

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

FEBRUARY 27, 2014

## PET CONNECTION



Standing guard in the Riverside Gardens neighborhood.  
Submitted by Liz Schroeder.

MORE PET PHOTOS ON PAGES 20-23.

## County Faces Budget Challenge

Average homeowner will see tax bill increase \$330 under proposed budget.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE GAZETTE

**F**airfax County Executive Edward Long, Jr. unveiled a \$7 billion budget proposal Tuesday that reflects his "cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting," a result, Long said, of continuing uncertainty over federal spending and sluggish commercial tax revenues.

While Long's budget does not include an increase in the real estate tax rate from FY 2014, steady gains in the county's residential housing market mean the average homeowner will see a \$330 increase in their tax bill, or a 6.5 percent increase over last year's bill.

"The one area that is experiencing an upward tick is the assessed value of residential property in the county," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large), which will lead to the increase in homeowner's property taxes even if the tax rate remains steady, as proposed by Long.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said "there's a lot of work to be done" before the final budget is approved in April, and the county needs to "eliminate barriers to the growth of our commercial tax base."

"While spending increased by 3 percent, the cost to our taxpayers is increasing over 6.5 percent due primarily to the reduction in our commercial tax base," Herrity said. "I am most concerned that this increase will hurt those in townhomes, condos and apartments the hardest — the citizens that can least afford it."

"This will be a very challenging

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 13

## Average Homeowner's Taxes, 2008-2015

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2008

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$542,409  
Real Estate Tax Rate Per \$100 - \$0.89  
Tax Per Household - \$4,827.44

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2009

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$525,132  
Real Estate Tax Rate Per \$100 - \$0.92  
Tax Per Household - \$4,831.21

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2010

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$457,898  
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.04  
Tax Per Household - \$4,762.14

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2011

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$433,409  
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.09  
Tax Per Household - \$4,724.16

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2012

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$445,533  
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.07  
Tax Per Household - \$4,767.20

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2013

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$449,964  
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.075  
Tax Per Household - \$4,837.11

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2014

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$467,394  
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.085  
Tax Per Household - \$5,071.22

### ♦ FISCAL YEAR 2015

Assessed Value of Residential Property - \$497,962  
Real Estate Tax Per \$100 - \$1.085  
Tax Per Household - \$5,402.89

\* Source - Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget

2/28/14  
REQUESTED IN HOME  
MATERIAL  
TIME-SENSITIVE  
ATTENTION  
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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CIRCULATION  
COUNCIL



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Alexandria \$549,900

Renovated and move in ready! Gorgeous chef's kitchen with granite counters and newer appliances. Large family room and flowing floor plan ideal for entertaining. Enormous deck, waterfall and extensive landscaping. 1044 N Pegram Street.

**Sue Goodhart**  
703.362.3221  
[www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)



Alexandria \$789,000

Not only is the inside of this home beautiful, the backyard is stunning as well with elegant hardscaping highlighting the colorful azaleas and perennials. The kitchen is updated and there are high-end finishes throughout. 3204 Old Dominion Blvd.

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
703.868.5676  
[www.LizLuke.com](http://www.LizLuke.com)



Old Town \$1,795,000

Fine appointments are found throughout this beautiful four bedroom, four and one half bath townhouse with an interior elevator. Graceful paneled archways, handsome custom built-ins, two fireplaces, a lavish master suite, and 2-car garage.

**Babs Beckwith**  
703.836.1297  
[www.BabsBeckwith.com](http://www.BabsBeckwith.com)



\$1,795,000



Old Town \$393,500

Steps from Braddock Metro and with reserved garage parking, this two bedroom, one bath condo features open living room, large eat-in kitchen with sizable pantry and two private outdoor spaces including large patio. 505 East Braddock Rd #103.

**Wendy Santantonio**  
703.286.1308  
[www.WendySantantonio.com](http://www.WendySantantonio.com)



Old Town \$2,850,000

Spectacular four bedroom, four full baths and two half bath home in the heart of Old Town. Stunning river views at every level. Private riverside terrace, four fireplaces, elevator, two car attached garage, and boat slip. [www.WaterfrontOldTown.com](http://www.WaterfrontOldTown.com)

**Sissy Zimmerman**  
703.989.9779  
[www.BBZgroup.com](http://www.BBZgroup.com)



Parkfairfax \$220,000

Freshly painted from top-to-bottom & newly re-finished floors, this spacious one bedroom condo awaits your personal touches and updates. Spacious living room and separate dining area with wall of windows for maximum light. Washer and dryer.

