetarians won't be left out, either; unlike many traditional pho shops, where beef broth is the only game in town, Caphe Banh Mi's vegetarian broth is a welcome change of pace, and the pho comes teeming with tofu, mushrooms, cauliflower, and carrots.

The Vietnamese eatery isn't a pho-only joint; the

menu is chock full of rice and vermicelli dishes, as well as banh mi sandwiches, all of which are worthy of space on the table.

Pho 33, 540 John Carlyle St.

Tucked away in the middle of the Carlyle district, well off the main drag, Pho 33 offers up plenty of pho options just waiting to be explored. The Zen-like décor is welcoming and lures customers to linger awhile — but as the restaurant has plenty of seating, that's usually OK, even during the busy lunch rush.

You can't say Pho 33 lacks a selection of pho choices. From the selection of three proteins to a chef-inspired bowl of brothy goodness, there is a plethora of options from which to choose. One of the more popular selections is an homage to its namesake, Pho 33. Chock full of eye of round and brisket, the soup is a meaty experience with plenty of noodles to balance things out.

Pho 33 also offers up several seafood varieties of the dish; the pho vongole is a clam-based version, and the seafood pho is a grab bag of various underwater proteins in a seafood broth, rather than the standard beef. Chicken lovers will also be at home at pho 33, as will vegetarians; the latter edition is served in a mushroom broth with plenty of veggies to keep things interesting.

The restaurant does a booming business at lunch, pulling from the Patent and Trade Office crowd as well as from the other neighboring businesses. Admittedly, the pho itself can be quite a commitment, but thankfully there are plenty of other selections should you wish to go with something a bit lighter. Pho 33's selection of banh mi sandwiches has something for everyone, from hard-core carnivores to vegans, and the rice and vermicelli platters offer a nice middle ground between a light bite and an enormous bowl of pho.

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

CALENDAR

Smith, to kick off the lecture series looking at the interactions and relationships in plant communities from the visible framework of our living world. Visit <http://vnps.org/potowmack/events/>.

FRIDAY/JAN. 12

Fixes for a Tired Garden. 2-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. This do-over class will help you determine your needs and create a plan that matches your style. \$10. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/.

Concert at Blessed Sacrament. 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. Free. Email mcushmac@comcast.net or call 703-548-1176.

SATURDAY/JAN. 13

Enslaved and Free Servants Lives. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. \$8. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

Watercolor Workshop: Painting on Yupo. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at

Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Paint on slick plastic called yupo with instructor Marni Maree. \$90. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Vive la Musique! Children's Concert. noon at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Local musician Achilles will be singing popular children's French songs. \$5. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

SUNDAY/JAN. 14

Meet President James Madison. 1-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Guests will be greeted by a person from the past while journeying through the museum as part of a special second Sunday series. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

Puppy Training Seminar. 3 p.m. at Head to Tail Spa dog grooming, 430 Hume Ave. Dog grooming and a seminar by dog expert Jodi Goldberg. Call 703-400-4401.

Meet the Artist. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellyn Weiss discusses Form and Void, her exhibit that will be on display from Jan. 11- Feb. 25. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

MONDAY/JAN. 15

Jimmy Johns Service Appreciation. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. at Jimmy Johns, 5778 Dow Ave. Every 1st and 15th of the month all service personnel will receive 15 percent off there order when they present there ID or show up at our store in uniform. Services include all Military, EMT, Fire Dept, and Police Officers. Visit www.jimmyjohns.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 16

Ancestry Lecture. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com: genealogist Sharon Cook MacInnes speaks on how to search the ancestry.com website's billions of records and family trees. Call 703-768-4101.

