

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JANUARY 24, 2013



Shannon Steene, executive director of Good Shepherd Housing, looks over the display of handcrafted bowls for sale at UCM's SOUPer Saturday sale last weekend.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE GAZETTE

UCM's 19th Annual SOUPer Saturday

More than 100 handcrafted bowls were on sale at the Torpedo Factory for the 19th annual United Community Ministries SOUPer on Saturday, Jan. 19. The bowls were donated by Torpedo Factory Art Center artists. All proceeds from the event benefit UCM programs. With a purchase of a bowl a complementary serving of clam chowder was included, courtesy of the Chart House located on the city dock.

Visitors flock through the river entrance of the Torpedo Factory last Saturday morning perusing the bowls for sale.



Four Democratic Senators Targeted

Redistricting effort puts Fairfax County seats in the spotlight.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
AND VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Four Northern Virginia state Senators are targets of a Republican-led effort to draw new districts — Sen. George Barker (D-39), Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). Democrats say the redistricting effort is a cynical attempt to take advantage of the absence of Sen. Henry Marsh (D-16), a prominent civil rights veteran, who was in Washington, D.C. for the inauguration on Monday. But state Sen. John Watkins (R-10) of Powhatan defended the effort as a way to create a sixth majority black Senate district in Southside. It passed the Senate on a 20-to-19 vote.

“This is about political power,” said Barker, who was in one of the most competitive races of 2011. “They are trying to target the Democratic senators who represent districts that are basically swing districts.”

The drama took place Monday afternoon, when the state Senate took up a bill that would have made small changes to four Senate districts. During the floor debate, Republicans amended the bill in a way that would radically change districts throughout Virginia. Barker's seat and Marsden's seat, for example, would be about 80 percent different. And Puller's seat would swap about 70 percent of her current precincts for new ones. Petersen, who represents sections of Fairfax City, Vienna, Dunn-Loring and Centreville, said

SEE FOUR NORTHERN, PAGE 8

Making Schools Safer

Two Northern Virginia Democrats take part in panel to consider school security.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Do Virginia schools need more guns? That question is at the heart of a debate that's now reaching a fever pitch in the commonwealth, especially after a man with a Bushmaster assault rifle blasted his way into a Connecticut elementary school and killed 20 children and six adults before killing himself. Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell responded to the tragedy by cre-

ating a School Safety Task Force, which is considering a proposal for every school in Virginia to have an armed school resource officer.

“I fear that's the direction they're going,” said Arlington Del. Patrick Hope (D-47), who is a member of the task force. “I would like to see more resources going to mental health treatment.”

State Sen. Richard Stuart (R-28) of Montross, also a member of the task force, has already introduced legislation that would require ev-

SEE TWO NORTHERN, PAGE 8

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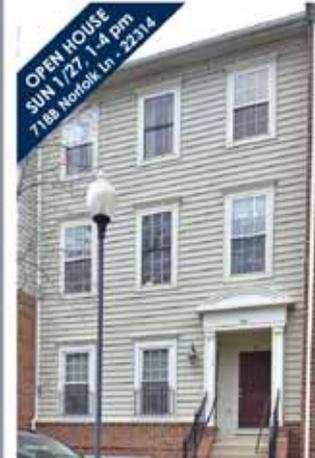
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Charming, three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath home in Jefferson Park. New kitchen with stainless steel appliances and granite opens to the family room addition with great windows to the fenced yard. Finished basement rec room with built-ins, fireplace, and separate laundry and workbench/room.

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Manicured gardens covering two additional unrestricted lots, redesigned and replanted with boxwood shrubs, a fountain, charming walks and wisteria-arbor covered patios. Two off-street parking spaces offer additional convenience for city living. Gracious rooms for entertaining, five bedrooms, six full and two half baths, eight fireplaces.

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Endless Possibilities

A great value on a 3/4-acre lot. Built in 1935, this stone house is a quiet retreat in the middle of the city. It features three bedrooms and two and a half baths, a large eat-in kitchen, wood floors, a two-car garage, lots of storage space all within minutes of the Metro, Old Town, DC, and the airport. You have to see it to truly appreciate it!

Julian Burke
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www.JulianBurke.com
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Elegant Rambler in Marlan Forest

A premier neighborhood setting for this mid-century four-bedroom, three-bath home. Just off the GW Parkway South of Alexandria, minutes from Old Town and DC. Large level tree-scaped back yard. Eat-in kitchen with white cabinets and appliances - many under factory warranty. Two masonry fireplaces in living room and lower level family room.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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Deadline is the Thursday at noon.

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Meeting. Colonial Republican Women will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Administration Center at Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane. Refreshments will be served. E-mail colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com or call Debbie at 703-768-1934.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Gala. The George Washington Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will host a formal gala event at the Belle Haven Country Club. They will present the SAR Gold Good Citizenship Medal to U.S. Army retired General Frederick J. Kroesen, Jr.

“Suits and Boots” Party. 8-11 p.m. at TopGolf Alexandria, 6625 S. Van Dorn St. Players can wear swimsuits and winter boots while playing to raise money for Blessings in a Backpack. There will be drawings for prizes. A portion of every ticket sale will be donated directly to the charity.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

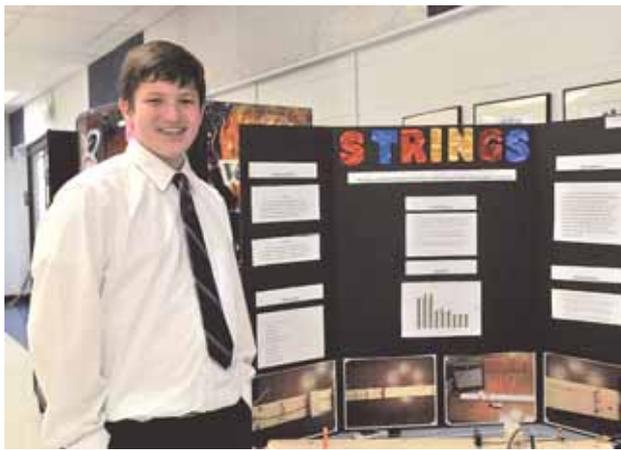
Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Fort Hunt Cooperative Preschool on the grounds of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com or 703-768-7584.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Information Session. 7-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School. Get information on the three elements of the International Baccalaureate Program. Free. If interested in the details of the new IBCC, contact Berkeley McHugh at BFMcHugh@fcps.edu or 703-619-3100. If interested in the details of the IBMYP certificates, contact Karen Hertel at KJHertel@fcps.edu or 703-619-3261.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

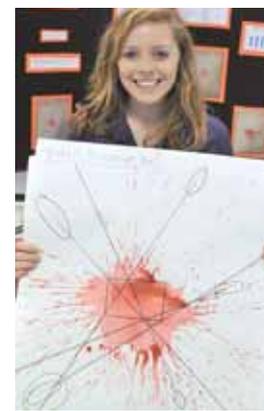
Informative Presentation. 6:30-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School Little Theatre. Ann Dolin will discuss how to manage a demanding at



Tenth grader Jake Tupitza worked on the effect of different materials of string on the amount and size of sound waves produced.



Nana Amoh, Angelina Ocran and Jasmyne Smith worked their project around the effect of enzymes in biodegradable detergents on stain removal.



Zoe Mann chose to display the effect of different weapons on the accuracy of blood spatter in finding point of origin of blunt trauma.

Students Compete at West Potomac Science Fair

The West Potomac High School Science Fair was held in the cafeteria on Saturday, Jan.19. Students enrolled in honors classes of biology, chemistry, geo-systems, and physics classes entered nearly 100 projects for judging at the fair.

First place winners in the 2013 West Potomac High School Science Fair were:

- ❖ Engineering materials – the team of Brian Cash, Connor Hayes & Hamza Raiz.
- ❖ Physics- individual awardees Ian Hakayama, Lindsay Kibben and Alison Bird.
- ❖ Microbiology – the team of Anthony Lower and Rocky Iboleon.
- ❖ Engineering electrical – the team of Brian Spitnale and David Cate.
- ❖ Plant Sciences – William Savage.
- ❖ Environmental management – individual

awardees Kharis Schrage and Tristan Keightley.

