



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/MOUNT VERNON

Members of the VOICE congregations, who worked to help gain support for the facility improvements, respond to the announcement that it was successful.

'West Poor' — No More

Advocates celebrate success in creating new fields in Mount Vernon.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When athletes at West Potomac High School travel to other schools in the region, they often hear students call their school "West Poor." That's because the school has notoriously bad athletic fields, ones that are so bad they have a reputation that stretches across Northern Virginia. That's all about to change, though, because advocates for athletic fields have persuaded Fairfax County leaders to invest \$3.5 million to improve conditions up and down the Route 1 corridor, where poverty rates are some of the highest in the county.

"Dilapidated facilities say that people don't necessarily care," said Jennifer Knox, associate organizer for VOICE. "Facilities matter for safety and the amount of practice time that you get, but it's also a source of pride and respect in your community."

The effort began at the end of the school year last year, when leaders of VOICE organized a community meeting at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Gum Springs. More than 400 people showed up, and parents and young people

testified about their frustration. But they also had a remedy in mind, and leaders of VOICE made the case to elected officials about remedying disparities.

"We are the part of Fairfax County that the rest of Fairfax County would like to forget about," said Crystal Compton, parent of a West Potomac football player. "Our community is underserved in all aspects, whether it be the care given to our shopping centers, our roads, our schools or our recreation parks."

SINCE THAT FIRST meeting in June 2012, Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay helped get improvements at Muddy Hole. That's where two diverse football teams practice without goal posts. Last year, McKay was able to secure funding to install new goal posts and expand the field to be regula

SEE 'WEST POOR,' PAGE 5



FCPS Board Member Dan Storck talked to the crowd about supporting the schools. West Potomac High School needs to raise an additional \$50,000 to fully fund the new field.

Democrats Score Narrow Victory

Division in Republican Party cited in loss.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

When Jim Dillard first ran to represent Fairfax County in the House of Delegates in 1965, the Republican Party of Virginia was a different animal. Recalling that race on Election Night 2013, Dillard said that was a time when the party welcomed diversity between moderates and conservatives. He lost that first race, but went on to serve in the House of Delegates for more than 30 years. This year, though, he worked for



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

State Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) votes at his home Hollin Hall Precinct. Surovell was seeking reelection, and was unopposed by a major party candidate.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe in a fierce race for governor against Repub

SEE DEMOCRATS, PAGE 3

Kincaid Elected First Female Sheriff

Kincaid pledges commitment to diversity, department's employees, and community outreach.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

Democrat Stacey Kincaid, a 26-year-veteran of the sheriff's department, made local history Tuesday by becoming Fairfax County's first female sheriff.

Kincaid, 48, won in a four-way race with 53.74 percent of the vote against Bryan Wolfe, the GOP candidate, and independents Chris DeCarlo and Robert Rivera.

The contest was the only county-wide office on the ballot this year, a special election to fill the post held by Democrat Stan Barry, who retired midway through his fourth term last July.

Kincaid's decisive victory ends a race that became increasingly rancorous in the past several weeks, with near daily attacks from the Wolfe camp alleging intimidation, vandalism and "hypocrisy" over

SEE STACEY KINCAID, PAGE 3

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Democrats Eke Out Victory

FROM PAGE 1

lican Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

"The party has gone so far to the right, and they are trying to shove all these social issues down everybody's throat," said Dillard, who represented House District 41. "That's turned off an awful lot of Republicans who used to vote for me."

Although polls leading up to Election Day showed McAuliffe with an average lead of six percentage points, the actual vote was much closer. McAuliffe narrowly edged out Cuccinelli 48 percent to 45 percent. State Sen. Ralph Northam (D-6) enjoyed a more comfortable lead against Republican E.W. Jackson, 55 percent to 45 percent. That means Northam will resign his state Senate seat, upsetting the balance between 20 Republicans and 20 Democrats. The special election for Northam's seat is expected to become a hotly contested race because the stakes of the outcome could determine which party controls the state Senate.

"That's a seat that has a split between Norfolk and the Eastern Shore," said Clark Mercer, political director of the Democratic Party of Virginia. "So the key to winning that election will be having a candidate that can draw votes from both of those regions."

IN MANY WAYS, the results of the election have yet to play out. Aside from the special election for Northam's seat, the race for attorney general appears to be headed

Race For Governor

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Terry McAuliffe 176,000 votes 58 percent
Ken Cuccinelli 110,000 votes 36 percent
Robert Sarvis 16,000 votes 5 percent

Race for Lieutenant Governor

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Ralph Northam 190,000 votes 64 percent
E.W. Jackson 107,000 votes 36 percent

Race for Attorney General

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Mark Herring 182,000 votes 61 percent
Mark Obenshain 116,000 votes 39 percent

to a recount. Late Tuesday night, state Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26) had a very narrow lead and Republican Party Chairman Pat Mullins issued a statement congratulating him on winning the election. State Sen. Mark Herring (D-33) appeared before reporters to say he was not conceding the race.

"Right now, it's basically 50-50 and the numbers have been moving in our direction all night," said Herring. "The race is far from over."

The numbers were, in fact, moving in



PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

The Hybla Valley Elementary School had a steady stream of voters.

Herring's direction as votes continued to be tallied. By Wednesday morning, Herring had a very narrow lead over Obenshain. Because the margin of victory is likely to be less than 1 percent, a recount in that race seems likely. For many Democrats who gathered at the Sheraton Premiere in Tysons Corner, it was yet another indication that election 2013 turned out to be much closer than many people had anticipated.

"It turned out to be a race that was so close that in the annals of Virginia history it's going to go down as one of the closest races of all time," said Pat McCune of Centerville, saying the race was closer than expected.

ELECTION 2013 was a long and bitter slog for candidates, who spent much of the campaign hurling accusations and counter-accusations. Cuccinelli was dogged by his association with a wealth businessman who made lavish gifts to the governor and attorney general that went unreported on disclosure forms. McAuliffe was haunted by accusations about his relationship to a troubled green-car company. As the race

unfolded, it became increasingly negative — especially in television ads that dominated screens across Northern Virginia.

"Election nights are emotional times," said Gov. Bob McDonnell in a written statement. "For the winner there is the thrill of victory, combined with the recognition that the hard work preceding this moment is but a prelude to the tremendous effort yet to come."



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland greets voters Brian and Emily Wild at the Hollin Meadows Precinct.

Stacey Kincaid Elected County's First Female Sheriff

FROM PAGE 1

Kincaid's purchase of firearms.

Kincaid said she would rather focus on the positive aspects of campaigning.

"The way that I've looked at this race, it's a bonus that I've had this opportunity to talk about the department. So many people don't know what sheriff's office does, so it's been a chance to talk about the department and the community outreach programs we have," Kincaid said.

The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, the largest in the state with more than 600 employees and a \$63 million budget, has three primary functions: operating the Adult Detention Center, providing security in the courthouse, and serving civil papers, such as eviction notices, child protective orders and subpoenas.

THE SIGNIFICANCE of being the first woman in the county's history to serve as sheriff — succeeding 76 men in the department's 271-year history — is not lost on Kincaid.

She began her career with the sheriff's office in 1987 as a summer intern. As she rose through the ranks in the male-dominated profession, Kincaid said she often took inspiration from her mother, who died in 2003 after a long battle with breast cancer.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE GAZETTE

Capt. Stacey Kincaid, a 26-year veteran with the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department, stands outside the Fairfax County Democratic Committee Headquarters in October.

During an interview in October, Kincaid said her mother was often her biggest cheerleader and her hero.

"I saw the fight she had with breast cancer, the obstacles she overcame. She was

my hero," Kincaid said. "And from the beginning, she would say you could be the first female sheriff."

In 2008, Kincaid received the Distinguished Service Award, the agency's highest honor. In 2011, she was eligible to retire, but chose to continue her career.

"Throughout the years, my mom's words had been on my mind," Kincaid said. "I never thought the race was about me. I wanted to run for this office because I care about our 600 employees and the community we serve."

Kincaid, who has worked all four divisions of the department, said her first order of business will be to sign the civil service protection agreement which guarantees due process for department employees.

"I've been on record and said countless times that the primary thing it does it prevents any employee for being fired without just cause and prevents any political retaliation," Kincaid said.

Kincaid also said she was "passionate about collaboration with the community," and enhancing services of the sheriff's department, particularly in the areas of mental health and programs aimed at reducing recidivism.

She said she'd like to expand one of the programs called Project Lifesaver, a program that provides tracking devices for people who tend to wander, such as the elderly with

The Unofficial Results

Bryan "B.A." Wolfe: 98,686; 39.24 percent
Stacey Kincaid: 135,142; 53.74 percent
Christopher DeCarlo: 7,463; 2.97 percent
Robert Rivera: 8,704; 3.46 percent

Alzheimer's or children on the autism spectrum.

Kincaid also made diversity a key issue of her campaign, and said she was "deeply committed to equal protection of the rights of all members of our community."

"Diversity is as important to me as it is to the citizens that I will serve. When I became a deputy sheriff in 1987, women were underrepresented in policing. The same can be said of many other underrepresented groups as well," she said, adding that the office must "face up to the evolving needs of the community and the expectations placed upon its top leadership."

TO RELIEVE THE STRESS of an intense job, Kincaid said she enjoys working out, watching NFL football and making jewelry that she donates to charities.

"One of my proudest moments was running in the Ovarian Cancer 5K. I had made 112 pairs of earrings with silver and teal. When we started the race, I could see all these silver and teal earrings. That was such a gift to me, to see these courageous women wearing my earrings," Kincaid said.