NOVA Community Chorus Auditions. 7 p.m. at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 5000 Dawes Ave. Rehearsals are held on Tuesday nights and begin on January 16, under the leadership of director Chad Steffey. Contact NOVA Alexandria Music Faculty member, Lisa Eckstein, at leckstein@nvcc.edu or 703-845-6252.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

2018 Chairman's Reception. 6-9

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ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Alexandria Renew Enterprises, 1800 Limerick St. The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce officially welcomes its 2018 Chairman of the Board, Gin Kinneman of Kinneman Insurance, at an evening reception at Alexandria Renew Enterprises. \$120 for Members | \$140 for Non-Members. Visit www.alexchamber.com/.

Meet the Author. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dwight S. Hughes discusses "A Confederate Biography: The Cruise of the CSS Shenandoah." \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Air Force Band Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall 4915 East Campus Drive. Special appearance by tubist Patrick Sheridan. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

Winter Recital. 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S Pitt St. Join three Alexandria Symphony Orchestra musicians who are sponsored by the ASO's Adopt a Chair program for an evening of music and conversation. Enjoy a variety of solos from the classical tradition by Amy Horn (horn), Barbara Brown (cello) and Sara Stern (flute), and stay to mingle with the musicians. A reception with California wines and refreshments will be held in Norton Hall (adjacent to the sanctuary) following the concert. Adults, \$35; student, 10; youth \$5. Visit www.alexsym.org or call 703-548-0885.

History by the Glass. 7-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy drinks at the tavern, which historically served a wide variety of beverages, and learn about the history behind them. This series continues Jan. 19 with the Hot Toddy, where this popular historic drink along with other hot beverages will be served. Cost is \$50 per person. Price includes two drink tickets and light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets can be purchased through alexandriava.gov/shop or by calling the Museum at 703-746-4242.

The Late Shift: Brand New Day. 7-11 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Welcome 2018 with the first Late Shift of the year. Warm up with an indoor art market, live performances, and pop-up activities throughout the building. Dance into the night with a free silent disco, in collaboration with the City of Alexandria's Mobile Art Lab. The evening will also feature pop-up demonstrations in the Grand Hall, DIY art making, a welcome reception for Winter 2018 Post-Graduate Resident, Lyric Prince, and a selfie station. Visit torpedofactory.org.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Third-Friday Community Dance with the Mount Vernon Swing Band. Live music conducted by Owen Hammett. Open to the community. \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

'80s All Night. 8 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Come ready to dance for an "All '80s, All Night" flashback dance party. Before the dance party kicks off, there will be '80s classic videos being played during dinner and prizes will be given out for best dressed and "Name that Tune" winners. Call 703-548-8899 or visit thecarlyleclub.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 20

Winter Tree Day. 10-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Take a walk in the woods to examine trees in their wintry state. Get to know some evergreens and learn how critters use trees as their homes during our coldest months. \$6. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/



parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Tea Tasting: A Tea for Each Continent. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Sample teas from each of the seven continents of the world. \$25. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/JAN. 21

NOVA Community Chorus Auditions. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Contact Herb Levy at Herb@FocusMusic.org or 703-380-3151.

Celtic Duo, House of Hamill. 7 p.m. at George Washington's Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Drive. Featuring Rose Baldino, fiddler, vocalist, and bandleader of Burning Bridget Cleary. Visit www.focusmusic.org.

On Kee. 8 p.m. at Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. On Kee has been providing smooth and jazzy live entertainment since 1993. \$25. Call 703-548-8899 or visit thecarlyleclub.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 22

Ballroom Dance Classes. 7-9 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Led by Gary Stephans, class focuses on the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Merengue, Rumba, Cha-Cha and Samba. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

DEADLINE JAN. 26

Earth Day Artwork Student Competition. 6-9 p.m. at The theme of Earth Day 2018 is Local Action, Global Impact. Students are encouraged to create an artistic design of the role they play in protecting the Earth. The selected artwork will be printed on Earth Day t-shirts, reusable shopping bags, posters, fliers, and advertising to donors, as well as posted on the Alexandria Earth Day website. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/recreation/earthday or call 703-861-8705.