- ❖ Engineering energy and transportation – the team of Madison Daley and Katie Genuario.
- ❖ Chemistry – individual awardees Martha Liebowitz and the team of Grace Callahan and Juliet Lash.

The top 20 projects from the WPHS Local Fair will be invited to participate in the Regional Fair at Robinson High School, March 15-17.



Stefan Peditfrere worked on showing the effect of Malonic acid on the Briggs Rauscher oscillating reaction.



Avid skiers Kyle Matthews and Steven Garden looked at hand and foot warmers for the effect of oxygen gas on the oxidation of iron powder.



Pamela Molnar and Maria Dubograeva answer questions from one of the judges at the science fair. Pamela and Maria researched the quality of water.

Last Weekend For ‘Mermaid’

Aldersgate Church Community Theatre’s production of Disney’s “Little Mermaid, Jr.” is in its final weekend of performances. Show times are Jan. 25 and 26 at 7:30 p.m. and Jan. 26 and 27 at 2:30 p.m. ACCT is hosting a food drive during this weekend’s performances to help stock pantries at UCM and Rising Hope. Canned goods, particularly canned meats, pasta and beans are most welcome. Get entered in the drawing for special Mer-prizes. Saturday evening’s show is a benefit performance to support Aldersgate United Methodist Church missions in Guatemala. Call Aldersgate, 1301 Collingwood Road, at 703-660-2611 or visit acconline.org for information/tickets.



The cast of Aldersgate Church Community Theatre’s production of “Little Mermaid, Jr.” after the opening night’s performance.

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OBITUARIES

John Bruce Hammond

After a six-year battle with a rare form of cancer, John Hammond died peacefully while surrounded by family on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013. His final days were spent at home under hospice care and marked the end of a determined battle with malignant Pheochromocytoma – a cancer of the adrenal gland. During this time, a steady stream of visitors poured through the doors of John and his wife Kerry's home. Never without his dry wit or a big smile, John often sent well-wishers away laughing.



John was born Oct. 27, 1965 at Sibley Hospital in Washington, D.C. to Julia West and Donald B. Hammond.

He grew up in Alexandria and after attending Fort Hunt High School, joined the U.S. Army. He proudly served in the 10th Mountain Division and remained in the Reserves until 1995. After completing his active duty assignment, John returned to Alexandria where he became a fixture working at Union Street Public House in Old Town Alexandria. He was well known not only by regulars and patrons, but throughout the restaurant community.

John continued to build on many of these relationships when he moved to Premium Distributors to serve as their national accounts manager. Both old and new acquaintances enjoyed working with John. "People were very comfortable with John and trusted him," said John's good friend and colleague at Premium, Carmine Pechie.

According to Pechie much of John's success came from his clients knowing that his "heart was as big as the outdoors" and that he truly cared about their businesses.

John was first diagnosed in fall of 2006. After complaining of persistent back pain, multiple tumors were discovered on his spine. Since then, John endured 10 surgeries including three reconstructions of his spine. Those surgeries, combined with over 30 rounds of chemotherapy, radiation treatments and countless complications might have taken the smile from anyone but not John. He never missed an opportunity to display his sense of humor or make someone smile.

While there is currently no known cure for malignant Pheochromocytoma, the medical team at the National Institutes of Health helped John fight what proved to be a ferocious and persistent disease for more than six years.

Throughout these challenges, John remained positive and determined to fight a winning battle. Dr. Tito Fojo, the medical oncologist involved in John's care at the NIH recalled that from the first day he met John, "He impressed me with his courage, his sense of humor, and his ability to flow with what fate sent him." Those traits, Fojo came to learn, defined John's experience. He not only served as a role model for fellow patients battling the disease, but inspired his team of doctors, caregivers, friends and family with his resiliency and strength. These characteristics led Dr. Karel Pacak, director, Pheo Para Protocol, NIH and Karen Adams, Program Coordinator, NIH to recall that John was "an absolute treasure of a person."

There were two constants during John's experience with cancer — his determination to fight, and the unflinching devotion of his wife Kerry. Though John and Kerry had been together for many years, his cancer got in the way of their plans until they were finally able to wed Sept. 28, 2012. On that beau-

tiful fall day, John finally married his longtime love, devoted caregiver and best friend in a beautiful ceremony on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria.

John was many things to many people — an all-star sales and marketing man, a trusted business associate, a loyal friend, a devoted Jimmy Buffett fan, a playful son, a protective brother, a doting uncle and a loving husband. His longtime friend and neighbor Ram Todd summed up what many felt: "Thank God I knew him, he helped make me a better person."

A celebration of John Hammond's life will be held on Monday Jan. 28 at Columbia Firehouse Restaurant at 109 S. Saint Asaph Street, in Old Town Alexandria. The reception will take place from 12-4 p.m. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, the family has suggested donations to the Pheo-Para Alliance. P.O. Box 504, Arlington VA 22216 or online at www.pheo-para-alliance.org.

Gerald V. Godfrey

Gerald V. Godfrey, born March 26, 1938, died on Jan. 20, 2013 at his home in Alexandria. He was originally from western North Carolina and moved with his parents to Alexandria, where his father helped construct the Pentagon, during his high school years. He attended George Washington High School for one year before moving back to Crossnore, N.C. where he graduated from Crossnore High School.

Following high school, he served in the U.S. Army for two years to include a year overseas in Korea. He married Carolyn Betz in 1960 and they had two sons, David and Sean Godfrey. They lived in Alexandria where their sons attended St. Rita's Elementary and Bishop Ireton High School. He worked his entire career in the automotive industry until his retirement in June 2012. He was a hard worker who enjoyed horseracing, basketball, football, and admiring old cars. For the last 20 years, he lived in Parkfairfax surrounded by many friends and family.

He is survived by his two sons and their wives, Caroline and Diane; four grandchildren, Ryan, Travis, Colton, and Baylor; and sister, Peggy Godfrey. He was good man and will be missed by all who knew him.

Family will welcome friends from 4-7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, at Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria.

Dr. Bernard Greifer

On Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, Bernard Greifer, 91, of Rockville, Md., previously of Alexandria, died. Bernie, son of Morris and Nettie Greifer, was born in the Bronx, N.Y., Dec. 22, 1921. He graduated from City College of N.Y. with a BS in chemistry. A decorated war veteran of WWII, he received his M.S. from NYU and his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University. Bernie was a gifted scientist in the fields of organic and environmental chemistry. He was active in both the American Chemical Society and Alpha Chi Sigma.

Beloved husband of Ruth Greifer, loving father of Carla Paris Teich, Helen Grimm, and Amy Godin, grandfather to Andrew Paris, Rebecca and Jacob Grimm, and Sophia and Shira Godin. He will be missed by family and friends.

A funeral service was held at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria, on Tuesday, Jan. 22. Shiva was to be observed at the home of Amy and Ed Godin starting Tuesday. Memorial contributions may be made to Agudas Achim Congregation.



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Legislators Need Feedback

BY LINDA T. PULLER
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



This is an exciting week in Richmond with many important issues facing the General Assembly. There is one of particular note that I know everyone around the Commonwealth is talking about right now — the reconfirmation of Helen Dragas. The vote will take place today, Jan. 21, and as I have mentioned before, I will not support her confirmation. I believe her actions during the summer and since then have damaged the reputation of our stellar flagship university. These are serious matters and should not be rewarded with a reappointment.

COMMENTARY

Several of my bills on military and veteran issues are gaining support and moving ahead. My “V3” bill (Virginia Values Veterans) SB 829, will create a pilot program in the Commonwealth to reduce the high unemployment among veterans. The unemployment rate among veterans is almost twice as high as the civilian population. V3 will provide incentives for businesses to attract, train, hire and retain veterans. Attorney General Cuccinelli is supporting this bill and enthusiastic about the pilot program it would create.