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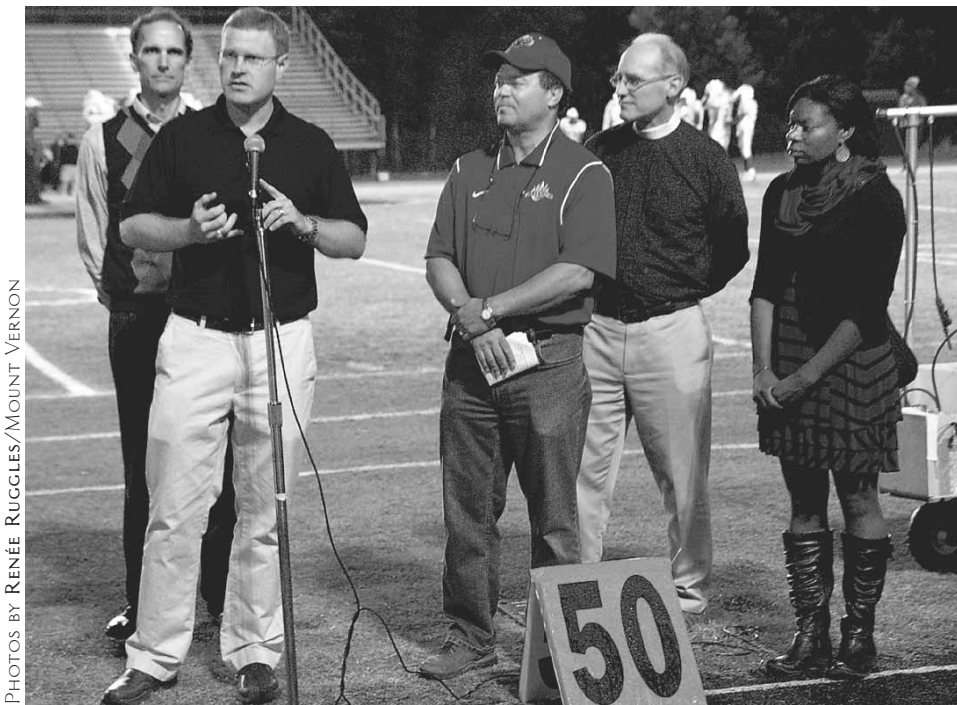
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PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/MOUNT VERNON

Supervisor Jeff McKay talks to the crowd about the role the supervisor's office had in diverting \$2.2 million to help West Potomac and Mount Vernon high schools with the need to improve their athletic facilities.

'West Poor' — No More

FROM PAGE 1

tion size. The money came out of the maintenance budget for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

More recently, organizers at VOICE persuaded the manager of Audubon Estates trailer park to invest \$15,000 into making improvements. Recent years have seen more and more trailers added to the property, leaving neighborhood children without a place to play sports. So VOICE leaders gathered information and made their case to Audubon Estates, making the case that neighborhood children were forced to either cross Richmond Highway or travel almost two miles to the nearest athletic field.

It worked. Leaders at Audubon agreed, and now dilapidated playground equipment will be removed to make room for a mini-soccer field where younger children can play. As for the older youths, VOICE leaders are still hoping to persuade county leaders to purchase an adjacent property currently under consideration to be a transportation center. If the property is purchased, VOICE leaders say, the county could transform part of the property into a larger soccer field for older children.

"It's really a minimal investment," said David Smith, manager of Audubon Estates. "This is a largely

Hispanic community, and they love their football."

PERHAPS THE BIGGEST success leaders of VOICE have had since starting the campaign is scoring more than \$3 million to create new sports fields at Mount Vernon High School and West Potomac High School. The money, carryover funding from last year's surplus, is \$1.5 million from Fairfax County and \$1.5 million from Fairfax County Public Schools.

"It's an important investment in neighborhoods that are long overdue," said Knox.

The money will be purchasing storm-water runoff infrastructure as well as synthetic fields, an upgrade that will allow state tournaments as well as the financial advantage of receiving conference money when other teams come to use the field. For many people, the

investment into the poor and Latino community in the Mount Vernon area is a realization of a longtime goal — one that's still unfolding.

"This is an area that has a high concentration of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch," said Rick Genuario, booster president at West Potomac. "So it's not like parents here can go out and raise millions of dollars the way they can in other parts of the county."

"We are the part of Fairfax County that the rest of Fairfax County would like to forget about."

— Crystal Compton,

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amazing setting — 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town & 30 mins to Ntl Airport — Gorgeous, Gorgeous Home!



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3713 Riverwood Road

Fabulous 5 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial in prestigious river front community of Riverwood. 3 finished levels, updated & expanded kitchen w/plenty of storage — large sun room addition with wrap-around deck overlooking a beautiful, fenced bkyd. 425 SF of storage below sun room — remodeled baths — finished walk-

out lower level w/2 BRs, rec room, den and full bath. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, 25/30 mins to Pentagon/D.C.



Alex./Hollin Hall Village
\$399,900

1602 Shenandoah Road
Lovely, updated, 2 BR, 1 BA Rambler on a beautiful, fenced lot. Kitchen & bath updated, beautiful hwd floors throughout, replacement windows, wood burning FPL, large 20x12 family room addition w/parquet floors. Lovely deck overlooks a beautiful fenced bkyd. Perfect for entertaining. Walk to shopping, 15 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 10 mins to Old Town, Alex, all along scenic G.W. Pkwy. Great Price for a great house.



Collingwood on the Potomac
\$655,000

8410 Morey Ln.
Lovely 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath split level home with 2-car garage. Incredible location: a couple of blocks to the Mt. Vernon Bike Trail and GW Parkway. Wayneswood Elementary. Stunning front porch, beautiful backyard w/ screened back porch, deck, and shed. Fireplace in living room. Replacement windows. Gorgeous hardwood floors main and upper levels. Walk-out family room on lower level. Additional basement level perfect for storage or refinishing.



Alex./Mt. Vernon
\$465,000

8719 Badger Drive
Stunning 4 BR, 2 BA Split, with carport, totally remodeled. Brand new kitchen w/ceramic tile floor, granite counters & maple cabinets, opening to a lovely screened porch, perfect for entertaining. Upgraded baths w/marble, refinished hwd floors throughout main level, new carpet on lower level. 2 MBRs, one on each level. Energy-efficient double pane windows, freshly painted interior & a large spectacular fenced bkyd. Great location in Mt. Vernon: 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport. Great Price!



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Police Shoot Homeless Man

Incident is under investigation.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

James Bryant, 28, of no fixed address, was shot and killed by Fairfax County Police during a fight at the Lorton Homeless Shelter on Oct. 30.

According to the police, Bryant assaulted several shelter residents and then assaulted the responding police officers. Bryant took the police baton from one officer and assaulted him and proceeded to also assault the other officer. According to the police, the officers “employed multiple levels of non-deadly force to try and end the assault. These attempts to control Bryant failed to stop his violent actions. The victim officer, previously struck by the baton, discharged his service weapon to stop an additional assault by Bryant.”

Bryant was taken to a local hospital where he died from his injuries. In addition to Bryant, the assaulted police officers were taken to the hospital for medical care of non life-threatening injuries. In addition, three victims from the original fight were also taken to local hospitals for non life-threatening injuries.

A Police Department spokesman would not elaborate on the police accounts of the incident. The department placed the two officers involved in the incident on routine administrative leave pending the completion of a criminal investigation and an internal investigation. The police spokesman would not answer any questions on the matter including what kind of non-lethal force was attempted before the victim was shot and killed. The spokesman referred to the police general orders (540.1) on the definition of use of non-lethal force. He said that non-lethal force could be any one or combination of the following types of non-lethal force: Pepper spray (Oleoresin capsicum); baton; Taser gun, and Pepper ball system.

In addition, an attempt to seek comment from Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerald Hyland, who is also chair of the Board’s Public Safety Committee, was unsuccessful.



Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

Both the Walt Whitman Middle School Orchestra and Band played during Mount Vernon High School’s Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration on Oct. 30. The band played “Cha Cha Del Sol” led by teacher Barbara Dobberstein.



Yazmin modeled a traditional dress from Honduras.

PHOTOS BY
RENÉE RUGGLES
THE GAZETTE



Members of the Ballet Folclórico Ritmos y Tradiciones de Mi Panamá were invited to the school, to perform.

CRIME REPORTS

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

ASSAULT ON POLICE, 4100 block of Nellie Custis Court, Oct. 26, 11:53 p.m. Police officers responded for a noise complaint due to party activity. While gaining voluntary compliance on the noise complaint another resident attempted to interfere and assaulted one of the officers. A 42-year-old woman was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer.

BURGLARY, 7300 block of Fordson Road, Oct. 26. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.

BURGLARY, 2000 block of Arlington Drive, Oct. 22. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

BURGLARY, 8505 Highland Lane, Oct. 25. An employee reported someone entered a shed at the school and took property

LARCENIES

❖ 7500 block of Lindberg Drive, wallet from

vehicle.

❖ 6800 block of Richmond Highway, meat from business.

❖ 7200 block of Richmond Highway, cell phone from business.

❖ 2600 block of Arlington Drive, jewelry from residence.

❖ 2300 block of Huntington Avenue, beer from business.

❖ 8800 block of Pear Tree Village Court, cell phone from vehicle.

❖ 6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business

❖ 7000 block of Huntley Run, credit card and cash from vehicle.

❖ 2300 block of Port Drive, electronic game and wallet from residence.

❖ 6300 block of Richmond Highway, item from business.

❖ 5800 block of Cameron Run Terrace, tires and rims from vehicle.

❖ 1800 block of Old Richmond Highway, tires from vehicle.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Contacts-for-Contracts Breakfast. 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Springfield Hilton, 6500 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Features an update on Fort Belvoir and more. \$35/person. Visit www.mtvernon-leechchamber.org or 703-360-6925.

Pet Loss Support Group. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Talk with others who are dealing with the death of a beloved pet. Free, register by calling 703-333-6963.

Shred-It Event. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Apple Federal Credit Union Kingstowne Branch, 6831 Sir Viceroy Drive. Bring up to three boxes of paper to have it securely disposed. No cardboard will be accepted. Free. 703-788-4825.

English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Adults can converse with other adults learning English. Free. 703-765-3645.

EBook Workshop. 1 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults can bring their eBook reader and library card and get any questions answered. Free. 703-971-0010.

Behavior as Communication in Alzheimer’s Disease. 3 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Learn ways to promote effective communication between caregivers and their family members as well as ways to anticipate and minimize troubling behaviors. Presented by the Fairfax Caregiver Seminar Consortium. Free. 703-339-4610.