JAN. 26-FEB. 4

Alexandria Winter Restaurant Week. Various times in neighborhoods throughout Alexandria, including Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. \$35 three-course dinner or \$35 dinner for two; select locations offering lunch from \$10-20 per person. Visit www.AlexandriaRestaurantWeek.com.

JANUARY 27-MARCH 4

"Passages." Various times at Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105

Torpedo Talks

Ars Memoria in Early Law: Looking Beneath the Pictures – Ars memoria, the art of memory, uses imagery to externalize memory and organization. Jolande Goldberg (Studio 326) is a senior law classification specialist at the Library of Congress and a Torpedo Factory artist. At 8 p.m. during Second Thursday Art Night (Jan. 11), she shares an overview of law book illustrations and the Law Library of Congress's efforts to preserve this history. Torpedo Talks are part of monthly Second Thursday Art Nights, which features after-hours receptions and open studios throughout the building's three floors, 6-9 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Visit torpedofactory.org.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS COLLECTION

Washington giving the laws to America, circa 1800.

North Union St., Studio 2. Target Gallery's next exhibition, Passages, explores the lasting effects migration has on cultural identity from the perspective of immigrants and immigrant families from across the global diaspora. The juror for this exhibition was Adriana Ospina, curator of the Permanent Collection and Education at the Art Museum of Americas. Visit torpedofactory.org/partners/target-gallery.

SUNDAY/JAN. 28

Pinewood Derby Workshop. 3-6 p.m. at Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Old Town Ace Hardware is hosting a series of pinewood derby workshops for local Cub Scouts. During select Sundays in January, the store will provide wood cuts, sandpaper, and work stations for scouts to prep their derby cars. The store asks that participating Scouts trace their car designs on their woodblocks prior to arriving at the workshops. The store kindly requests a \$1 donation per woodcut to benefit Boy Scouts of America and Children's National, our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. Complimentary popcorn will be served during the event. Email amiller@acehardwaredc.com or call the store (Monday-Saturday, 8-8; Sunday, 10-6) at 703-566-7040.

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Alexandria Poetry Contest Entry Deadline. 5 p.m. at the City of Alexandria, The Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation. The "DASHing Words in Motion" poetry contest, topics edge on transportation, ideas might stem from The Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto is "Keep Alexandria Moving." Call 703-746-5565 or email cheryllanne.colton@alexandriava.gov.

Blues Night with Meigs Hodge. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Meigs Hodge explores Delta and Chicago styles through the music of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and others; as well as contemporary standards and original compositions. \$10. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Watercolor Workshop: Paint a Winter Scene. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn to paint a winter landscape in watercolor with the help of artist Erik Hottenstein, who demonstrates techniques for translating photographs into winter scenes and provides guidance for your individual piece. \$90. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

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PEOPLE

Lost Ring? Call Ringfinder

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EARL ROBERTS

Fairfax Ringfinder returns lost heirlooms to owners; gets many smiles in the end.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

While at the backyard mulch pile, a Vienna resident was scattering some fruit scraps when the ring on her finger fell off, a family heirloom that had a lot of meaning. In came Earl Roberts, a City of Fairfax resident that is part of a loosely knit group called “The Ringfinders,” and found the ring after a few minutes.

“I had her reenact the throw, within a couple of minutes I found the ring,” Roberts said.

He could never forget “the smile on her face,” he said.

THE SMILES are one reason Roberts got involved with this craft, using his metal detector when all hope is lost for the jewelry owner.

Chris Turner from Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, is the originator of “The Ringfinders,” which is an online directory of metal detecting specialists that will help people find their lost jewelry at beaches, parks, lakes and yards all around the world, as stated on their website. Although Turner has been involved with metal detecting since the 1970s, he started The Ringfinders in 2010. “My goal is to help get you reunited with your lost jewelry,” he said on his website. There is a “Book of Smiles,” section on the site, showing how happy folks get when their jewelry is found.