Constituent mail continues to pour into my office and I appreciate seeing my fellow Americans exercise their right by making their voices heard on issues they care deeply about. Some of the topics covered in the past two weeks include the Second Amendment and gun control, lifting the ban on uranium mining, Medicaid reform, ending work place discrimination and “smart meters” coming to Dominion Power and Virginia. Please continue to contact me on issues of concern. Hearing from constituents helps me better represent the people of the 36th District.

And finally, I am asking my constituents to write to their congressman and to U.S. Senators Warner and Kaine, as well as to the Federal Communications Commission on the issue of 911 service during and after storms. For those of you not familiar with the issue, the recent hurricanes and last summer’s derecho showed serious flaws in our emergency response abilities. Most of our 911 call centers in Virginia experienced partial or complete outages for several days after the derecho.

Over 2 million people Virginia, West Virginia and Ohio were unable to reach 911 after 17 call centers lost service completely.

This is unacceptable. And we must press those at the federal level to do more to work with the providers and local governments to fix the problems and strengthen our 911 system.

FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski has stated that he will “propose measures to improve reliability of the existing 911 networks.”

Please insist that he carries through on these proposals to keep Virginians safe, especially at our most vulnerable moments.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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Mount Vernon Gazette

Jump for Joy.

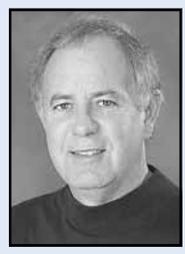
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Alex./Hollin Hall \$489,000
7926 New Market Road
Absolutely lovely home w/over \$130k in recent improvements in great location! Stunning front porch and Family Room addition in 2009 by custom builder. Slate floor on front porch and back patio. Replacement windows. New 2012 & '09: large shed, cedar fence, driveway, roof, dishwasher, hot water, stove, humidifier. Beautiful backyard. It's a gem! Wayneswood Elementary, close to GW Parkway, Potomac River and minutes to Old Town.

OPEN SUNDAY

Alex./Mt. Zephyr \$429,900
8533 Mount Zephyr Drive
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RENTAL

Alex./Riverside Estates \$2,800
8358 Orange Court
Enjoy living on the water! Lovely 4 BR, 3 BA Split, WATERFRONT, with spectacular water views across Little Hunting Creek in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Freshly painted, new carpeting plus hardwood floors. 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, 35 to Pentagon/D.C.

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Alex./Wessynton \$624,900
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Alex./Belle View \$254,900
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Virginia has an opportunity to expand Medicaid in a way that could extend health coverage to more than 400,000 residents who currently have no health insurance while the Federal government picks up the tab; Virginia would pay 10 percent of the additional cost after 2020.

The Medicaid expansion would give medical insurance to 25,000-30,000 Fairfax County residents, where more than 132,000 have none.

More than 12 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation are without health insurance. Household income in Fairfax County averages more than \$122,000 a year.

In Arlington, 17 percent of adults under age 65 lack health insurance.

Under the health care reform act, many of Virginia's uninsured residents could be covered

by an expansion of Medicaid to cover residents who earn up to 133 percent of the poverty line, and that expansion would be paid for almost entirely by federal funds. But while the reform act itself was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, the court also opened a door for states to opt out of the expansion of Medicaid.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and 7th in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

EDITORIAL

The report says that new coverage would extend to individuals earning less than \$15,302 per year or families earning less than \$31,155 per year, low income children who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

It isn't as if there were no health care costs for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around.

But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes.

A new analysis by the Commonwealth Institute shows that expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total \$2.08 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth. Expanding health care will add tens of thousands of new jobs. People with access to preventative and early health care use fewer sick days and are more productive on the job as well.

From a practical perspective, declining federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

From a human perspective, passing up the chance to offer health coverage to 400,000 Virginians is inconceivable.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Gun Safety Among Early Legislative Actions

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

Though barely two weeks old, the General Assembly Session is already moving at breakneck speed, with multitudes of bills being considered and with ongoing discussions of how to move Virginia forward on key issues including transportation and gun safety.

In the aftermath of Newtown and other tragedies, I introduced a package of gun safety measures seeking to make Virginians safer. My bill to criminalize firearm sales to those ruled mentally incompetent or involuntarily committed was unanimously recommended by the Courts of Justice Committee and sent to the Finance Committee for funding consideration. My legislation regarding stolen firearms was combined with another bill and if passed would see that police report stolen weapons to the National Crime Information System. Regrettably my measure to require a background check before every firearm purchase in the Commonwealth, closing the "gun show loophole," was not passed out of committee, nor was my legislation that would have prohibited guns in the State Capitol and our legislative office building.

The nomination of University of Virginia Board of Visitors Rector Helen Dragas has been a hot topic within the UVA community and with many constituents since last summer. You may remember the controversy over the forced resignation and subsequent rehiring of UVA President Teresa Sullivan. There was considerable criticism over the lack of transparency and Ms. Dragas' leadership in the episode; indeed, UVA's accrediting body sanctioned the university with a "warning" for not following its own governance requirements. For the first time in nine

years, I opposed confirming a gubernatorial appointment and spoke against the nomination. However, the full Senate confirmed the nomination, which now moves to the House of Delegates.

I remain concerned with the incredibly long lines at the polls of last November. Two of my bills to simplify and clarify the absentee ballot process have passed committee unopposed. Legislation I co-sponsored to allow senior citizens to vote absentee without an excuse passed the Senate. Unfortunately, legislation I co-sponsored for "no-excuse absentee voting" failed, along with my bill extending polling hours to 8 p.m.

Governor McDonnell has offered a transportation plan acknowledging the need for increased funding. Notably, he proposes that we

become the first state to eliminate the gas tax and instead raise Virginia's sales tax from 5 percent to 5.8 percent. However, eliminating the gas tax is no guarantee of a correlating price cut at the pump. He also proposes an additional \$100 annual fee for fuel-efficient vehicles. I disagree with this approach and oppose penalizing clean fuel vehicle drivers — especially if other drivers no longer have to pay a gas tax at all.

I have been working with Senator Don McEachin of Henrico for several years to codify prohibitions against state employment discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. After a prolonged debate in the General Laws Committee and an 8-7 vote, the bill now moves to the Senate floor.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Donate Used Musical Instruments

To the Editor:

Hi, my name is Katherine Rausch. I am an Ambassador Girl Scout and am currently working on my Girl Scout Gold Award project. A Gold Award project is very similar to an Eagle Scout project, for those of you who are familiar. For those who aren't, in short, it is a 50-plus hour community service project that the Girl Scout must design and execute.

As one part of my project, I am conducting a used instrument and music drive. The instruments will be donated to the Fairfax County Public School System to provide instruments for elementary, middle, and high school students who can't afford them but still wish to be involved in music through the

school. The instruments don't have to be in superb condition and don't have to be cleaned prior to donating. Donations of instruments are tax deductible and receipts can be provided. The music will be used to make a library in the Creekside Community Center. This Community Center is located off of Janna Lee, on the other side of Rt. 1. Music for any instrument and difficulty will be accepted.

If you have an instrument you are no longer using, I hope you will consider donating it. They will be put to good use. If you wish to donate, you can bring the instruments to West Potomac High School during work hours and leave them with the band director, Steven Rice. You can also drop them off at my house, if that is more convenient for you. For larger instruments, or other circumstances, I am willing to pick them up for you. Regardless of which place

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Progress on U.S. 1 Funding, Redistricting Surprise

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)



Legislation has started to move through the legislature as the hard work of legislating began during the second week of session. First, we made some progress securing state funding for the next study required to widen U.S. 1. We hope to have this locked in by the end of session, but I am very optimistic and we are setting up meetings with Fairfax County to confirm the process.

At the beginning of the week, I presented my legislation that would allow Virginians to vote to repeal Virginia's 2006 constitutional amendment prohibiting any recognition of same-sex relationships. In committee, I argued that marriage is about loving, committed couples who want to make lifelong commitments to each other in good times and bad. I also feel that that denying couples that chance at the happiness that comes with being married just because they are gay is hateful and unfair.