**Ann Duff**  
703.965.8700  
[www.AnnDuff.com](http://www.AnnDuff.com)



Parkfairfax \$218,000

Sun-filled one bedroom condo features newly re-finished floors and paint from top-to-bottom. Put your design dreams into action in the kitchen and bath, plus opportunity to add a patio to this end-unit Adams model condo in Parkfairfax. Excellent location.

**Ann Duff**  
703.965.8700  
[www.AnnDuff.com](http://www.AnnDuff.com)



Old Town \$559,900

Stunning two bedroom, two bath corner unit with rare balcony in 900 North Washington St Condos. Gourmet kitchen with subzero refrigerator and quartz counters. Luxury baths with marble counters, master bath with soaking tub. 910 Powhatan St #103S

**Jennifer Halm**  
703.851.2255  
[www.JenniferHalm.com](http://www.JenniferHalm.com)



Alexandria City \$436,500

Beautifully updated and maintained end-unit townhome features gracious room sizes throughout. Three bedrooms, three and a half bath. The dining room is open to the updated kitchen and allows comfortable seating for eight. 656 N Armistead Street.

**Chris Hayes**  
703.944.7737  
[www.HomesByHayes.com](http://www.HomesByHayes.com)



Old Town \$489,900

Supersized, 900 sf, one bedroom, one and one half bath with 250 sf balcony. Only one of two units like it in the community. Open kitchen with granite, island, subzero refrigerator, pantry and beautiful finishes throughout. 900 N Washington St #305.

**Jennifer Halm**  
703.851.2255  
[www.JenniferHalm.com](http://www.JenniferHalm.com)



Alexandria \$499,900

Located in Hayfield Farm this home has three bedrooms and two full baths all remodeled. Newly installed solid oak floors, a fully finished basement, crown molding, wood burning fireplace and a large yard. Convenient to VRE, metro & bus lines.

**Sue Goodhart**  
703.262.3221  
[www.TheGoodhartGroup.com](http://www.TheGoodhartGroup.com)



Old Town \$1,495,000

Ideally located in a quiet corner of the SE Quad. Four bedroom, four and one half baths. Neutral palette, excellent floor plan, gorgeous kitchen. Large, light filled rooms. Lovely, private garden, easy parking. [www.109PommanderWalk.com](http://www.109PommanderWalk.com)

**Ginny Brzezinski**  
571.236.3405  
[www.BBZgroup.com](http://www.BBZgroup.com)

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# Eleven Candidates

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE GAZETTE

The Democratic primary is shaping up to be the most competitive election in recent memory, one with an unprecedented number of candidates. So far, 11 candidates have announced their intention to run in the June primary. Election officials are predicting a turnout of about 64,000 voters. That means a winning candidate could emerge with a few thousand votes.

"It wouldn't surprise me if we had a winner on the low side of 12,000 votes," said Stephen Farnsworth, political science professor at the University of Mary Washington. "What we are talking about here is a Democratic nominee, who is almost certainly assured of election given this district, could be elected with about the size of a decent size high-school basketball

game fan base."

And it's a jump ball. Farnsworth says that former Lieutenant Governor Don Beyer is expected to have a fundraising edge over other candidates because he has experience running statewide campaigns, and he has a vast personal fortune he could tap during the campaign. But Beyer's position in the race could be weakened with every new

up encouraging even more.

"I don't think a bigger field is a disincentive for others to enter," said Kyle Kondik, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "We have candidates who say to themselves all they need to do is mobilize a certain segment of the district and get about 10,000 votes and be the next member of Congress and have the seat for a very long time."

#### CENSUS FIGURES

show about 770,000 people live in the 8th Congressional District. It's 64 percent white, 19 percent Hispanic, 13 percent black and 12 percent Asian. The district has about 400,000 active registered voters. Election officials say predicting a turnout is difficult because there's really no precedent. But they need to figure something out nevertheless so they know how many ballots

to order. So the estimated turnout is expected to be around 64,000 voters showing up to the polls.

"We think the turnout is going to be somewhere between the turnout for the presidential primary from 2008 and the turnout for the primary in 2012, when the City Council race was on the ballot in Alexandria," said Alexandria Registrar Anna Lieder. "We've got a lot of very well known people who are going to be working very hard to get the numbers up."