Independent Living Project. 1 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Fairfax County’s Independent Living Project is a free six-week series of educational seminars of interest to older adults, exercise or yoga classes for strength and balance, and home safety visits for 60+ adults and adults with physical disabilities. Additional follow up services after the project ends may be available in some cases. Participation in the full project is advised. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. 703-768-6700.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Some of the parish children say the new stone labyrinth is a particularly meaningful part of the renovations at St. Aidan's in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria.

Commitment to Spirituality and Art

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church celebrates completed renovations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon celebrated the completion of its parish renovation Nov. 2 and 3 with a visit from Bishop Susan Ellyn Goff of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, but bricks and mortar weren't at the center of the festivities. The newly designed structure incorporates art — made by parishioners — into both the building and the mission of the church.

"In the past year the church has done a lot to focus on contemplative practice and spirituality, particularly through creativity," said Kathryn Horn Coneway, an artist and parishioner.

The renovations incorporate a large mobile created from silk hoops painted by church members, a photography exhibit created by students in fourth through eighth grades and a stone labyrinth on the grounds of the church created as an Eagle Scout project by parishioner Carter Costantino, and other members of his scout troop.

Coneway, who led the creation of the mobile, sees

that work of art as a symbol of unity. "It hangs under a skylight and over the font," she said. "It is made of 156 silk hoops painted by elementary school students, adults and different groups within the church. The hoops are made of bright colors and hang from copper rings. The message is that a lot of people's input makes a big statement. The whole becomes more than the sum of its parts."

"A lot of religion is nonverbal and should be," said John Baker, rector of St. Aidan's. "Artists tell stories through art in ways that can't be expressed through words."

In fact, St. Aidan's has an artists' circle, which includes poets, musicians, writers and visual artists. As part of the church's commitment to exploring spirituality through art and creativity, they added an evening Celtic service that is contemplative and includes poetry and Celtic music coupled with periods of silence and candlelight.

"The Celtic service is a way to make space for peace in our often busy lives," said Baker. "Art has a way of stopping us in our tracks. Art and spirituality are tied together in all kinds of ways."

Some parishioners say linking art and creativity to spirituality supports a sense of emotional and physical wellbeing. "Having the creative part of myself valued and sharing that part of others in the St. Aidan's community brings a depth of connection and

SEE SPIRITUALITY, PAGE 19

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10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm
(en Español); 6:30 pm

Weekday & Saturday
Mornings: 9:00 am Mass,
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Friday, Mass followed by
Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday
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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Gazette

Call for student artwork and writing; deadline Dec. 6.

During the last week of each year, The Gazette devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable, and the editions have won many awards. It is a keepsake edition for many families, and an edition read and praised by readers with and without children.

The annual Children's Gazette is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as each school year begins.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Friday, Dec. 6.

Some suggestions:

❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format.

EDITORIAL

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What

makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

❖ Opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, etc.

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette to editor Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Gazette, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Send all submissions by Dec. 6. The Children's Gazette will publish the week of Dec. 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Help Schools' Budget Shortfall

To the Editor:

I have been a member of the Mount Vernon Community my whole life and I am writing to call your attention on the issue of the budget deficit that Fairfax County Public Schools are facing. According to www.fairfaxcounty.gov, FCPS is the 11th largest school

system in the nation with 197 schools and centers and is now facing a \$140 million deficit, affecting the staff and educational programs. As a future teacher myself, I find this extremely outrageous. The reasons for the proposed budget cut is due a number of things: 3,000 more students next school year (\$25 million), increase in health insurance (\$27 million), Virginia retirement contributions (\$37 million), and loss

of in state revenue (\$21 million).

Fairfax County school superintendent Dr. Karen Garza made some suggestions on where to make the budget cuts. She suggested cutting back on school counselors and instructional assistants. This would save \$20 million a year. Increasing class sizes would save another \$20 million. To save \$5.5 million a year, the foreign language programs in elementary schools would have to be cut; \$8 million could be saved if all the employees experienced a one-day furlough. Her last suggestion was employees' contract by one day, saving \$9 million.

She may have made her suggestions on where to "shave off" the budget, but I believe there is more that we, a community, could do to help. A possible solution to the budget cut problem would be countywide fundraising in each school. Any and all types of fundraising could help.

Though there is quite a large amount that needs to be cut from the budget, \$140 million to be exact, any help would be better than none.

However, depending on the location of the school, some may oppose countywide fundraising. For example, the lower income schools may not be able to fundraise as much as the higher income schools. In addition, each school may want to use the money they fundraise for just their school, not to use towards others.

In order to implement this plan, the Fairfax County community

should create a fund of its own. With FCPS being the nation's 11th largest county, there is definitely space for some funding. In order to get involved, each of the 197 schools and centers needs to set up their own fund, but there also needs to be a fund for the entire county. If a member of the community wants to get involved with the fundraising, they could stop by one of their local schools to make a donation toward minimizing, if not deleting, this huge budget deficit.

Stephanie Epes
Alexandria

Not So Simple

To the Editor:

Christopher Hunter Lynt's poorly researched, inflammatory letter published in last week's Gazette surely merits a swift rebuke. He conducted so-called research and found several people who share my name and live in other cities. From this single data point, he came to the brilliant conclusion that my voter registration might have been canceled. One phone call to the Virginia Board of Elections (which I made) would have revealed that in determining who to purge from voter registration records, on the ground that a person is simultaneously registered in plural states, the Board of Elections compares the records for

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

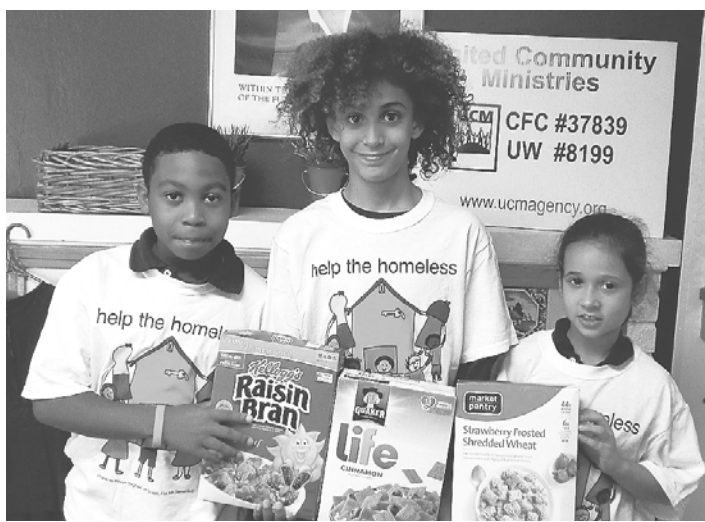


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping the Homeless

Students at Montessori School of Alexandria learned about hunger in the community and participated in a Help the Homeless walk through their neighborhood to benefit United Community Ministries on Oct. 23. The school is also hosting a Fall Food Drive to collect low-sugar cereals to stock the UCM Food Pantry. MSA students, from left, are fourth grader Jalil Hassan, fifth grader Zachary Parker, and third grader Saniyya Rivera.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Get Rear in Gear: 5th Annual Race

Approximately 800 runners and walkers are expected to attend the fifth annual Get Your Rear in Gear Tony Snow 5K Run/Walk in Alexandria at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 9, at Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria.

Organizers of the event hope to raise the awareness of colon cancer, the nation's number two cancer killer; as well as provide funding for education, screening, prevention and support surrounding the disease.

Get Your Rear in Gear – Alexandria is planned in honor of former White House

Press Secretary Tony Snow who lost his battle with colon cancer in 2008. Snow was a husband, father, friend, neighbor, journalist, commentator, musician, and inspiration for many.

Funds raised at the event will be split between Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center part of Georgetown University Medical Center and Georgetown University Hospital, and the Tony Snow and Betty Jo Caregiver Network at the Colon Cancer Coalition. The 2012 race raised nearly \$38,000.

Tony Snow



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4409 Tarpon Lane
\$525,000

Yacht Haven Opportunity!
Estate Sale, huge potential- don't let this one pass you by! Exceptionally spacious 4 level home. Family room addition with high ceilings, skylights and glass door to expansive deck. Other features include: replacement windows, fireplace, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, gas heat and covered parking. Half acre lot in waterfront community. Unique opportunity to provide your custom touches and still be below market value! **OPEN SUN 11/10, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate, L-Forest Haven; L-Tarpon Ln.**



1503 River Farm Dr
\$1,295,000

Grand Colonial Minutes from Old Town!
Best price for estate caliber residence in highly sought after GW Pkwy area! Special

home custom designed to capitalize on its park like setting and seasonal River views. Special features include 3 finished levels, w/o LL, SBR with dual master suites, library, sunroom, open kitchen to family room, expansive glass walls, multi-deck and amazing 4 car garage. Combo of size, features & location add up to a truly unique value!



8412 Washington Ave
\$449,000

True One Story - No Stairs!

Expanded Rambler on level lot in prime Mt. Vernon location. All major rooms including bedrooms on one level. Extensive major updates include: thermal windows, kitchen, baths, furnace, electric panel, siding, gutters-in short almost everything! Large back covered deck. One level living in "move-in" condition at remarkable price!



8520 Highland Lane
\$479,000

New Home at Unprecedented Price!

Must see to believe! Priced \$220K below the next lowest priced new SFH in FFX Co. Brand new home by leading custom builder intended for family member but circumstances changed. Result-unique opportunity to acquire top quality new SFH for less than townhouse or used home. Dramatic open interior, luxury kitchen and baths, screen porch, two car garage, stone and stucco exterior. Unique opportunity!



4300 Sheridans Point Ct
\$830,000

Elegant Georgian Colonial!

Abundant custom enhancements make this property a true showplace. 3 finished levels, open floor plan, updated kitchen and baths, sunroom, magnificent custom trim detail, luxury master bath, recently finished lower level. Fabulous setting on private grounds. Huge deck and 2 car garage. Hard to find home with this size and luxurious appointments under \$1,000,000.



9322 Mount Vernon Cir
\$699,000

Mt. Vernon on the Potomac Opportunity!

Rare opportunity in area's premier waterfront community! Major price reduction makes this the lowest price 3 level Colonial in MVOP for years. Home was expanded within the past few years to include 1st floor master suite or ideal in-law suite. Other features: 4BRs on upper level, 3 finished levels, family room w/ FP, & 2 car garage. Community amenities include marina, tennis ct & waterfront park.