Since the Marshall-Newman Amendment was passed in 2006, public opinion has changed significantly. My legislation would not have ordered churches to do anything. Also, the Supreme Court is considering the constitutionality of gay marriage this spring.

If the legislature does not act this year, we cannot deal with our constitution until the election of 2015. My legislation died in subcommittee.

For the second year in a row, I filed legislation to allow online address changes for voter registration. At subcommittee, numerous registrars from around Virginia testified that address changes were their number one problem and that online registration would increase convenience, list accuracy, reduce provisional ballots, minimize errors, and save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars — yes, hundreds of thousands of dollars. It would also be more secure given that online changes would require triple verification whereas paper has no real verification. My legislation passed subcommittee 5-1. Then, it died in committee on a party-line unrecorded voice vote.

I also introduced three new bills this week. The State Corporation Commission (SCC) regulates utilities, insurance, finance, securities, and railroads. It is Virginia's consumer watchdog. Last year, the Supreme Court of Virginia found that the Freedom of Information Act does not apply to the SCC. I filed legislation to reverse that deci-

sion. In 1913, Justice Louis Brandeis wrote "sunshine is said to be the best of disinfectants." I agree.

Next, on our seven-mile stretch of U.S. 1, we now have 11 car title lenders, pay day lenders, check cashers, and precious metal dealers (some have dual purposes). The Board of Supervisors currently has the authority to limit the number of pawn shops in Fairfax County, but not other businesses. I introduced legislation to give our board the same authority over predatory lenders, check cashers, and "We Buy Gold!" shops.

I also introduced legislation to require community colleges to address mental health. In 2011, the Virginia College Mental Health Study found that the number one problem in Virginia is a lack of mental health coordination at community colleges. The classroom environment brings professors and students into close contact and environments where students with problems can be identified. However, Virginia's non-residential community colleges do not have a mental health referral system in place. My legislation would change that.

Finally, on Inauguration Day, the Republicans in the Virginia Senate passed a surprise new Senate redistricting plan 20-19 redrawing every Senate seat in Virginia after one senator, a 79-year-old civil rights warrior, was in Washington, D.C. to celebrate the President's Inauguration, and

was not present to vote. It is not clear where this bill is headed, but it changes the Senate representation for about 75 people of the people in Lee and Mount Vernon. It was a dirty trick.

I have several bills up for votes and committee hearings this week. I have introduced 15 bills, three constitutional amendments, one study resolution, six budget amendments, and I am chief co-patron of four bills I helped author. You can view my legislative agenda is on my website.

I have also received over 200 responses to my online constituent survey. Please make sure you give me your feedback at www.scottsuovell.org/survey.

It is an honor to serve you in Richmond.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

you choose to donate, I wish that you email me first, so I know which instruments or music to expect and so that I can be home to accept your donations and write you a receipt.

I can be reached at katherinerauschaol.com or 703-474-7443.

Thank you in advance for your help to make my Gold Project a success. It is greatly appreciated.

Katherine Rausch

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 15

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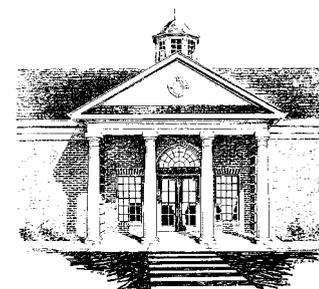
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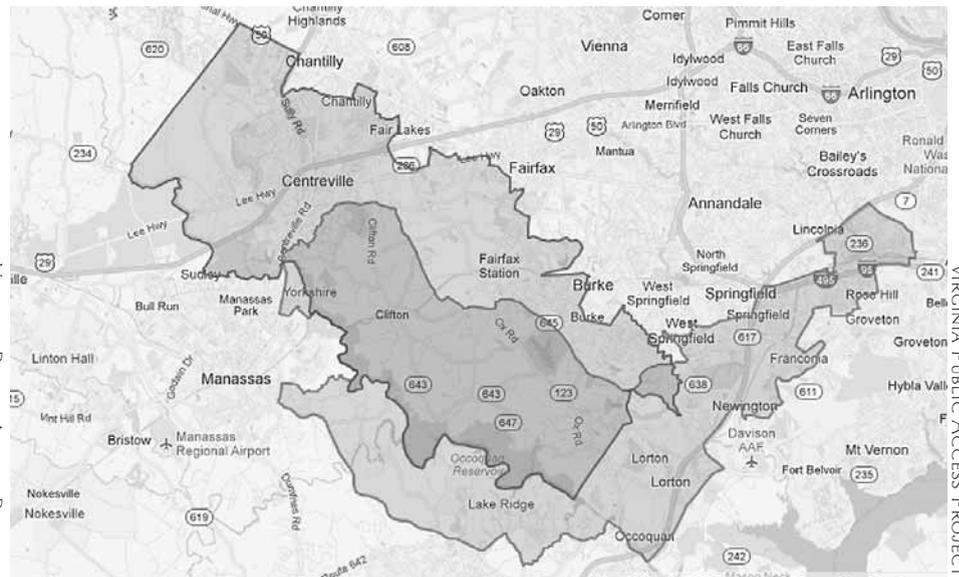
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State Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) would lose Dumfries and gain Belle Haven.

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) would lose Alexandria and gain Centreville.

Four Northern Virginia Senators Targeted

FROM PAGE 1

in a call Tuesday he stands to lose nearly half of his constituents if the politically redrawn map holds up to legal challenges. He said he would lose precincts that he's held for 12 years, including Mantua, Mosby Woods, Fairfax Villa and some newer precincts in Centreville.

"This is outrageous, and it must be stopped," said Del. Charniele Herring (D-46), chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "This goes beyond partisanship. It's downright undemocratic."

REDISTRICTING USUALLY takes place once a decade, a process that's tied to the decennial census. Lawmakers have deviated from that once-in-a-decade timetable from time to time, usually to address problems with split districts that have presented problems for registrars. The effort that passed the Senate this week, however, goes far

beyond that kind of tweaking by dramatically redrawing the map for the entire commonwealth. On the Senate floor, Watkins said failing to create a sixth majority black district in Southside Virginia would invite lawsuits under the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

"I wish to avoid litigation," Watkins said during the floor debate Monday afternoon. Democrats countered that a court fight is imminent.

"We will fight this all the way to the Supreme Court of Virginia if necessary," said Senate Democratic Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35) in a written statement. "First voter suppression efforts, then the war on women, and now draconian changes to a Justice Department-approved redistricting plan. It appears that there are no boundaries to their overreaching political agenda."

THE TIMING of the effort was galling to many Democrats, who accused the Repub-

licans of taking advantage of the presidential inauguration to score political points. Because the state Senate is evenly divided between 20 Democrats and 20 Republicans, any change in the balance of power could create an imbalance. Although the Republicans have delayed the bill on several previous occasions, they waited until Monday to move on the legislation.

"To plot to do this on Martin Luther King Day, when civil rights icon Sen. Henry Marsh, left to attend the historic inauguration of our president is truly embarrassing," said Marsden. "I am deeply disappointed that the Republicans continue to play these petty partisan games."

Republicans pointed to a 2011 newspaper column by former Democratic Gov. Doug Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor, supporting a Senate redistricting plan passed when Democrats ruled the Senate. Democrats countered by accusing Rep-

ublicans of "packing" the districts by using the change in Southside Virginia to free up more districts that would be friendly to Republicans.

"Obviously we went through redistricting in 2011. The constitution specifically speaks to 2011 as being the redistricting year, not 2012, not 2013," Petersen said. "You can't say 'Obama was elected in 2012, but now we don't like him in 2013, so we'll just have another election in a year when the constitution doesn't authorize elections ... That's absurd.'" Petersen said he is confident any judge would find the bill unconstitutional, but one question still out there is whether Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a Republican who is running for Governor in 2013, will defend the tactic.

"This is what happens when Republicans regulate other Republicans," Petersen said. "Every layer of oversight is stacked against us."