Although there are charges for this service, “the members listed on The Ring Find-



Earl Roberts is The Ringfinder in Fairfax.

ers directory all set their own rates and terms, and no recommendations, guarantees or endorsements are made regarding any of the individuals or businesses listed,” it states. There are contacts all over the U.S., Canada, Hawaii and even as far as Peru, according to their map.

Many of the cases Roberts has been working involve yard work and the rings or jewelry comes off unexpectedly.

This was the case earlier in 2017 when a client in Fairfax was clearing out some ivy, put his ring in his pocket, and it came out during the day somehow. “There was a lot of ivy to search, right before dark I found it,” Roberts said.

He’s even been called to Maryland’s eastern shore in 2016 when a ring was lost in the surf at a beach. “We actually found the ring, it took two days, we had to wait for low tide,” he said.

Roberts is not one of those retirees at the beach who mans the metal detector at sunrise and spends a few hours with a sand sifter to find loose change from strangers, or a Civil War relic hunter. It started as a hobby when he was in Okinawa with the Marine Corps and took his metal detector to the beach where there was a beach assault in World War II and found two or three knives, a bayonet, a helmet, uniform buttons and a set of dog tags. He even worked with a Japanese museum when he was over there.

TREASURE HUNTERS with metal detectors are shunned most times because of the damage they do while digging things up, like in the case with Civil War relics, but that isn’t the case, Roberts said. The jewelry is right on the surface, maybe under some leaves, but “it’s not six inches in the ground,” he said.

There is a Northern Virginia Relic Hunt-



A ring from Fairfax that was reunited with its owner: Fairfax Ringfinder Earl Roberts reunites lost heirlooms with owners and gets many smiles in the end.



The family heirloom lost in Vienna garden but found by Roberts and returned to its owner.

ers Association, organized in February 1972 in Centreville, whose main source of relics is of the Civil War era, but they do not encourage relic hunting in parks and privately owned land. This is where the negative connotations of people digging around may come from. The NVRHA has supported various efforts whose ultimate goal has been the preservation of threatened historical sites, their information states.



Some coins Earl Roberts found in Okinawa.



Civil War bullets found by Roland Frodigh in Virginia.

News

Launching 'Be Washington'

George Washington's Mount Vernon will introduce a new first-person interactive experience titled "Be Washington: It's Your Turn to Lead" in its Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center on Feb. 12. Through this new \$3 million offering, visitors will have a chance to put themselves in Washington's boots and experience first-hand the leadership challenges that he faced on the battlefield and in the presidency.

Inside the 1,200-square-foot "Be Washington" theater, participants will take the role of George Washington as they seek to solve one of four crises that Washington faced — two from the American Revolution and two from his presidency. Each scenario will unfold upon a 30-foot 6K resolution screen. As they learn about the situation, participants will be able to hear insights and opinions from some of the same historical advisers that Washington would have had access to, such as Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and Henry Knox. As they sift through differing recommendations, they will be asked to rate each adviser's persuasiveness. In the end, as Washington, the participants will vote for which course of action they would take to solve the crisis. All votes are then tabulated and shared, in aggregate, on the main screen.

Chris Jackson, the actor who played George Washington in the Broadway hit "Hamilton," will introduce each of the scenarios onscreen and will later describe the course of action that Washington took. Featured scenarios include the Battle of Second Trenton, the Whiskey Rebellion, the Genet Affair, and the Newburgh Conspiracy.

"Be Washington" took more than 20 months to plan, film, code, and construct. Generous funding for this project was provided by the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Solomon Group and Gallagher and Associates worked with Mount Vernon on the theater design and fabrication. Cortina Productions developed the interactive gameplay and produced the footage that makes up the four scenarios. Wide Awake Films provided some of the live action sequences for the Second Trenton scenario.

Admission to "Be Washington" is included in general admission. Facilitated group sessions are available by appointment. A web-version of "Be Washington" will be available for individual or classroom use in Spring 2018.