9412 Old Mount Vernon Rd
\$1,098,950

Craftsman Masterpiece!

Former model by Wakefield Homes loaded with options and upgrades. Many fabulous features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, three finished levels, 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, 2 car garage. Gorgeous location on elevated lot with extensive landscaping and custom stonework. Priced thousands below current price list.



4209 Pickering Place
\$589,950

Classic Colonial Prime Location!

Fabulous property at remarkably reasonable price! Attractive home with numerous custom features and updates on quiet cul-de-sac in prime location. Features include: open floor plan, main level family room with FP, updated kitchen withilestone, gas cooking, hardwood floors & custom MBR. Gorgeous fenced yard with deck, brick patio & hot tub.



"The Giving Tree"

The Long & Foster "Giving Tree" program began 23 years ago by the Agents of the Alexandria Old Town office. This program is our way of giving back to the Alexandria Community. Each year the Alexandria Public Schools are requested to identify a number of families in their system that are in great need and a Holiday Wish List is provided for each child. Contributions consist of toys, games, books, clothes, and monetary donations to provide food certificates for the family. **WITH YOUR HELP, WE CAN GIVE THESE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES A GREAT HOLIDAY.**

Your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated.

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Please stop by our office OR contact/email:
Janice Allen, 703/509-0906 or
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\$ 439,900
Montebello
"J MODEL"

Wooded views from this nicely updated 3BR/2BA home in amenity rich Montebello. Almost 1,700 sq ft with newer kitchen, built-in bookcases, stacked

W/D and loads of windows backing to trees. Garage parking space plus extra storage included. Gated community in park-like setting offers resort style living as well as quick commutes straight into DC. Shuttle bus service to Huntington Metro.

Michael Manuel 703.615.6317



\$ 625,000
Alexandria
"MAIN LEVEL MASTER"

Freshly painted, this home has loads of space, flexible floor plan, 2 master suites, just steps to the Express Bus and blocks to the

Potomac River. Basement waterproofing system, home warranty.

www.nowapropertyshop.com
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545



\$ 609,000
Alexandria
"NEW PRICE"

Best Price for beautifully renovated center hall Colonial with a contemporary flair on quiet half acre fenced lot. 2,800 sq ft, 5BR/2 full and 2 half baths,

on 3 levels with large walk-out media / game room. Granite, stainless steel appliances. More pictures online: Google address: 8601 Falkstone Lane.

Sharon Edwards 703.408.8144



\$ 885,000
Alexandria
"IMPECCABLE"

Incomparable updates and custom touches throughout this 3 level brick Colonial in close-in Alexandria. 4/5BR, 3.5BA's with approximate 4,000 sq ft of finished living

space on 3 finished levels. High end new Chef's kitchen, stunning owner's luxurious bath, 2-car side load garage, rear deck on 1/4 lot, hardwoods on main and so much more. Walk to Metro and minutes to Beltway, Pentagon, DC. Move right in!

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4!
\$ 387,500
Triangle, VA
3662 THOMASSON CROSSING DR

Beautifully appointed 4BR/3.5BA, 2-car garage home on .36 acre lot. Hardwood floors, high-end

custom paint, updated master, roof, HW/H and much more... Eat-in kitchen open to family room with fireplace, library, deck, walk-out basement, fenced-in wooded back yard, plenty of storage. Close to Quantico, I-95, BRE, shopping and state parks.

Inderjeet Jumani 703.472.8804



\$ 775,000
Alexandria
"1 BLOCK TO POTOMAC RIVER"

Large brick home on 1/2 acre well landscaped and with mature trees. Hardwoods, ML bedrooms, beamed ceiling, bay windows and newer carpet in living room. Huge

dining room. Large family room addition with vaulted ceilings, parquet floors, chandeliers, sconces and ambient lighting. 3 fireplaces. Built-ins. Heated pool. Lots of storage. 2-car garage. 5BR/3BA

Rich Ragan 703.307.5891



\$ 635,000
Alex. / Wilton Woods
"SHOWS LIKE A MODEL"

Spacious and sunny 2 level home, 4BR, 3FB located on cul-de-sac and backing to woods. Warm hardwoods. Remodeled & expanded

gourmet kitchen with stainless, granite, cherry. Renovated baths. New carpeting. New bay windows. 2 fireplaces. 2-car garage with loads of storage. Move-in Ready!

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



\$ 263,000
Alex. / Belle View
"LOTS OF SUNSHINE"

Quiet and private, this 2nd floor end unit with porch looks into the trees, has 4 sides of windows, 1 shared wall. Move right in and enjoy the updated bath and

kitchen with granite and lovely hardwoods, and new carpeting. Dog-friendly community with pools, tennis and just steps to shopping, marina and bike/hike trail. Great Metro, bus and bike commuter location. 2BR/1BA

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions to hone figure drawing skills. Drop-in with your supplies to draw live models. Fee: \$8-12. View the calendar at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

The West End Farmers Market will run Sundays from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. through November. Located at Ben Brenman Park, browse food, crafts and more. Visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union Street. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

Book a Librarian. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St, for help with research or to better understand the library's databases and resources. Make an appointment by calling 703-746-1751.

Computer Tutoring. At the Charles E. Beatley, Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Individual assistance from a librarian. Call 703-746-1751.

Encore Chorale. Mondays 10:30 a.m.-noon at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr. Register now for Encore Chorale's fall season. The group of singers, ages 55 and up, practice classical and holiday songs to prepare for December performances. \$150 tuition. Visit encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747.

Metro Club After-School Program. From Sept. 9-June 2014, the Metropolitan School of Arts presents an after-school program for grades 1-6. The program is located at both the Lorton studio at Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way and in Alexandria at 5775 Barclay Drive. Programs will focus on the arts, including music, dance, theatre, yoga and academics, as well as designated homework time. The program will run Mondays, 1-6 p.m., and Tuesday-Friday, 3-6 p.m. Tuition runs from \$130-150. Call 703-339-0444 or visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Art Exhibit. "Sacred Earth, Healing Water" by Anne Bouie at Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs through Nov. 11. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and during performances. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/ for more.

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents "Colors of Autumn" in Studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit runs Oct. 22-Nov. 17. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit. See never-before-seen hats from Dr. Seuss's private collection along with prints and sculpture from the art of Dr. Seuss Collection. Runs Nov. 2-17 at P&C Art Gallery, 212 King St. Visit www.pcart.com for more.

Theater Performance. See "Shiloh Rules" by Doris Baizley, the second part of "A Salute to the American Voice." Performances are Friday-

Saturday, Nov. 8-9, 15-16, 22-23 and Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.; Saturday matinees Nov. 16, 23 at 2 p.m. All performances are at Port City Playhouse, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. \$18/adult; \$16/senior, military and student; \$14/groups of 10 or more. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org/ for more.

Theater Performance. See "High School Musical" by Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. \$12/person or \$11 for groups of 10 or more. Visit mvctt.org for more. Features over 40 members from local schools.

Art Exhibit. See "Concrete, Glass and Color," mosaic art by Jane Pettit at Crossroads Gallery at Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church. Free. The exhibit runs Oct. 16 through Nov. 24. 703-578-7201.

Art Exhibit. Through November, see Jenna Fournel's work at Huntley Meadows Park. Hours are Monday, Wednesday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from noon-5 p.m. Visit www.jenna4nel.com for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Del Ray Dozen Invitational Photography Show" at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Subject matter ranges from landscapes to portraits and a little bit of everything in between and the select photographers approach their craft in different ways—as traditional film shooters, digital image-makers, darkroom junkies, print makers, and experimentalists. Exhibit runs Nov. 1 through Dec. 1. For more information, visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Art Exhibit. Photographer Everitt Clark presents "Cities in the Air" from Nov. 7 through Dec. 2 in the Art League at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit will reveal how Richmond, Va., past and present intertwine. Free. Hours are Monday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursdays from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; and Sundays from noon-6 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit. See "Portent" in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., from Oct. 24 through Dec. 8. The works attempt to visually come to terms with, reflect or represent the magnitude of natural events. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Friday Affair Market. Noon-4 p.m. at Historic Hollin Hall on the grounds of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church,

TC Presents Holiday Craft Fair

The Fourth Annual Handmade Holiday Craft Fair will be on Saturday Nov. 16 from 10 am-4 pm at TC Williams HS. This free event will host to over 40 local, handmade vendors, live music from the TC Jazz Band, food and titan gear sales, raffles, and more. Follow on facebook at facebook.com/TCWilliamsHandmadeHolidayCraftFair

1909 Windmill Lane. Held the first and third Fridays through December. Vendors vary from week to week, but usually include baked goods, jewelry, pet items and more. Visit <http://mvuc.org> for more.

Art Exhibit. See "Fotographers at the Factory" Nov. 1 through Dec. 31 at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit celebrates FotoWeekDC. Hours are Thursdays 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; all other days from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Photographs will line the hall walls and in multiple studios. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery presents "Holiday Sizzle" in Studio 18 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Exhibit starts on



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Athenaeum Fundraiser

Join the Athenaeum Museum board Sunday, Nov. 10 from 4-6 p.m. for Cocktails in La Zona Rosa. Open to the public, this new event will serve as a thank you to current members. Local company the Sauce Queens will prepare their salsa and assist with the fundraising raffle that includes a four-hour rental of the museum for the price of two (worth up to \$900). Tickets are \$50 per person and will benefit the Athenaeum's programs and preservation efforts. Enjoy sangria and Latin food from Alexandria's A Thyme & Place. 201 Prince St. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

Nov. 19, additional items will be added Dec. 9 and the exhibit closes Jan. 5. Free. Some items will be for sale. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or 703-548-0935.

Art Exhibit. Artist John Gascot of Studio 4, 218 N. Lee St., suite 101, creates an art exhibit to honor the life journeys of transgender individuals. It will be on display through January. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, noon-7 p.m. and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. or by appointment. Visit www.studio4oldtown.com for more.