Two Northern Virginia Democrats on School Safety Panel

FROM PAGE 1

ery school board in Virginia to provide at least one school resource officer for every public elementary, middle and high school within the district. The cost of hiring 1,046 new officers and funding a statewide program would be about \$65 million a year if all the school resource officers are full-time. The new standardized system would replace the current patchwork of approaches taken from jurisdiction, with some positions full-time and others part-time.

"It varies from place to place," said Fairfax County state Sen. George Barker (D-39), who is also a member of the task force. "Some places, they are police officers and other places they are simply a security guard officer that's not a member of the police department."

The stakes are high in Virginia, where the memory of the Virginia Tech massacre is still a fresh tragedy. The governor launched the task force in the hothouse environment of the General Assembly, which means fast ac-

tion or no action. McDonnell has already signaled that he wants the task force to issue recommendations at the end of January. That means legislators who already have a full slate of bills to introduce have to do double duty to meet the expedited timeline.

"I am confident this group will develop thoughtful recommendations that will ensure a safe learning environment for our students," said McDonnell in a written statement. "As a commonwealth, we must evaluate safety in our schools and ensure recommendations that will ensure safe learning environment of our students."

The governor has signaled that he would like to see an increase of armed school-resource officers in schools across Virginia, and he has indicated that more than \$30 million could be available to implement the recommendations of the task force. Al-



Barker



Hope

though the task force will not be considering gun control, many stakeholders indicated that they would like to see the gun-show loophole closed.

"This is a problem long overdue to be fixed," said Anne Carson, president of the Virginia Parent Teacher Association in written statement. "We are encouraged by Governor McDonnell's plan to convene a task force on school safety and will use the opportunity to reinforce our members' belief in gun-free schools and direct the focus to problems within the mental health system to provide individuals the help so desperately needed."

For now, the debate is about how many school resource officers should be protecting schools in Virginia. Hope said that's a difficult question to answer because school-resource officers are already present in a majority of schools in Arlington — including the elementary school his children attend. But he's quick to add that the task

force has been presented with a question of priorities, and he feels that addressing the mental health priorities of Virginia is much more important than paying for an armed officer guarding every schoolhouse.

"I'm talking to principals who don't have them, and they don't have them for a reason," said Hope. "They don't think they are necessary."

The proposal now under consideration, Senate Bill 940, would cost Virginia about \$69,000 for each full-time school resource officer. It would also create two new positions in the Department of Criminal Justice Services to handle the increased workload associated with training the additional officers. Earlier this week, the Senate Finance Committee approved a bill that would facilitate the hiring of retired police officers to work as school resource officers.

"We worked out an arrangement so that they could work as school resource officers without it impacting the retirement system," said Barker, "either for them or for the system as a whole."

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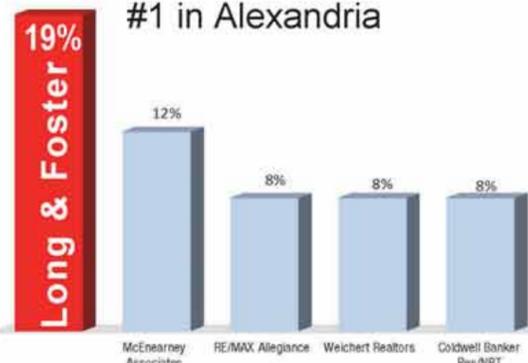
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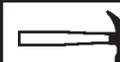
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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

LEGAL NOTICE

The Alexandria City School Board will hold a FY 2014 Budget Public Hearing during the meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, 2013, in the School Board Meeting Room at 2000 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Budget information is available at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/budgets/>. For more information or to register to speak at the public hearing, please contact the Clerk of the Board at 704-824-6614 or board-clerk@acps.k12.va.us.

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

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OBITUARY

Elizabeth Randolph Newell (Betty) Johns, most recently of Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville, died peacefully there on January 17, 2013, surrounded by her loving family after a period of declining health. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. on January 21st.

Born in Newport News on September 2, 1926, Betty was the daughter of William Talman Newell and Helen Woolfolk Newell. After graduating from Newport News High School, she attended Sweet Briar College for a year before enrolling in the Cadet Nurse program at the University of Virginia, where she received her R.N. in 1947. There she met the love of her life, Benjamin Irving Johns, whom she married the following year.

After a few years in the Fredericksburg area, they moved to Alexandria, where Ben taught at St. Stephens School and, prior to having a family, Betty worked as a public health nurse. After moving onto the campus of Episcopal High School in 1958, Betty assumed the additional duties of being a Master's wife, which she performed in the most gracious manner, often playing the role of surrogate mother, counselor and consummate hostess. Betty later returned to her nursing roots serving as loyal assistant to long-time friend and surgeon, Dr. John Hoyle.

After 31 years at E.H.S., where Ben was Head of the Science, Master and Coach. In 1989, they retired to Orange where they devoted themselves to work at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, the Food Pantry, Red Cross, and most devotedly as grandparents to their growing family. They also engaged in an active social life with new friends and bridge partners. Devoted to one another, Betty was predeceased by her husband only three months ago.

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A nurturer and engaging friend to all, Betty is survived by their four children: Mary Page Johns Sullivan Charlottesville; Elizabeth Newell Johns Ferguson and husband, Richard, of Germantown, TN; Benjamin Irving Johns, Jr. and wife Deborah of Washington, DC, and William Randolph Johns and wife Christine of Reston, and their ten grandchildren: Elizabeth Randolph and William McLeod Sullivan; Martha Page Ferguson Johns, Bowman Bates Johns, Gibson Waterman Johns and Gussie Thayer Johns; and Lucy Grace Johns and Henry Randolph Johns. She is also survived by her brother, William Talman Newell, Jr. and wife Mary of Mathews, Va.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the "Go Bo Fund c/o Ben Johns, 1633 29th Street, Washington DC 20007 or the Scholarship Fund of St. Georges Independent School, 1880 Wolf River Blvd., Collierville TN 38017.

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Mount Vernon Girls' Basketball Trying To Stay Focused

Majors rarely challenged by district opponents.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

With the postseason approaching, the biggest challenge facing the Mount Vernon girls' basketball team during the National District grind remains staying focused against inferior competition.

On Jan. 17, the Majors started the second half of their district schedule with a trip to Washington-Lee, which was without leading scorer Tatianna Torres, who sat out due to knee tendonitis. During the first quarter, the Majors forced 15 turnovers, jumped out to a 19-2 lead and led 23-5 at the end of the period.

Game over.

For head coach Courtney Coffey and his staff, keeping the team motivated in situations like these has been a challenge. Mount Vernon went on to beat the Generals, 64-32, and five days later beat Hayfield, 88-30. The Majors are undefeated in nine district games, winning seven by at least 30 points and four by at least 40. Mount Vernon's closest district victory was an eight-point win against Edison on Jan. 4, but the Majors at one point held a 19-point fourth-quarter lead. Coffey said he wants the Majors to play at or above their potential on every possession.



Mount Vernon junior post Kelly Quigley (30) grabbed six rebounds off the bench against Washington-Lee on Jan. 17.

Easier said than done.

"Our first quarter tonight was excellent, but we have drop-offs after awhile," Coffey said after the W-L game. "... They see the score is 23-5, we're playing Washington-Lee and they're like, 'Hey, the game's over.' That's the struggle as a staff that we have: we have to try to keep them on task because it hurt us. We lost two [non-district] games [this season] by a combined score of three points. We started those games and



Mount Vernon freshman Erin Irving grabs the ball against Washington-Lee on Jan. 17.

we had those same lapses in those games against elite teams that we had tonight and other games.

"Once we get that corrected, I think we'll be fine come playoff time, but we've got a lot of work to do."

One positive to come from the lopsided games is the opportunity for reserve players to get in the game and show what they've got. Junior post Kelly Quigley came off the bench, grabbed six rebounds and

scored two points against the Generals.

"I want to make an impact," Quigley said, "and I kind of want to show that I deserve a [chance] to play more."

Coffey said he was pleased with Quigley's effort. "Kelly Quigley is a great kid," he said. "She comes to practice, she works hard [and] she does everything we ask, so for her to get an opportunity to get out there and get six big rebounds the way she did, that's great. Also, I'm loving it because it's telling me that kid wants to play and we need to play her more. ... We're going to start upping her minutes because she can help us out in that paint area."