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On January 7, 2018, **Lorraine Therese Baroody DiVacky**, age 88, died at her residence in Alexandria, VA, where she had lived for over 60 years. "Lorry" was born on October 3, 1929, in Manchester, New Hampshire. Her parents, Charles H. Baroody and Victoria Hasney Baroody, were both of Lebanese origin and Lorry took particular pride in cooking up Lebanese dishes for her family to enjoy. She is survived by her faithful dog Tessa and two daughters, Dana A. White and companion Wilson Chitwood of Rocky Mount, VA, and Jodi A. Roberts and husband Zack Maliske, of Alexandria, VA.

Lorry graduated from Manchester High School in June 1947 and went on to complete a two-year program at Hesser Business College, receiving a certificate in Business Administration in 1950. Upon graduation she worked as a secretary, bookkeeper and office manager for several entities, including Capital Radio Engineering Institute, Woodlawn Country Club and Hunter Miller & Associates. She later enrolled in an interior design program and enjoyed helping her daughters and friends design and decorate their residences. She also volunteered at So Others Might Eat and United Community Ministries and ushered at Arena Stage.

Lorry liked to travel, especially to the beach, and her daughters were fortunate to share many trips with her. She also loved to dance and Jazzercise. Although too shy to actually step on stage, she could often be observed playing her "air guitar" and lip syncing to song. Later, she joined the Senior Center Chorus and finally was persuaded to take the stage as a performer. She enjoyed playing "grandma" to her daughters' pets and also relished her role as "nanny" to her niece and nephew, Sara and Parker Lowe.

The daughters have elected to hold a memorial remembrance with friends and family in the spring when Lorry loved going outside to work in her garden. It will take place on April 28th at 2pm at Lorry's residence. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made in her name to the Lewy Body Dementia Foundation: www.ldba.org.

Legals

Legals

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

SANDRA PATRICIA BELTRAN MARIN
Plaintiff,

v.

DAVID EZEQUIEL RODRIGUEZ BARRERA
Defendant.

Case No.: 03-C-16-010819

NOTICE - ORDER OF PUBLICATION

The above plaintiff has filed a complaint entitled: Complaint for Custody and Request for Findings of Fact to Permit Minor's Application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, in which she is seeking custody of Keiry Gabriela Rodriguez Beltran and findings of fact to permit application for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Notice is hereby issued by the Circuit for Baltimore County, that the relief sought in the aforementioned Complaint may be granted, unless cause be shown to the contrary. Defendant is to file a response to the Complaint on or before 2/8/2018. Failure to file the response within the time allowed may result in a judgment by default or the granting of the relief sought, provided a copy of this Notice be:

Published in some newspaper published in this county/city, once in each of three (3) successive weeks on or before 1/24/2018.

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Litter Box Humor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

We have five indoor cats: Biscuit, Chino, Twinkle, Sloan and Andrew, ranging in ages from 11+ years to 5+ years. We live in a two-story converted log cabin with approximately 1,750 square feet, closets not included. Closets in which you're bound to find cats, especially in the winter.

A few months back, we contracted to have our two full bathrooms, one on each floor, renovated. Given that our house is over 250 years old, not likely a normal renovation. So far the renovation has taken months, as we were told, and as such, we wanted to employ some kind of strategy where we weren't constantly worrying about cats coming and going, sneaking outside, disappearing, and getting in the way of the workman and/or possibly suffering some kind of injury in the process. (Particularly true of Andrew and Biscuit who, uncharacteristic of many cats, are not the least bit put off by unknown people wandering about the house.)

And sure enough, after dinner on the first night FOLLOWING DEMOLITION, Andrew and his sister, Sloane, managed to break through some protective plastic surrounding the door blocking entrance to the upstairs bathroom where they managed to get into the house through an internal wall which had been torn down to the studs. It was their faint meowing which led to their discovery – in the downstairs attic above the kitchen. Their subsequent rescue confirmed that we would need to be extra vigilant to prevent further ado.