The congressional district includes Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County.

It was drawn to be a solidly Democratic district, and recent elections show that to be true. In 2012, President Barack Obama won with 68 percent of the vote. That means that the stakes for the June primary will be very high.

"The truth is that the Democratic nomination is tantamount to an election," said Farnsworth. "One potential development is a very nasty contest. When the competition is intense, the combat can be fierce."

**"We have candidates who say to themselves all they need to do is mobilize a certain segment of the district and get about 10,000 votes and be the next member of Congress and have the seat for a very long time."**

— Kyle Kondik, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics

candidate who enters the race as constituencies continue to narrow. And the number of candidates entering the race could end

## Meet the Candidates

♦ **Don Beyer** served as lieutenant governor from 1990 to 1998. He was later chairman of the American International Automobile Dealers Association and the ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

"I've never felt more enthused and prepared for a job than I do for this one," Beyer said in his announcement. "It would be an honor to represent my community in Congress."



♦ **Lavern Chatman** served as president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Northern Virginia from 2004 to 2011.

"The challenges we face demand a new type of leadership and a fresh perspective in Washington," Chatman said in her announcement. "We need leaders who understand the struggles and joys of raising and educating children and the benefits of providing them opportunities for economic empowerment."



♦ **Adam Ebbin** has represented the 30th state Senate District of Virginia since 2012. Before that, he represented the 49th District of the House of Delegates, which included parts of Alexandria and Arlington.

"More than ever, we need effective leaders in Congress who know how to reach across the aisle to get things done without abandoning the progressive values we share, just as I've done in Richmond," Ebbin said in his announcement. "In Congress, I will work with President Obama to defend the Affordable Care Act, protect federal workers, raise the minimum wage and ensure we never abandon the promise of Social Security and Medicare."



♦ **Bill Euille** has served as mayor of Alexandria since 2003. Before that he served as a City Council member and School Board member.

"From growing up in a single-parent household in public housing to being the first African-American elected mayor of Alexandria, I bring that unique combination of progressive values and experience that sets me apart from the rest of the field," said Euille in his announcement. "I have a track record of getting things done to improve our communities."



♦ **Charniele Herring** has represented the 46th District of the House of Delegates since 2009. She also served as the chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia, although she will step down from that position to run for Congress.

"Today we need leaders who are willing to champion progressive values while still being able to reach across the aisle to find common-sense solutions for the challenges our nation faces," said Herring in her announcement. "If elected, I will continue the good works of Congressman Jim Moran to foster the economic development of Northern Virginia, address the needs of our veterans, work for access to affordable healthcare, and protect the privacy of a woman and her healthcare decisions."



♦ **Patrick Hope** has represented the 47th District of the House of Delegates since 2010.

"We must have a proven progressive leader as our Democratic nominee in the 8th District," said Hope in his announcement. "We also need a nominee who will be ready to be effective on day one and able to build the necessary seniority that will be so crucial to our region."



♦ **Derek Hyra** is an associate professor at Virginia Tech, where he teaches in the university's Department of Urban Affairs and Planning. He is currently a member of the Alexandria Planning Commission.

"I am not a politician. I have never run for elected office," said Hyra in his announcement. "What I have done is spent decades studying economic and community development to understand how we grow the middle class, reduce inequality and strengthen our communities."



♦ **Mark Levine** is a radio personality who is a former chief legislative counsel to U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.) for the Judiciary, Homeland Security and Financial Services Committees.

"We need a congressman who will do more than simply cast a vote, one who will strongly advocate for military veterans, federal employees and contractors, students and young

professionals and retirees," said Levine in his announcement. "This is what I've done throughout my career — sticking up for our progressive values while repeatedly tangling with Bill O'Reilly, Megyn Kelly, Larry Kudlow and others on the right who threaten the American Dream."

♦ **Alfonso Lopez** has represented the 49th District of the House of Delegates since 2012. Before that, he served as Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine's director of the Virginia Liaison Office in Washington, D.C.



"When it comes to continuing the fight on Capitol Hill to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans, protect a woman's right to choose, preserve our environment and natural resources, and improve our quality of life in Northern Virginia, our next representative must be a proven fighter for our progressive values," Lopez said in his announcement. "With more than 20 years of experience working before Congress, the federal government and at the highest levels of state government on the issues critical to the people of Virginia's Eighth District, I have the proven track record necessary to get to work on day one."