Kelly Loftus led Mount Vernon with 19 points. Taylor Dunham scored 10 points, Samantha Porter finished with nine and Tiffany Webster added eight.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, Loftus is averaging 17.9 points per game. Dunham is averaging 11.2 per contest, Chanel Shannon is at 11.1, freshman Erin Irving averages 9.5 and Porter is averaging 9.3.

Mount Vernon is 13-2 overall, 9-0 in the district and ranked No. 7 in the Washington Post's top 20. The Majors will travel to face Wakefield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 25, and Edison, ranked No. 8 in the Washington Post, on Jan. 30.

"To get where we want to go, you really have to go into every game like you're playing the No. 2 team in the state or the No. 1 team in the state," Loftus said. "You can't really look at who you're playing; you just have to play to your potential every game. [It] helps if you have that mentality going into the game."

MV Magic Softball Holds Top-3 Rankings

A local girls' softball team, the Mount Vernon Magic 14U, is currently ranked No. 3 nationally and No. 2 in Virginia in points by the USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association). The Mount Vernon Magic 14U is a recreational/travel team organized by Mount Vernon Youth Athletic Association. The team is composed of girls ages 14 and under, and drawn primarily from two local softball leagues: Mount Vernon Youth Athletic Association (MVYAA) and Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association (FHYAA). The 14U Magic is coached by Mitch Rockwell, Karen Walker, Phil Klein and Ron Dillard.

"While the 2013 USSSA year is still very young, it is notable that this team is off to an outstanding start," Rockwell said. "In two tournament appearances thus far in the 2013 USSSA year, the team has secured one championship, The Potomac River Clash NIT — a USSSA National Invitational Tournament, as well as a second-place finish in the USSSA Fall Challenge NIT, also a national invitational. By placing so well in their first two tournaments the team has already earned an invitation to the 2013 USSSA Softball World Series, to be held this



Summer in Salisbury, Md. Their tournament performances also catapulted the team in the national and state rankings.

"All of these girls are very talented softball players," Rockwell added. "Some of them have played together for a few seasons and that can make a difference. While the USSSA year is very young, it is still very nice to see the team sitting so high in the rankings over the winter break."

Members of the team include: Caroline Bowman, Izzy Crown, Rachel Deel, Christina Dillard, Alyssa Dinkins, Harley Divine,

Mount Vernon Magic 14U players are seen after their Potomac River Clash NIT Championship win. From left: (front row) Christina Dillard, Izzy Crown, Erin Rockwell, Harley Divine, Hannah Talbert, Grace Moery, (back row) Rachel Deel, Micaela Neulight, Jordan Quinonez, Alyssa Dinkins, Emma Klein and Caroline Bowman. (Not pictured: Katie Reilly)

Emma Klein, Grace Moery, Micaela Neulight, Jordan Quinonez, Katie Reilly, Erin Rockwell and Hannah Talbert.

"This spring, we hope to pick up where we left off in the fall," Rockwell said. "We coaches are extremely proud of this team. The girls have showed real character by winning some very tough games against formidable opponents including some come-from-behind wins. These girls play extremely hard and are very dedicated and determined softball players. They have earned these rankings."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Valentine's Day Dance

The Fort Hunt Sportsmen's Association will be holding its annual Valentine's Day Dance and celebrating its 50th anniversary of supporting youth athletics in the area (1963-2013).

It will be held at Mount Vernon Country Club at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 9, and include dinner, dancing, silent auction and fun.

Music will be provided by Black Moon Tonic. Sponsored by the Sportsmen and the West Potomac High School Athletic Booster Club, its proceeds will benefit West Potomac High School Turf Fields. Cost is \$130 per couple.

For reservations: email Harry Shackelford at shach1416@gmail.com or call 703-765-3489; email Rick Genuario at rick@Genuario.companies.com or call 703-768-2853.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 7

Neighborhoods Vs. Cell Towers

To the Editor:

The January 2013 edition of the MVCCA Record includes a resolution of its Environment & Recreation committee on page 13 concerning cell towers. The resolution specifically proposes changes to Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan with particular reference to its "Telecommunication Policy." The proposed resolution (which was likely voted upon on Wednesday, Jan. 23, after this letter was submitted for publication) makes reference to a 2011 MVCCA resolution "that telecommunications towers should be approved only if micro-cell or miniaturization technology such as Distributive Antennae System (DAS) is not technically feasible." It is noteworthy that the question of financial feasibility on the part of cellular carriers is not mentioned (although it may have been included in the 2011 resolution).

It is my understanding that cellular carriers are reluctant to install DAS, not due to lack of technical feasibility but, rather, because they have determined that such systems are not financially

feasible.

When I drive my car in the Mount Vernon District, there are clear cellular dead zones including on Fort Hunt Road from the intersection with Sherwood Hall Lane to close to Westgrove Park and on the George Washington Parkway from around Tulane Road to the stone bridge just south of the Morningside Lane exit.

It has been next to impossible to find suitable sites to install cellular towers in dead zones to enhance cellular service, an important thing to do particularly concerning the ability of homeowners to communicate during an emergency. The decision of the U.S. District Court in Alexandria in the New Cingular Wireless case that was affirmed by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals made it clear that the most important views to consider are those of the people living most closely adjacent the proposed site and who are most likely to be impacted by the installation. That proposal concerned the request to install a monopole at the Masonic Lodge on Fort Hunt Road just south of the intersection with Elkin Street. The MVCCA passed a resolution favoring the installation, but the adjacent Plymouth neighborhood, which did not belong to the MVCCA, opposed the

installation. The Alexandria Court considered the Plymouth neighborhood's opposition to be more germane to the issue than the support of the MVCCA, and ruled that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had been correct in denying the application. The 4th Circuit affirmed this decision.

In the big picture, what does this mean? Whether or not the MVCCA's resolution passed this week, cellular carriers are going to make business decisions taking into account whether those decisions are financially sound. To date, they have determined that installing a comprehensive DAS in Mount Vernon is not financially feasible. Thus, based upon the Court decisions, unless locations can be found where monopoles can be installed without opposition from adjacent neighborhoods, it is likely cellular service will remain in its current state. I would not presume to criticize any neighborhood in our community for opposing installation of a cellular monopole. At the same time, unless there is a neighborhood out there willing to step forward and agree to a monopole installation in their midst, none will ever be approved.

H. Jay Spiegel, Mount Vernon

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—Douglas MacArthur

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ENTERTAINMENT

Dancing Life into Books

Upcoming shows from Jane Franklin Dance incorporate movement and storytelling.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE GAZETTE

Jane Franklin likes to keep busy and to keep her company moving. During the next few weeks, the Arlington-based dance company is performing a number of pieces, each of which depend in movement and music to tell stories.

"I try to keep the repertoire active so the dances can be performed many times," Franklin said.

The company is slightly nomadic when it comes to performance spaces — a partnership with Arlington County helps provide rehearsal space on South Four Mile Run, but most performances are done elsewhere,

including Alexandria and Washington, D.C. "We're all out in the community. We don't rent or own our own building," Franklin

said, adding that she also teaches classes and leads after school programs a few times each week. "We try to have a pretty full schedule with performances for children, our 40+ program and shows for the general public."

Two of the upcoming shows are based on children's books. "Penelope's Pesky Pen," based on "The Obstinate Pen" by Frank Dormer, is the story of a girl who receives the gift of a pen with its own ideas about creativity. "The Big Meow" is about a little kitten with an unusually loud meow, based on the book of the same name by Elizabeth Spire.

For those dance aficionados who might be interested in something a little more cerebral, the company is presenting "From One Place to Another," a series of movements that involve an interactive kinetic sculpture, and some pieces will include live music performed by Mark Sylvester. Some of these pieces have been performed in public spaces in the past few years, Franklin said.

The dancers have to balance themselves on the sculpture, created specifically by Franklin and her company, which also presents the audience with the challenge of watching not just the movement of the people on stage, but the moving metal structure, she said.