African American Activists Exhibition. Through Saturday, Jan. 4, 2014, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing photo-documentary project created in 2006 by artist-photographer Nina Tisara to identify, honor and chronicle people making current history in Alexandria. This free exhibit

is at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 601 Wythe St. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or call 703-746-4356.

Art Exhibit. See "Primary Colors" art exhibit from Jan. 3-Feb. 2 at The Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists use the three primary colors without mixing them. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition. At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23, 2014. This exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia's decision to

secede from the Union in May 1861. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Art Classes. Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. For children ages 12 and up. Begin with drawing figures and lines and work up to drawing in detail and on larger scale. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Art Classes. Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. for children ages 9 and up. Focuses on clay work in the studio. Begins Sept. 11 at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.artatthecenter.org/registration.htm to register.

Registration Still Open. The Art League School has openings in more than 200 classes and 50 workshops, from painting, jewelry, photography and more. Visit www.theartleague.org to register.

THURSDAY/NOV. 7

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Hear Teresa James when she opens for Delbert McClinton. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Music Performance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Marianne Matheny-Katz will sing Joni Mitchell songs in honor of Mitchell's 70th birthday. \$20 plus a minimum tab per guest. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com or 703-548-8899.

Historical Lecture. 7 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, visitor center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Why is it Called Lockheed Boulevard? Find out at the

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 7-10

Alexandria Film Festival. With more than 60 films by independent filmmakers, there will be something for everyone, including late-night blocks of macabre, mysterious films, foodie films, family-friendly movies at Beatley Library and "Best of Fest" program. There will also be a Q&A with Benh Zeitlin, a comedy co-written by and starring T.C. Williams High School graduate Casey Wilson. A full schedule can be found at www.alexandriafilmm.org. Tickets for most screenings are \$12/advance; \$15/door. Programming at Beatley Library is free.

FRIDAY/NOV. 8

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. Watch "Alice in Wonderland." \$5/person. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or 703-212-2950.

Plays, Poems and Choreopoems. 7:30 p.m. at the Blackbox Theatre at T.C. Williams High School. See a mixture of well known to unknown playwrights. \$5/person.

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

Civil War Tours. Two 90-minute tours will be at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about the history of Fort Ward, life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington and more. Free. 703-746-4848.

Ornament Decorating Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon at Alexandria Archaeology Museum in the Torpedo

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. Bring cookie sheets, rolling pins, lunch and wear comfortable clothes and roll out, cut and bake dough ornaments in the shape of artifacts. Free. RSVP to www.alexandriarchaeology.org or 703-746-4719.

Artisan Market. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Charles Barrett Rec Center. Browse handmade knits, ornaments, fine art, jewelry and more. Free face painting for children. Visit cbrecac.org/artisan-market for more.

Play Expo & Fall Festival. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort Hunt Preschool, 1909 Windmill Lane. Enjoy games, obstacle courses, crafts, pony rides and more. Food and beverages will be for sale. Free, but tickets are required for some activities. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com for more.

Eco-Conscious Decorating Class. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Sherry Ways will lead an interactive workshop on eco-conscious and holistic holiday decorating. Free. RSVP at 703-746-4356. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org for more.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. Discover Graphics Atelier, Inc. is celebrating 30 years with an exhibit at the Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road, N.E., Vienna. The exhibit runs from Nov. 6-Dec. 15. They have a print shop in Torpedo Factory. Free. Visit www.discovergraphics.org for more.

Performance. 4:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Jane Franklin Dance presents "The Big Meow," adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spire. \$15. Adapted for young children. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111.

At the Library

Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Call 703-768-6700.

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Call 703-339-4610.

John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Call 703-971-0010.

Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Call 703-765-3645.

SATURDAY/NOV. 9

Friends Book Sale. 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. All ages can find something.

Huntley Meadows. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library. All ages can explore the world of reptiles and amphibians. Free. Registration required.

Native American Story Program. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library. Children ages 5-8 can join Renee Gokey, Shawne and Sak-n-Fox Tribes, as she shares Native American stories, and take part in a hands-on activity. Free. Registration required.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a therapy dog. Registration required, 703-339-4610.

NANOWRIMO: Come Write In. 12:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Adults can take part in National Novel Writing Month and start writing a 50,000 word novel in one month. Free.

TUESDAY/NOV. 12

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library. Stories, songs and games for ages 12-23 months with an adult. Registration required.

Second Tuesday Book Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library. Read a book of your choice, then bring it and be prepared to discuss it. Free. Visit secondtuesdaybookgroup.blogspot.com.

Sweet Dreams. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children can enjoy stories and songs with their families. Registration required for adults and children.

Martha's Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Adults can discuss "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn. Free.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13

Rising Words, Rising Images. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library. Discuss "Ethan Frome" by Edith Wharton. For teens ages 13-18. Free. Registration required.

A to Zoo Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required.

Fall, Leaves, Fall. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities to celebrate Fall. Free. Registration required.

KNCAA Book Group. 2 p.m. at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults, next door to the Kingstowne Library. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Child and Me Yoga. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 1-3 can use yoga pose, songs and nursery rhymes to imitate animals you see at the zoo. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel. Free. Registration required.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required.

Wag A Tale. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 5-12 can register to read aloud to a reading therapy dog. Registration required.

Author Discussion. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Author Monet Bradley will discuss "The Prodigal Daughter: Life Transformation Journey." Free.

MONDAY/NOV. 18

Terrific Twos and Threes. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays. Free. Registration required.

A to Zoo Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required.

Cliffhanger Book Club. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Children ages 8-10 can listen to a story being read aloud. Free. Registration required.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. Watch "Alice in Wonderland." \$5/person. Visit www.sssas.org/arts or 703-212-2950.

Plays, Poems and Choreopoems. 7:30 p.m. at the Blackbox Theatre at T.C. Williams High School. See a mixture of well known to unknown playwrights. \$5/person.

SUNDAY/NOV. 10

Family Day. All families can tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., as junior docents discuss the history. \$5/adult; \$3/child. All veterans, active duty military personnel and their immediate families will receive free admission with valid ID. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/gadsbystavern or 703-746-4242.

Civil War Sunday. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum in Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. See an original May 26, 1861, edition of "The New-York Tribune" detailing Colonel Elmer Ellsworth's death in Alexandria, a Peeps diorama illustrating Ellsworth's death, a TimeTravelers Passport exhibit featuring the Civil War drummer boy, a diorama of a heating system constructed in Alexandria to warm Civil War hospital tents during the winter of 1861, a cocked and loaded Wickham musket discarded in a privy during the 1860s, and an exhibit on a Lee Street archaeological site during the Civil War. Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org or call 703-746-4399.

Author Signing. 1-3 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. Army veteran Gordon Helsel will sign copies of his book "The Day God Showed Up." Free.

Cocktails in La Zona Rosa. 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Enjoy Latin-inspired music, food and drink and more. \$50/person. Buy tickets at www.nvfaa.org.

Fashion Show Event. 6-8 p.m. at Salon deZEN, 118 N. Fayette St. There will be hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, door prizes and more. Proceeds benefit Bethany House. Visit www.salondezen.com or call 703-549-1400.

Fundraiser Comedy Night. 6-9 p.m. at Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Community Lodgings will host Fall Back to Comedy. Executive Director Bonnie Baxley will be honored for her eight years of service. Comedian Denny More will perform while patrons can enjoy a buffet dinner, an open bar with a selection of wine and beer, and auction. \$95 in advance, \$125 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online at www.communitylodgings.org or at 703-549-4407.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Al Stewart performs. \$29.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

DMZ to Delta Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight at Holiday Inn, 2460 Eisenhower Ave. Military veterans, their families, Red Cross and civilian employees and the general public can dance the night away with music of the Vietnam War era. Enjoy finger food, cash bar, silent auction and more. Proceed benefit Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., Chapter 227's community programs. Visit www.vva227.org or 703-255-0353 for tickets.

MONDAY/NOV. 11

Free Veterans Day Lecture. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Historian C.R. Gibbs will discuss the African American involvement in the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Deborah Tompkins Johnson, left, with Dr. Negleatha Johnson and Dominion Power's Gwen Wade at a book-signing earlier this month.

Book Signing

Dominion Power's Deborah Tompkins Johnson will sign copies of her book, "How Did They Do That — Career Highlights, Triumphs and Challenges," on Monday, Nov. 18 at King Street Blues, 112 N. St. Asaph St., in Old Town from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The book features compelling stories and words of wisdom from actor Blair Underwood, Gov. Doug Wilder, Iran hostage survivor Kate Koob, Gen. Carl McNair, Herman Boone and others, including songwriter Dr. Negleatha Johnson. Books will be available for purchase and a portion of proceeds from the event will be donated to the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria. Visit www.howdidtheydothat.org.

War of 1812. Reservations encouraged, 703-746-4356.

Veteran's Day Event. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Christmas Attic, 125 S. Union St. Families can take pictures with Santa and he will play patriotic songs. There will also be an author signing, family activities and more. Visit www.christmasattic.com for more.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Burton Cummings will perform. \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/NOV. 12

Music Performance. Allison Moorer performs 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Choral Concert. 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Hear a capella music and selections from "Les Miserables." Free. Call 703-718-2500.

<cWednesday/Nov. 13

CSI: Plants. 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. At the Friends of Dyke Marsh quarterly meeting Dr. Steven B. Carroll will discuss famous cases, modern techniques, and some surprising ways in which plant evidence is used in the investigation of crimes. Free. 703-768-2525.

THURSDAY/NOV. 14

Receptions. 6-8 p.m. "Fotographers at the Factory" at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit celebrates FotoWeekDC. Photographs will line the hall walls and in multiple studios. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Opening Reception. 6:30-8 p.m., meet photographer Everitt Clark and see his exhibit "Cities in the Air" in the Art League at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The exhibit will reveal how Richmond, Va., past and present intertwine. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

Second Thursday Music. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Veronneau will perform. \$10/person.

Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Hard Cider Sampling Benefit

Event. 7-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St. Sample ciders from many companies such as Bold Rock, Cider Boys, Woodchuck and more while enjoying live music, appetizers, games, raffles and more. Proceeds benefit SCAN of Northern Virginia. \$15/person. Visit www.ontaponline.com for tickets. Must be 21 and over.