To secure the perimeter, we decided to segregate the cats on one side of the house on the first floor: including the kitchen, dining room and my office, with two sets of doors connecting to the living room and to the hall leading past the downstairs bathroom. This disconnect works perfectly because it prevents any escape and it enables the workman to walk in and out of the front door to ply their trade without needing any access to either of the three rooms where the cats are confined.

The cats food and water remains in its usual place in the kitchen. However there is one item (two actually) which has required a major move. You recall I said our cats are 'indoor,' right? And we're confining them to three rooms, right? Have I mentioned their litter boxes yet? Well, I am now.

Not a Herculean task by any means because once cats are shown their litter box's new location, they figure it out. But now their litter boxes which had previously been out of sight and sort of out of mind – one on each floor, have now been placed in two of the three rooms where they've been living most days and they are now most definitely in sight and on my mind.

One box was placed in the dining room where we rarely go at present since it's somewhat cluttered due to the renovation, and the other box was placed in my home office – which box seems to get the most use. (We sort of figured that the kitchen was out of the question.)

My office is approximately eight feet wide by 20 feet long, a space which separates the dining room from the outside wall. The litter box is on the floor at the far end of the room, not at all under foot, but neither out of sight nor out of smell. Where I sit, I am a well-positioned observer of the cats visits to their litter box.

As a consequence of this segregation – designed to secure their safety, and for the subsequent relocation of their litter boxes, in effect, I am now sharing a bathroom with five indoor cats.

All day long I am witness to their litter box proclivities; their arrival and departure, the sights, sounds and smells; their individual tendencies and habits, and of course, their comparative interest in visiting me on my desk before and/or after the paperwork is finished.

Soon we'll have to decide whether to return the boxes to their original location, and risk disrupting yet another new routine. Perhaps we'll leave well enough alone. After all, as any devoted cat owner knows: it's not about us, it's about them.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Seussical, Jr.'

FROM PAGE 13

the Hat. "The Cat is probably the most ram-bunctious role I've ever played. He has an energy and a style that is hard to express. He is essentially in control of the show. Everything that happens is dictated by what he says and I think that's one of the reasons why he's so fun to embody as a character," he said.

He added: "Personally, I think what is most important for audiences to take away from this show is the way the show is written. The show is simply a combination of Dr. Seuss's works put into a musical and that's what makes it so interesting. There are many different themes and ideas that this show explores and I think audiences will react best to that."

Taegan Chirinos plays the role of Gertrude McFuzz, a sweet bird who only has one feather for a tail, which makes her very insecure with other birds, such as Mayzie who has tons of feathers. "She is in love with Horton and admires his big heart, but Horton never notices her because he's trying to save The Whos," she said.

She hopes people leave the theater feeling better about themselves. "Maybe you have a flaw that you don't like about yourself and it makes you feel less confident, like Gertrude and her small tail. No matter what, you should stay true to you and realize you don't need to change yourself and that you were born to be who you are. Everyone is different, we should embrace it," she said.

Zoey Caghin-Carlos plays the role of Mayzie La Bird, a party girl. "She is insecure and covers her insecurities by not thinking too much about things. She is also irresponsible and unreliable. Mayzie only wants you to have fun. At the same time, she is not mean and tries to help Gertrude to attract Horton's attention the way Mayzie knows — by 'improving' Gertrude's looks," she said.

She thinks the main message of the show is to not be afraid to be yourself, even when mean people are calling you crazy. "Even though the characters in the show are not real, the audiences will be able to recognize and relate to people in real life," she said.

Jack St. Pierre plays the role of JoJo, who likes to think a lot and has great ideas that usually get him into trouble. "It's the biggest role I have ever done. He's supposed to be a kid who gets in trouble a lot, and I find that fun to play," he said.

He added that for audience takeaways, he wants them to know "that it's great to be who you are."

Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) in Alexandria is presenting "Seussical, Jr." from Jan. 12 to 21. Show times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.; with matinees on Saturdays at 2 p.m.; also Monday, Jan. 15 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. The venue is located at 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Visit the website at www.acctonline.org.

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JUST LISTED



9509 Ferry Harbour Ct. Many Updates!

Classic Southern Colonial. Unique opportunity, stately 5 BR custom colonial with classic old south style. Balconies overlooking front and rear grounds. Spec

Features include: porch, Hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ custom bar, & oversize 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on level half acre lot on one of the area's premier streets!

JUST LISTED



9032 Mcnair Dr. \$569,000 One Level Living!

Rare opportunity! Totally renovated rambler with oversize two car garage on gorgeous level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location! Recent major updated include: new

roof, thermal windows, hardwood floors, new kitchen, Located in quiet neighborhood surrounded by Mt. Vernon Country Club and Grist Mill Park! Nothing like it for close to this price!

JUST LISTED



9424 Mt. Vernon Cir. \$975,000 Completely Updated!

Better than new! Stunning updated home in area's premier waterfront community! Fabulous home has been renovated from top to bottom. Features include: 3

finished levels, 6 Bedrooms, 3.5 Baths, designer kitchen, hardwood floors, new HVAC, new windows, doors, and 2 car garage. Spacious screened in porch overlooks expansive rear yard. Unparalleled community amenities

FULLY RENOVATED



8307 Crown Court Rd Incredible New Kitchen!

Just completed, brand new Chef's kitchen and custom lighting plan enhance this truly spectacular property. New kitchen features custom

cabs, top line granite counter, brand new appliances, and gas cooking. Other feats: 5 BR's, 5 BA's, high ceilings, two car garage and the most amazing pool and grounds you'll ever find at this price range!

AMAZING KITCHEN



8709 Curtis Ave. \$539,000 Recently renovated!

Gorgeously updated home on 2 lots on quiet cul-de-sac ready for you to move in! Inviting front porch leads you to dramatic open floor plan with tons of light. New

Kitchen, windows, light fixtures, updated baths, fresh paint and landscaping make this a rare opportunity! Huge yard, pond, and hot tub complete this serene setting.

NEW PRICE



4417 Dolphin Ln. \$649,900 Spacious Rambler!

Exceptionally spacious rambler in Yacht Haven Estates with expanded main level master suite with luxury bath. Gorgeous setting on

large level lot steps from Yacht Club. Features include: large room sizes, hardwood floors, 4 BR's, 3 Baths, thermal windows & finished lower level. Oversize deck overlooks expansive fenced rear yard.

ONE LEVEL LIVING



8807 Battery Rd \$589,000 Excellent Deal!

Quaint setting backing to Ft. Hunt Park creates your own private oasis. Many impressive features including gorgeous kitchen which

opens into dining room area, many windows creates light filled living area and garage parking/storage. Back deck overlooks private wooded parkland. Great opportunity at a great price!

BACKS TO PARK



8745 Plymouth Rd. \$829,000 Great Opportunity!

Rare opportunity to get into desirable Plymouth Haven at such a reasonable price! 4 level home has many updates including

impressive family room addition, upgraded windows, large master bath and closet. Home is surrounded by \$1.5+ million homes on a gorgeous half acre lot! This one won't last long!

GREAT POTENTIAL



5125 Remington Dr. \$1,395,000 Virtually New!

Truly stunning custom home near river with seasonal water views from many major rooms. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan enhanced by dramatic high

ceilings on main two levels. 7,000 sq ft of luxurious custom features include spectacular custom kitchen with two islands, 5 BR's, including the most amazing master suite you'll ever see, 5 full / 2 half baths, top of the line

CONTRACT



4214 Robertson Blvd. \$550,000 Great Value!

9317 Maybrook Pl.
\$575,9000
Great Value!



4708 Ferry Landing Rd.
\$475,000
Great Value!



3705 Riverwood Ct. \$889,500 Classic Colonial!



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