"I'm challenging myself to find something

new with movement and not just the movement itself," Franklin said. "I'm al-

Details

"Penelope's Pesky Pen," based on a children's book, will be presented on Jan. 27 at 4 p.m. at the Athenaeum in Alexandria, and again on Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. at the Theater on the Run in Arlington. The company is also presenting "The Big Meow" on Feb. 9 at 4 p.m. at the Theater on the Run, and "From One Place to Another," a series of vignettes incorporating wire sculpted shapes, cardboard and a kinetic sculpture manipulated by dancers, on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Theater on the Run in Arlington. Visit www.janefranklindance.com.

ways trying to find a concept that I can hook on to as a reason for the dance."

SHE'S ALSO PREPARING to introduce a new piece, "Fire and Ice," which features wooden branches that have been smoothed and painted in white to represent branches covered in snow, and dancers incorporating rustling garbage bags shaped into dresses to mimic the sound of fire.

The dances that aren't immediately based on books or formal stories still try to express emotion or take the audience on a journey, Franklin said.

But the ones that are based on books, the performances that are mostly geared toward children, are just as bright and colorful and lively, she said. In "Penelope's Pesky Pen," for example, the sets are mostly white and



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Dancers from Jane Franklin Dance have a series of performances coming up, including "Penelope's Pesky Pen," based on the book by Frank Dormer, which will be performed Jan. 27 at the Athenaeum in Alexandria and Feb. 2 at the Theater on the Run in Arlington.

colorless, which makes the bright blue pen all the more vivid.

"The whole thing is in black and white, the sets and the costumes except for the last section, where people free themselves to express themselves through drawing," she said.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Homeschool Studio Class.

Beginning in February at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War

Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee's hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis Seeger will display "People" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St.

through Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist's larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger's subjects are captured with vibrant palette. Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Life in Civil War Alexandria

Exhibition. Daily exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Through September 2013 at The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Tavern Toddlers.

Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 24

Jeffrey Osborne. 7:30 p.m. \$65. Visit www.jeffreyosborne.com. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Custom color painting — explore routines and practices for mixing a unique color palette and painting with

tempera paint. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call 703-201-1250.

Blockbuster Thursday. 6:30 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Call for title. Free. 703-746-1702.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Fire Safety Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 can learn about fire safety from a representative from the Alexandria Fire Department. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. One-year-olds can sing, enjoy fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, play time and a craft. Free. 703-746-1705.

Short Story Discussion. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss stories from "Other Voices, Other Vistas" edited by Barbara Solomon. Free. 703-746-1704.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Pajamas optional, but children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, games and crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and more, including a weekly craft or short film. Free. 703-746-1703.

THURSDAYS/JAN. 24, 31

Success as an Artist Seminar. 6-9 p.m. at the Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. \$85 registration fee for both days. Learn how to succeed in the business of being an artist. To register 703-683-1780.

JAN. 24 THROUGH MARCH 17

Theater Performance. "Ladies Swing the Blues," a world premiere by Thomas W. Jones II and William Knowles at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Explore the jazz folklore, mythologies and backstage stories of the '40s and '50s with four legendary jazz divas as they gather to commemorate the passing of jazz legend Charlie Parker. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 (students \$25). For tickets call 800-494-8497 or visit www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. Fully accessible, free parking.

THROUGH JAN. 24

Watercolors and Collagraph Prints: African Encounters: Coast to Coast. The Alexandria

Black History Museum will open an exhibition of watercolors and collagraph prints entitled African Encounters: Coast to Coast. Artist Kathleen Stafford explores the landscape, architecture, and people of Africa, providing a kaleidoscope of variety and color for the eye. Free and open to the public. The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St. and is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org. **Solo Preview Exhibit.** Features a premiere piece of work by each of the Art League's nine 2013 solo artists. Gallery is located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

Music. The Steep Canyon Rangers will perform at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., at 7:30 p.m. \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500.

Invasives: What Not to Plant. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn what native alternatives you can grow. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 183 3401.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, see Disney's "Little Mermaid, Jr." Visit acctonline.org or 703-660-2611 for tickets and

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 17

ENTERTAINMENT

Roz White, Lori Williams, Yvette Spears, Sandy Bainum appearing in MetroStage's "Ladies Swing the Blues."



PHOTO BY CHRIS BANKS

Swingin' Ladies at MetroStage

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
METROSTAGE,
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Another world premiere musical opens at MetroStage, Thursday, Jan. 24. MetroStage Associate Artist Thomas W. Jones II, based in Atlanta, Georgia, has written some of our favorite shows — from “Three Sistahs” and “Harlem Rose” a decade ago to “Cool Papa’s Party,” a Helen Hayes Award-winning musical that premiered here in 2009. And now we are proud to present his latest, “Ladies Swing the Blues,” and boy do they swing! With original music and all new arrangements of some of the 1940’s and ‘50’s standards by another MetroStage favorite, William Knowles and a jazz band, MetroStage is Alexandria’s own version of Washington, D.C.’s famous Blues Alley, except it has been transformed into Birdland, “The Jazz Corner of the

World” in New York City, named for the legendary jazz musician, Charlie Parker.

“Ladies Swing the Blues” takes place the evening following the death of Charlie Parker in 1955, backstage at Birdland. Four iconic women in the tradition of Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday, Sarah Vaughan and Peggy Lee, reminisce backstage at Birdland about the musicians of the era — Charlie Parker (The Bird) along with Dizzy, Basie, Monk, Ellington and so many other legendary musicians who contributed to blues, jazz and even, in the case of Dizzy and Bird, invented bebop.

It is storytelling at its best, as we live the lives of these iconic musicians, revel in their musical genius and enjoy the best music of the era, as well as the original music of Knowles with lyrics by Jones. We invite you to Birdland to share the stories and lives of the most influential musicians of our time. “Ladies Swing the Blues” runs through March 17 at MetroStage — a jazz club in a converted warehouse here in the north end of Old Town.

NOTES FROM THE PRODUCER

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

information.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and under can enjoy songs and stories. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Winter Concert. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 Beauregard St. Peter Trofimenko and the American Balalaika Symphony perform “A Russian New Year Balalaika Bash.” \$20/advance; \$25/door; \$15/seniors, students and groups. Visit www.ABSorchestra.org or www.InstantSeats.com.

Winter Garden Treasures. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$15. Learn about the dogwood and witch hazel families. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 2801.

Art*iculation. 2-5 p.m. at The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Workshop to help visual artists communicate effectively. Free. Registration required, 703-683-1780.

Saturday Stories. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-746-1702.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, see Disney’s “Little Mermaid, Jr.” Visit acconline.org or 703-660-2611 for tickets and information.

Civil War Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Period or after-five wear encouraged. Enjoy period dances with live music, desserts and more. \$45/person. Reservations required, 703-746-4242.

Storytime with Author Michael Muller and Mirabelle. 10:30-11 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children ages 5 and under can enjoy story time with Michael Muller and his Boston terrier Mirabelle. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SUNDAY/JAN. 27

“Penelope’s Pesky Pen.” 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Children can see a dance production based on Frank Dormer’s “The Obstinate Pen.” \$10-\$15. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

Designing a Layered Garden. 1:30-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10. Learn how to recreate the display of David Culp’s Brandywine Cottage. Book signing to follow. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173. Code: 290 182 4501.

Drop Dead Gorgeous Tea

Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$28. Learn about the history of fashion and beauty trends that have proved harmful, even fatal. Register at 703-941-7987.

Coffee, Critique, Conversation. 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Photographers and art enthusiasts can share their work and get feedback and questions answered. Free. 703-683-2205.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, see Disney’s “Little Mermaid, Jr.” Visit acconline.org or 703-660-2611 for tickets and information.

Event. 3-6:30 p.m. at Ireland’s Own, 111 N. Pitt St. Enjoy music, auction, raffle and more. Proceeds help support Alexandria’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade Visit www.ballyshaners.org for more.