FRIDAY/NOV. 15

Friday Affair Market. Noon-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.

Mini Bazaar. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2501 Parkers Lane. Browse ornaments, jewelry, toys and more. Find gifts for everyone on the list. Sponsored by the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Auxiliary. 703-360-2969.

SATURDAY/NOV. 16

Holiday Bazaar. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 1608 Russell Road. Enjoy a silent auction, vendors, children's activities, food and more. Free.

Holiday Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. Enjoy browsing the items from 45 local, handmade vendors, food and music. Visit facebook.com/tcwilliamshandmadeholidaycraftfair for more.

History of Fort Ward. 10 a.m.-noon at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. "Finding the Fort: A History of an African American Neighborhood in Northern Virginia, 1860s." The research project narrative discusses the early history of the area in and around Fort Ward Park, but focuses primarily on the heritage of African Americans in the Seminary area of Alexandria, from the Civil War period through the founding of the park. Free, but RSVP to 703-746-4554.

Theater Performance. 2 p.m. at Olde Towne Theatre, 815 King St. See a performance of "The Big Meow," adapted from the book by Elizabeth Spires. \$10-\$20/person. Visit

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

www.oldtowntheater1914.com or 703-544-5315.

Hair Ball. 8-11 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Experience an evening in the 1780s, with enormous wigs, ornamented poufs and all manners of hairstyles. Enjoy dancing, music and desserts. Period costume encouraged, but "after five" attire requested. Reservations recommended at shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Emil de Cou, conductor of the NSO will lead the orchestra. Violinist Sarah Chang will also perform. Tickets start at \$20/adult; \$10/student with ID and \$5/youth. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

SUNDAY/NOV. 17

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Emil de Cou, conductor of the NSO will lead the orchestra. Violinist Sarah Chang will also perform. Tickets start at \$20/adult; \$10/student with ID and \$5/youth. Visit www.alexsym.org or 703-548-0885.

Performance. 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Coyote Blue dance and music from a new collaboration by Jane Franklin and percussionist Tom Teasley features images, color and sound from the Trickster myths of the American Southwest. \$20. Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111 for tickets.

Music Performance. 7 p.m. at Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. Focus Music presents folk/pop singer-songwriters Zoe Mulford and Brad Yoder. \$18/advance; \$15/member. Visit www.focusmusic.org for tickets.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Philomela, a women's chamber ensemble, will perform a new work "Pieces of Night" by local composer Jonathan Kolm. \$15/adult; \$10/child or senior. Visit http://www.philomelavoices.org/ for more.

Dance Performance. 4 p.m. at Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Jane Franklin Dance presents "Coyote Blue." Visit www.janefranklin.com or 703-933-1111 for tickets.

THURSDAY/NOV. 21

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Joe Ely and Paul Thorn perform. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Story Telling. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellouise Schoettler will tell the story of "Finding Gus." \$10/person. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Illustrated Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. "Volusia: Civilian, Slave and Soldier Experiences in the Civil War" presented by Amy Bertsch, former Office of Historic Alexandria public information office. The presentation involves research into a rare photograph of enslaved people taken in Alexandria, and reveals how the Civil War impacted three groups of people on a large Duke Street property, then known as Volusia, and today known as Foxchase in Alexandria's West End. Free. Visit www.historicalexandria.org or 703-746-4554.

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. Watch the seventh-graders put on "The Princess Bride." \$5/adult; \$1/child.

FRIDAY/NOV. 22

Theater Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. Watch the seventh-graders put on "The Princess Bride." \$5/adult; \$1/child.

SUNDAY/NOV. 24

Story Telling Workshop. 1 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ellouise Schoettler will show how to combine genealogy and storytelling to create family stories everyone will want to listen to. \$10/person. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 29-30

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad will perform. \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/DEC. 3

Theater Performance. 10:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 4

Theater Performance. 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

THURSDAY/DEC. 5

Theater Performance. 10:30 a.m. at

W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

Theater Performance. 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

Friday Affair Market. 12-4 p.m. at historic Hollin Hall, 1909 Windmill Lane. Purchase baked goods, treats, flowers and crafts from local vendors. Held the first and third Fridays of every month through December. Call 202-256-5332.

Holiday Open House. 6:30-9 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy food, refreshments and music while browsing items for purchase. Door prizes will be given. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Holiday Market. 6-9 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 7

Theater Performance. 10:30 a.m. at W-3 Theatre at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Arts on the Horizon presents "Drumming with Dishes: The Holiday Edition." \$8/child and adults. Visit www.artsonthehorizon.org for tickets.

Holiday Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. The Del Ray Artisans will offer handmade work from local artists, handmade ornaments and bake sale items to benefit the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Honky Tonk Holiday Show. Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun performs at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8

Breakfast with Santa. 10:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. at the Hotel Monaco, 480 King St. Metropolitan School of the Arts will host the breakfast. Tickets range in price from \$35-\$45/person. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for tickets.

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Alexandria
Gazette Packet

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Direct the daily operations of the Alexandria ASAP. Duties include personnel management, case management, program planning, evaluation, budgeting and interaction with the Commission on VASAP, local policy board, elected officials and area courts. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in a social science and three years related managerial experience. Preferred candidates will have a Master's Degree and background in probationary and/or substance abuse services. Please forward cover letter and resume no later than 5:00 pm on November 15, 2013 to:
Angela Coleman, Executive Director
Commission on VASAP
701 E. Franklin St., Ste. 1110
Richmond, VA 23219
Applications will be accepted by email to
bduncan.vasap@state.va.us

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21 Announcements

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Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of
section 4-1-16 of the code of
the City of Alexandria, the
Alexandria Police Department
located at 3600 Wheeler
Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304
is now in possession of
unclaimed bicycles, mopeds,
lawn equipment, money,
scooters, and other items. All
persons having valid claim to
the property should file a claim
to the property with
reasonable proof of ownership
or the items will be sold,
destroyed, converted or
donated. For a complete
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<http://alexandriava.gov/police/>
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26 Antiques

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, Ameri-
can Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc., that eligible ASCO
members may vote by proxy ballot from Oct. 29 to Nov. 26,
2012 to elect the President Elect, four seats on the Board of
Directors, and two seats on the Nominating Committee for
service beginning on June 2, 2014. Information about proxy
ballots is available at www.asco.org. Completed proxy ballots
will be delivered to the ASCO President or his designee for
casting at a meeting held on Dec. 3, 2013, 8:30-9:00 AM at
ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria,
VA 22314. Members with questions can email [ASCOelec-
tion@asco.org](mailto:ASCOelec-
tion@asco.org) or call 571-483-1316.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2013, Fairfax Water will conduct a
public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The
hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue,
Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2014, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,500 to \$9,750.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,050 to \$1,090†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$35 to \$36.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$9.20 to \$9.80†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.29 to \$2.42 per 1,000
gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.45 to \$3.55 per 1,000
gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include
the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.
9. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$44
to \$45.
10. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$17 to \$20.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at
<http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this
hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin
at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to
PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday,
December 11, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes
in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the
Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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WELLBEING

Spirituality

FROM PAGE 7
love as we share our spiritual journeys," said parishioner Barbara Knight Karz. "The creative part of ourselves throbs with a deep longing for more, and so bringing together our creativity and our worship, valuing that part of ourselves, helps to transform us, to bring us more fully to who we are intended to be."



St Aidan's church in Mount Vernon, celebrated the completion of its renovation Nov. 2 and 3. New features include a mobile created from silk hoops painted by church members.

Parishioner Ian Roberts, a photographer and writer, said, "Art draws out deeper unspoken senses, makes unexpected links that inspire, moves me into more questions and explorations, keeps me moving into new feelings and thinkings, adds to my rag-bag of spiritual joys, keeps me a happy man."

St. Aidan's associate rector Elizabeth Rees believes combining art and spirituality helps break down barriers to religion. "I think art enables people to go deeper and enter into a discussion about something deeper without jumping right into it. There are people who have trouble speaking about God or have a misunderstanding about religion. By creating art in a community, they feel enabled to think differently about God and their relationships with God, and enter into a discussion about something deeper without jumping right into it."

Rees said that the children of the parish participate in and benefit from combining art and spirituality. Caroline Richard, 10, who took a picture that is displayed as part of the children's photography exhibit agrees. "I took a picture of the church and I thought it was interesting to see all of the things in the church at one time. It just made me stop and see how the Lord was everywhere," he said. "I think that spiritually it is the place to talk to God and in my picture I see that place."

Some of the parish children said the labyrinth is a particularly meaningful part of the renovations at St. Aidan's. Ryan Coneway, 10, said, "It's a nice, quiet place where you can just walk and relax and think about things."

His 8-year-old brother, Kevin Coneway, said, "You can come from anywhere to walk it. You don't have to go to St. Aidan's Church to walk it. It's there for others too."

Parishioners say the church strives to welcome people from diverse places on their faith journeys, and that creativity and spirituality help that effort. "The art we employ shows our wider, deeper interpretation of what a spiritual church should include," said Roberts. "We have many carved doorways, arches, paintings and stained glass. Art tells our stories."

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Route 1 Version 2.0: Improving Our Schools

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)



This is my second article on the U.S. 1 Multimodal Alternative Analysis Study, our transit choices and why extending the Metro subway Yellow Line is the best choice.

There is no question the Yellow Line would bring big changes to our community. The question is whether these changes would be beneficial. Extending the Yellow Line to Fort Belvoir would improve our area schools for two reasons. First, the redevelopment required to support a Metro extension would alter our housing mix. Second, redevelopment would also generate increased tax revenue and other funds for local infrastructure.

When the Virginia Board of Education announced accreditation results based on recent student testing two weeks ago, 13 Fairfax County schools received a warning. (One of the schools is designed to help learning disabled children.) Even though the 44th District has only 7 percent of the county's population, half of the county's warned schools were in the 44th District: Bucknell, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods and Woodlawn Elementary Schools and Mount Vernon High School.

There are many reasons. Studies show

that standardized test scores highly correlate with family income and if you align the school districts with census blocks, these schools have a high concentration of some of the lowest-income census tracts in Northern Vir-

ginia.