Ladies 18th-Century Tea. 3 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Sip the museum’s special blend and eat period-inspired delicacies. \$35/person. Reservations required. 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall. Hear the American Youth Philharmonic perform with violinist Ricardo Cyncynates of the National Symphony Orchestra. \$15/adult;

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 17

\$10/senior and student; free for music teachers. Tickets available at www.aypo.org or at the door.

My Kissing Hands Keepsake Impressions. Noon-2 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Custom ceramic pieces. Visit mykissinghands.com for styles and pricing. RSVP to info@hooray4books.com. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

West African Drumming Workshop. 2-3:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Bring a drum, bell or shaker. \$5/person; \$15/max per family.

Chamber Players Concert. 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the United States Air Force Band brass quintet and brass soloists. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

THROUGH JAN. 27

Art Exhibit. "Shades of White" by Del Ray artisans at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. White isn't "just white." It has tones and hues ranging from blues to beiges to yellows and more. In addition, some white pigments chemically interact with others (e.g. lead-based v. sulfur-based) to create beautiful blues and grays. Curators: Betsy Mead and Hillary Mead. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more details.

Art Exhibit. See "Between the Lines: Contemporary Drawing Now" at Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. An all-media exhibition focusing on current trends in drawing today. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target.

Alexandria Restaurant Week: Inaugural Edition. Alexandria celebrates the inauguration with a special edition of Restaurant Week. Kicking off inaugural weekend and lasting 10 days, Alexandria's presidential hotspots and more than 50 eateries are offering \$35 three-course dinners or \$35 dinners for two. Find menus and more presidential connections at www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com.

MONDAY/JAN. 28

Biography Book Club. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. Discuss "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls.

Little One-Ders. 10:30 a.m. or 11:15 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children age 12-23 months with adult. Free. Pre-registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Baby Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children up to 11 months can enjoy songs, fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

German Story Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Ages 1-5 can enjoy stories, fingerplays and songs in German. Free. 703-746-1705.

Meet a K-9 and Deputy Sheriff. 3:45 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children in grades K-5 can learn and ask questions about what they do and how they train. Free. 703-746-1705.

Read, Sing, Play, Baby. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children up to 11 months can enjoy songs, games and playtime with toys. Free. 703-746-1703.

MONDAY-THURSDAY/JAN. 28-31

Discovery Painting 1. 1-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$105. Learn basic painting skills, tools and techniques to

Ricardo Cyncynates

The American Youth Philharmonic welcomes violinist Ricardo Cyncynates of the National Symphony Orchestra, performing a concert of "Americana" and featuring the *Violin Concerto* by Samuel Barber. The concert takes place Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center of Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. Additional repertoire includes the Overture to *Candide* by Bernstein, *Billy the Kid Suite* by Copland, and *An American in Paris* by Gershwin.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors (65+) and students (including college with ID), and free for music teachers. Tickets are available online or at the door. Visit www.aypo.org/events.



create simple works of art. Register online at www.greenspring.org or 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/JAN. 29

Monarch Butterfly Presentation. 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Learn about the life cycle, migration and more of the butterfly. Free. Call 703-765-4573 to reserve a seat.

English as a Second Language Class. 10 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All levels welcome. Free. 703-746-1702.

Tech Zoo Tuesdays. 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn about the latest e-reading devices or get help with one currently owned. Free. 703-746-1702.

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Baby Rhyme Time. 11:30 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children up to 11 months with adult. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Game Night. 7 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 8-12. Games change monthly. Free. 703-746-1702.

Songs and Stories. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 1-4 can enjoy songs, fingerplays and stories. Free. 703-746-1705.

Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories, songs, games and making crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

Wax Museum. 9:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Louis Catholic School, 2901 Popkins Lane. Fifth grade students will dress up as an important person in history or modern society and then assume a pose with a sticker acting as a start button, telling them to present their report on that person. 703-768-7732.

WEDNESDAY/JAN.30

Robert Earl Keen. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50, all standing in the flex stage. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Author Series. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. William Burton McCormick will discuss his book "Lenin's Harem." Free.

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

E-book Training. 7 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Learn how to use Alexandria Library's e-book collection on your e-reader, smartphone, mp3 player or computer. Free. 703-746-1705.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Music. Blackstreet featuring Teddy Riley will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. One-year-olds can sing, enjoy fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, play time and a craft. Free. 703-746-1705.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Pajamas optional, but children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, games and crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and more, including a weekly craft or short film. Free. 703-746-1703.

THROUGH JAN. 31

Art Exhibit. Multiple Exposures Gallery in Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. See Clifford Wheeler's "Axis: Bold as Love, The Luthier's Art." Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

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2013

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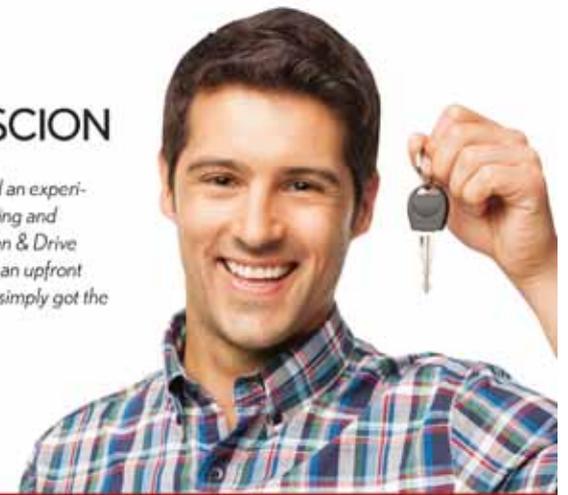
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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

7108 Park Terrace Drive \$875,000

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Totally Remodeled Baths • One with Jetted Tub • Enormous Formal Living and Dining Rooms • Library and Bright, Breezy Sunroom • Galley Kitchen w/ adjacent Breakfast Bay • Fabulous Custom Laundry on Lower Level • Large Storage Room • Two Car Garage

Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy. R on Tulane. L on Park Terrace to 7108 on right.

7118 Park Terrace Drive \$839,000

- Exceptional Lot and Curb Appeal • Three Level Split with Double Car Garage • Large Sunroom at Rear Elevation • Extensive



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Hardscape and Barbecue at Rear Elevation • Eat-in Kitchen w/ Hand-painted Tile Flooring • Four Generous Bedrooms • Three Full Baths • Formal Rooms feature 8" Parquet Flooring • Large Recreation Room on Lower Level • New HVAC • Replacement Windows Throughout

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

1202 Gatewood Drive \$935,000

- Customized, Unique All-Brick Colonial • Superior Curb Appeal w/ Extensive Gardens at Rear • Large Open Rooms / Spacious Grounds/

Great for Entertaining • Expansive Marble Entry Foyer/Hardwoods on Both Levels • Remodeled Granite Kitchen with Viking Range/Heated Marble Floors • Generous Family Room/Library features Wall of Built-Ins • Enormous Master Suite w/ Dressing Room and Luxury Marble Bath featuring Soaking Tub, Seated Separate Shower, Water Closet with Bidet, and His/Hers Vessel Bowl Vanities • Two-Zone HVAC • Three Masonry Fireplaces • Whole House Security System • Lawn Sprinkler System

Dir.: Alex S on GW Pkwy. R on Tulane. L on Park Terrace. R on Villamay. L on Admiral. R on Gatewood to 1202 on right.

7210 Burtonwood Drive \$1,185,000

- Complete first class renovation with the highest degree of design detail and attention • Carefully selected marble, stone and granite throughout • Spectacular neutral window treatments and wall paper • New shatter proof windows and hard wired alarm system • New wash room with wall to wall maple cabinets, sink and 8 foot counter • Master bedroom and bathroom with sunlit filled vaulted ceiling, skylights, steam room, jacuzzi, walk in closet and designer his/her vanities • Two separate AC/heating systems with humidifier • Double faced gas ventless fireplace with remote • Full outdoor living space with Viking kitchen • Heated pool/spa and hand selected river flat stone surround • Screened gazebo eating area • Striking season round flowering plants and landscaping



BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Dir.: Fort Hunt Road, L on Marine Drive, R on Burtonwood Drive to 7210 on right.

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