Children do not choose their family. We owe every child the best education we can provide. Educated children become productive citizens which benefits everyone. Struggling schools also affect everyone including property values, as Realtors will attest.

Turning around these schools requires a multi-faceted approach, starting with quality pre-schools. There are over 2,000 children in the U.S. 1 Corridor on waiting lists for Head Start and subsidized childcare. There are at least 15 preschools between the Potomac River and Route 1, but zero between Route 1 and Huntley Meadows Park. In the short term, Fairfax County and Virginia must fully facilitate Head Start, the Virginia Preschool Initiative and subsidized childcare.

Over the long-term, we need to focus on changing U.S. 1 development patterns and

to diversify our area housing mix. Arlington County and Fairfax County have redeveloped the Orange Line Corridor without destroying low-and-moderate-income neighborhoods and created walkable communities with restaurants, shopping and high quality retail yards away from existing single family homes. The housing mix has diversified while preserving existing populations.

We can do this in our own community while preserving historically-significant neighborhoods and affordable housing and maintaining our sense of place.

The cheapest transit solution would be more bus connections. While improving bus service might bring some short-term efficiency gains, more buses will not help Route 1 win the competition for the growing families that are now moving to Arlington, Ashburn, Leesburg, Reston or Herndon. However, extending the Yellow Line will bring the kind of focused redevelopment necessary to make Beacon Hill, Hybla Valley and Woodlawn attractive places for everyone to live, work, and shop that more buses cannot.

Density will also affect property tax revenue. Fifty percent of our local government budget goes to our schools and smarter development can mean more real estate tax

revenue generated per square foot of land and less demand for higher taxes on your home.

Redevelopment also creates what is called "proffer revenue" — funds that the Board of Supervisors can require developers to pay to help fund new infrastructure needed supporting new development. Other parts of the county have more synthetic turf fields because they were developed after the proffer laws were enacted. Because proffer revenue typically stays in the supervisor district it is generated, redeveloping U.S. 1 will bring new funds for our parks and schools.

In sum, our schools need more than short-term fixes. The long-term game changer for our schools and U.S. 1 is extending the Yellow Line.

As we continue to move through the U.S. 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis, it is very important that our community provide feedback not just for the transit options, but also the amount of density that our community will accept. If the community opposes the kind of density that has brought Town Centers to Arlington, Reston, or Fairfax Corner, then our development will only support more buses and continued struggles with our schools.

Next week I will discuss how the study will affect traffic and commuting. It is an honor to serve as your delegate.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 20

commonality of name, date of birth and last four digits of social security number. If the out of state record was created after the Virginia record, the Virginia record is purged. Of course, I was able to vote without controversy.

Concerning the numerous forms of identification accepted at a polling place, Mr. Lynt takes issue with the minor expense of administering the identification laws. The most sacred right of a citizen in a free society is the right to vote. Protecting that right against fraud is a basic governmental obligation, much higher in priority than, for example, hiring a Canadian company, CGI Federal, and paying them over \$600 million to create a website for administration of the Obamacare law, which website doesn't work.

Finally, in response to Mr. Lynt's speculation as to which political pollster I might favor, in response, I have no favorite. Pollsters who misrepresent the ratio of anticipated voters between Democrats, Republicans, third parties and Independents, in an effort to influence the outcome of an election are to be condemned. Political polls are supposed to provide an honest snapshot of the current status of an election contest, not be a partisan tool used to influence turnout.

Pollsters who engage in the latter practice should be exposed for it and exorcised from the polling industry.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

The Real Zombies

To the Editor:

Answering that knock on Halloween night, the odds were good you faced zillions of Zombies. Zombies are in, pop culture superstars and this year's costume of choice for the discriminating trick-or-treater. But while they're imaginary, Texting-Zombies are not.

Look around. Texting Zombies are everywhere and easy to spot by their downturned heads, glazed eyes and tapping thumbs on portable keyboards.

You won't hear them because, well ... they don't talk, they text. Nor will you see them thinking, reading, or observing the world around them because, of course, it just doesn't compare to texting into their top-of-the-line-next-generation-hand-held-portable-device.

In many ways the world is quieter because of them, but sadly so. Stopping for a beer at the airport bar between flights and feel like making light conversation with the patron next to you? Forget it, he's texting and apparently, not to be disturbed. Standing at the Metro station in the rain and want to share your misery with the person standing next to you. Don't trespass, she's busy texting.

Technology, along with marketing and peer pressure that promotes it, created these I-Phone-tethered techno-zombies, adrift of situational awareness and dead to the po-

tential for socializing with the human being next to them.

In fact, watching young Texting Zombies during their "date night" group gatherings in which all are consumed with their cell phones, rather than with one another, leads to one inescapable conclusion; the mating ritual is dead, reproduction unlikely and the species possibly doomed.

Texting Zombies prefer to live in the detached shadows of the living, believing that constant monitoring of their inboxes and pushing send buttons are substitutes for substantive human interaction.

The hand-held-device does indeed serve as a useful instrument to convey urgent, instantaneous communication. Unfortunately, Texting Zombies use it as a diabolical weapon to repel human interaction. The electronic sanctuary instantly quells the discomfort of being alone and exposed in public and alleviates the need for explanation, "I'm not by myself and any question as to why I might be, my popularity... my vul-

nerability... is redirected and defended by the electronic shield in my hand. Look how many friends I have texting me at this very instant.

Look how busy and important I am!" The process of learning how to interact as an individual within a collective world has been thwarted by a device that rudely shouts: Stay away.

The paradox is that the technology which promises to connect us actually distances us from enjoying those people and things in our immediate proximity, and its abuse robs us of the unexpected knowledge and bonding that comes from spontaneous conversation with strangers. The Texting Zombies have a compulsion to connect, but of course it's with anything and anyone anywhere they're not.

But have no fear, you won't be hurt. They're too detached to know you're there.

Bob Dane
Alexandria

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Isaac Johnson has earned placement on the Berklee College of Music's dean's list for the summer semester of the 2013 academic year.

Sherry Cornelisse graduated in September from Saint Joseph's College of Maine with a

bachelor of science in nursing.

Anjum Choudhury and **William Havrenak**, from Mount Vernon High School, were named to the Virginia Honors Choir for 2013.

Christine R. Galginaitis graduated from Boston University with a master of arts degree in art education in September 2013.

Paying Attention to the Pros

High School coaches, players share opinions on Redskins' Meriweather.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

During his seven-year NFL career, Washington Redskins safety Brandon Meriweather's aggressive style of play has led to penalties, fines and a recent suspension for repeated helmet-to-helmet hits.

In a time of heightened awareness regarding head injuries in football, Meriweather's tackling techniques, which include launching himself head-first at opposing receivers, have earned the 29-year-old former first-round draft choice from the University of Miami a reputation as a dangerous defender.

Meriweather was flagged for two illegal hits against the Chicago Bears and subsequently suspended by the NFL for two games. The ban was later reduced to a single contest, costing Meriweather a game check worth more than \$70,000. Meriweather sat out of Washington's Oct. 27 game against Denver and returned for its Nov. 3 contest against San Diego.

NFL players aren't the only ones taking notice of the Redskins safety's approach to defense.

Just ask Philip Tyler, a senior defensive back at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, if he's familiar with Meriweather.

"The hunter?" he asks.

Tyler, a Philadelphia Eagles fan, is familiar with Washington's hard-hitting safety.

"He won't be hunted. He's the hunter," Tyler said. "You watch out for him. You've got to watch out for him. If there's anybody on the field you watch out for, you watch out for him. That's a career-ending dude right there."

Tyler said he and other high school athletes like to mimic their favorite NFL players, but when it comes to highlight-tape hits, Tyler said T.C. Williams coaches punish players with extra conditioning for leading with their helmets while hitting in practice. Tyler said his tackling technique has evolved since his youth football days, but injuries from years of tackling with his head have taken a toll.

"A lot of stuff has changed," he said. "Back in rec league and Pop Warner, I was reckless. It didn't matter. ... I've got to wear [a neck protector] because of that. I used to hit with my head and I've got neck injuries. I've got a weak neck now."

PRIOR TO THE 2013 SEASON, a collision in practice led to Tyler having difficulty moving one of his arms for an entire month, he said.

"We were doing a screen drill and ... I had read it real good and I was like, 'I've got to hit [the receiver].'" Tyler said. "At this time, we were still competing for spots. I was like, 'I've got to be the hammer, not the nail,' and I hit him. Next thing I know ... my whole arm, it was done. It felt like it wasn't even there."

Langley High School senior Garrett Collier



T.C. Williams' Philip Tyler (21) defends against Lake Braddock's AJ Alexander.

is a two-way starter for the school's football team, playing receiver on offense and safety and outside linebacker on defense. A Redskins fan, Collier said he has no issue with how Meriweather plays the game.

"Most people in the NFL are trying to hit people as hard as they can," Collier said. "I don't think anyone purposely tries to hit someone in the head, but some people have more of a tendency to hit up high. ... I kind of get frustrated when the refs are quick to call a penalty for hitting high or targeting. ... I'm on the players' side."

While Collier follows the NFL, he said he doesn't try to emulate the pros when he's on the field.

"If a receiver is open," he said, "I'm not trying to take his [head off]. I'm trying to make the smart [play]."

On offense, Collier said he tries to protect himself from big hits, but he hasn't always been able to do so. Collier suffered a concussion during an eighth-grade football game that caused him to black out and vomit.

"I got hit by some kid," he said. "I completely blacked out. I woke up in the ambulance and I was throwing up. ... I literally have no recollection of the hit or what was leading up [to it]."

DeMornay Pierson-El, a senior quarterback and defensive back for the West Potomac High School football team, is committed to play at the University of Nebraska as a slot receiver and kick returner. Pierson-El, a Baltimore Ravens fan, said he likes Meriweather's aggressive style of play, but not the kind of hits he delivers.

"He doesn't have to hit so high," Pierson-El said. "He can hit a little bit lower, I feel, like from the shoulders down is fine."

Pierson-El said going for a highlight-reel hit is risky.

"The big hit is not always the best play," he said. "Going for a big hit up top and the dude bounces off and still gains yards [is] not a good look."

Lake Braddock junior AJ Alexander, a receiver and defensive back for the undefeated Bruins, said injuries are part of the game, but using proper tackling technique can help make the game safer.

"I realize how dangerous [helmet-to-helmet hits are]," Alexander said. "I've seen a lot of things on the news about how dangerous it is. That's why we've [been doing] the whole Heads Up Tackling thing (through USA Football) that's being implemented and we're making sure that we're being fundamentally sound. Plus, if you hit people [around the head], you might not even make the tackle. There are a lot of things to think about, but being fundamentally sound is what it all comes down to."

Alexander is a New York Giants fan.

"[Helmet-to-helmet hits are] part of the game because it's a physical sport," he said. "You've got helmets on, shoulder pads, you've just got to be physical. You've got to do what you've got to do."

Heads Up Tackling, which Alexander referred to, is part of the Heads Up Football program, which is offered through USA Football, the governing body for American football at the youth and amateur levels, and supported by the NFL. Heads Up Tackling focuses on teaching proper tackling technique at the youth and high school levels using five fundamentals: the breakdown position; buzzing your feet; the hit position; shooting the hips; ripping the arms.

HEADS UP TACKLING is one of five elements of Heads Up Football. The other four are: having coaches complete a certification course; teaching coaches concussion recognition and response protocols; appointing a trained safety coach to a participating high school team or youth league; and teaching coaches and parents about proper equipment fitting.

The program is backed by the Northern Virginia Football Coaches Association and used by high school teams around the re-

gion.

Centreville High School head coach Chris Haddock flew to Indianapolis during the winter and became a master trainer of tackling techniques. He said the goal of establishing common language and common technique when teaching tackling to youth football players is to have a "trickle up" effect, leading to safer tackling at the college and pro levels.

When it comes to the NFL, Haddock, a Pittsburgh Steelers fan, said he doesn't see any of his Centreville players trying to emulate what they see on TV. He also said the Steelers have been penalized at times for hits that are simply part of the game.

"Some of them I agree with, some of them I don't," he said. "Having played, sometimes you're flying through the air and someone else is flying through the air and your heads hit. It's not something people plan on doing."

The Oakton High School football team has a subscription to NFL Rewind, which allows subscribers to watch replays of each NFL game from different angles in the way a coach would analyze film. Head coach Jason Rowley said he wants his players to emulate the aggressive nature of pro and college athletes, but wants the Cougars to stay away from dirty plays and showboating.

When it comes to Meriweather, Rowley complimented the defensive back's effort.

"I think he's a guy who plays hard," Rowley said. "I think it's certainly not my place to judge whether he's within the rules or he should be fined. I love the passion he plays with and I'd like my players to play with that passion."

Whitman High School head coach Jim Kuhn said most of the athletes in his Bethesda, Md., program aren't the type to initiate helmet-to-helmet hits. He said families in the area have a heightened awareness of concussion risks and players don't want to risk major injury playing a sport that will have no impact on their future.

"The opportunities for them to play on Sunday are pretty limited and they have a life to live beyond football," Kuhn said. "... It's definitely not a means to an end [for most Whitman athletes]. ... Most are headed to college ... [for] other careers and future endeavors. ... [Football is] not a way out for them."

After returning from his suspension for repeated helmet-to-helmet hits, Meriweather said he would start going low to make tackles.

Whatever Meriweather does, high school players and coaches will likely take notice.

"That's just his style. He's always been aggressive. Even in college, he was known as a big hitter," said South Lakes head coach Marvin Wooten, a Dallas Cowboys fan. "... In this sport, I don't think there's any individual out there trying to end careers or cause any kind of permanent damage on a player. ... I think that's just the way he's played the game."

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

SCHOOLS

Butterfly Study Inspires Montessori School Students

BY AMÉDÉ KARINA-PLUN
AND ANNIE BACON
AQUINAS MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Every year, Aquinas Montessori School has a Monarch butterfly study and release activity. Our school has been studying, raising, and releasing Monarchs for about five years.

When asked about her favorite aspect of the program, Mrs. Baucom, elementary teacher, responded, "I like the way it brings our school together as a joyful community. The youngest 3-year-olds up to the oldest 12-year-olds learn and work cooperatively."

All the classes are included and each class has its own set of caterpillars. The release is a fun-for-everyone event. Even our Old Town Campus of our school comes and takes part in this activity which usually happens between the end of September to the middle of October.



Students at Aquinas Montessori School participate in a Monarch butterfly project.

Our study of the Monarch includes raising them from egg to adult butterfly. When asked what his favorite part of raising the butterflies is, Cody, 12, responded, "Feeding them by hand with pure apple juice. We get to hold the butterflies and actually see the proboscis sip the juice."

The caterpillars eat a lot of milkweed. They grow from 0.3cm to 8 cm in length before they make their chrysalis. The chrysalis is two centimeters long and hangs from the bottom of leaves in nature. The chrysalis is a bright green jade

color with gold dots and lines on it. The chrysalis will slowly crack open after 10 days and the butterfly will emerge. The butterfly's wings are crumpled when it comes out because there isn't any fluid inside the wings for flying. The butterfly then pumps fluids from its body.

"Seeing the children's enthusiasm and the incredible moment when they emerge, is my favorite part," said Ms. Walker another elementary teacher, "I learn something new every year."

After the butterflies emerge

from their chrysalis, we let them fly around in their flight cages until we tag them.

"I liked watching them fly around in their cage," said Isabella, 6. The tag, which is half a centimeter in width, is peeled off a sheet and rolled onto the butterfly's lower right wing. The tag is printed with a unique identity number. If a scientist along the migration route or in Michuacan, Mexico finds the butterfly, its number can be typed into a databank giving information about where the butterfly came from. Then the scientists send a message to us through the website saying the butterfly made it to Michuacan.

When asked if raising and studying butterflies increased their interest in them, Alex, 10, re-

sponded, "Yes. I liked to watch them hatch out of their chrysalis. I didn't know that much about butterflies before and I definitely want to do this activity again."

This annual activity is fun, and Aquinas students hope for it to continue for years to come.

When asked if she learned anything from this experience Grace, 8, said, "In nature, the butterflies don't have the chance to live as long as they do when we raise them."

Mrs. Messenger, another elementary teacher, said, "I loved to see the excitement in the children's faces when they see a butterfly emerge and see little caterpillars. It's great to see little children who were afraid of insects enjoy the beauty of butterflies."



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SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

West Potomac running back Darien Pickett carries the ball against Annandale on Nov. 1.

West Potomac Football To Face T.C. Williams

The West Potomac football team defeated Annandale 39-28 on Nov. 1, improving the Wolverines' record to 4-5.

West Potomac will conclude the regular season with a road game against T.C. Williams at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 9. The Wolverines are ranked No. 18 in the VHSL's 6A North region power points poll entering their regular-season finale. The top 16 teams earn a trip to the postseason.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL

\$109.95

PADS

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

MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

12% OFF 30, 60, OR 90,000 MILE FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 5,000 MILE INTERVAL SERVICE FALL MAINTENANCE SPECIAL

\$89.95

INCLUDES: Lube, oil & filter change with up to 5 qts of oil, inspect brakes & tires, clean & adjust brakes, rotate 4 tires, replace front wiper inserts (if applicable) and multi-point inspection.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

10% OFF

BG FLUID
EXCHANGE

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4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT

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Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE

COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

Includes: Inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

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Visit Villamay just South of Old Town this Sunday



7410 Admiral Drive
\$969,000

Expanded All-Brick Split Level on Elevated Lot • Updates Galore • 500 sq ft Addition • Open Floor Plan • Breakfast Area- Island Kitchen • French Doors

to Large Brick Patio • Formal Living Room features Four-Panel Bay Window at front elevation • A 5th Bedroom/Office is well located offering privacy for AuPair or Attendant • Family Room w/ 10' Wet Bar, Custom Wine Storage, and Raised Hearth Fireplace • Covered Front Porch expands the Outdoor Entertainment Space • Playhouse doubles as a significant Storage Building • Hardwoods, 3 Zone HVAC, and more

7212 Regent Drive
\$800,000

• Turnkey Condition • Seasonal Views of Potomac River and Monuments • Terrific Curb Appeal • Low-maintenance Landscape • Two-Car Garage – full depth of House • All New

Double Thermo-pane Windows throughout • New Kitchen w/Maple Cabinets, Stainless Appliances, Quartz Counters • Three Remodeled Baths include Shower Seats and One Roll-in Shower • Two Full Masonry Fireplaces • New Roof • New Furnace/AC • New Water Heater • Wired for Cable • FIOS in place • Security System



7301 Park Terrace Drive
\$1,175,000

• Potomac Views Year Round • Unparalleled revitalization of Villamay's Largest Rambler Modified for open floorplan living- No Expense Spared • Turnkey Property

• Chef's Kitchen Features multiple Prep Areas, Wet Bar, Wine Fridge, Granite Counters • Whole House wired for Sound, Security and Lighting • Master Bedroom/Bath Includes Two Walk-in Closets, Jetted Tub and three Head Walk-in Shower • Three Fireplaces • New A/C • 17' Balcony • StoreWall Garage System

7420 Park Terrace Drive
\$775,000

• Large Level Lot with Mature Landscaping and Trees • Unique Floor Plan with Appealing Layout

• Four Bedrooms—Three Full Bathrooms • New Hardwoods on Main Level—Two Masonry Fireplaces • Remodeled Eat-in Kitchen • Abundance of Custom Cabinetry • Enormous Recreation Room w/ Full Brick Accent Wall • Oversized, Side-Loaded Two-Car Garage w/ Loads of Storage • Whole House Generator and Security System



7000 Clemson Drive
\$789,000

• Lovely Raised Rambler on one of largest lots in Westgrove • Tremendous Privacy • Large Slate Patio looks to Rear Elevation • Remodeled Top to Bottom • Kitchen

Stainless appliances and granite counters • Updated baths and windows throughout • Bright Sunroom spans depth of the residence • Formal Living Room with Masonry Fireplace and custom Built-in • Master Suite includes Dressing Room and Walk-in closet • Large Lower level Family Room and 2 Bedrooms share a Morning Bar • Hardwoods • Irrigation System

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