♦ **Bruce Shuttleworth** served in the U.S. Navy from 1983 to 1995, stepping down as a lieutenant. In 2012, he waged an unsuccessful primary challenge to U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8).



"As a straight white married father, it may come as a surprise that I am considered a diversity candidate," said Shuttleworth in his announcement. "I'm a fighter pilot and a feminist, and I believe that it is the behavior of men more than women that will determine the quickest path to equal rights."

♦ **Mark Sickles** has represented the 43rd District of the House of Delegates since 2004.

"I will bring meaningful federal, state and local experience to a very divided Congress, as well as the ability to work with people across the political spectrum," said Sickles in his announcement. "In my career, I have come to know the federal system as an advocate for infrastructure investment, and will fight tirelessly for the federal workers — like my father, who had a 39-year career in the federal government — who are the heart and soul of our economy."



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**Old Town** \$725,000  
**400 Madison St. #902.** Just Listed! Alexandria House – Rarely available 3 BR, 2.5 BA, southern exposure on high floor. A Must-See! Assigned garage parking and extra storage. Enjoy 24 hr. concierge, security, rooftop pool, party room, much more. Lovely community to live in. *Lib Willey 703-362-7206*



**Alexandria** \$599,000  
**6311 Chaucer Lane.** Just Listed! This 4-level, 3,400 sq. ft. former model town house has it all. Unique features include an elevator, all 3 bedrooms have baths, huge family room with wet bar, 2 gas fireplaces, office/hobby room and storage galore. French and sliding glass doors open to quiet patio and so much more!

*Nancie Williams  
703-608-6959*



**Fairlington Towne** \$389,999  
**3821 Jay Ave.** Updates galore. Wonderful 2 BR, 1.5 BA with move-in perfection. Wood on main and upper. Granite and stainless in kitchen. Pendant lights in Kitchen and bath. Wall removed between kitchen and dining for open plan. Patio. Easy bus to D.C. *Julie Hall 703-786-3634*



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
**Alexandria** \$475,000  
**5904 Mount Eagle Dr. Unit 1118.** Single-family feel with convenience of condo living. Views of Potomac River, National Harbor fireworks and the changing of the seasons. 3 BR/2 BA, garage space and 1,695 sq. ft. Amenities include 35+ acres, indoor and outdoor pools, café, shuttle bus, new Nova Pro-Bounce tennis courts, bowling alley and more. Financially stable condo with \$4.8M reserves w/\$20M investment in infrastructure over the last 8 years. Virtual tour @ [5904mountaigledr1118.com](http://5904mountaigledr1118.com) *Cindy Baggett & Leslie Rodriguez 703-593-1418*



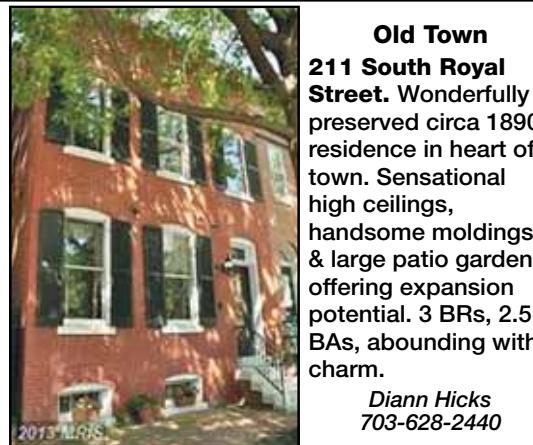
**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
**Alexandria** \$275,000  
**5903 Mount Eagle Dr. Unit 1417.** Must See! Why watch HGTV? Come see this beauty! Enjoy gorgeous sunsets and dramatic scenery from the enclosed balcony of this 14th floor fully-renovated condo! Contemporary & bright, featuring beautiful new kitchen and bath, Brazilian Tamborana wood throughout. In resort-like Montebello, minutes to Metro, Old Town! Virtual Tour @ [5903mountaigledr1417.com](http://5903mountaigledr1417.com) *Leslie Rodriguez & Cindy Baggett 703-400-3010*



**Old Town** \$772,500  
**623 South Royal Street.** Historic District. New listing with fabulous addition! 2 BRs, 2 BAs, 3 finished levels & parking. Fusion of Colonial/Contemporary, unique in historic district. *Diann Hicks 703-628-2440*



**Alexandria** \$437,000  
**499 Cameron Station Blvd.** Gorgeous 2-lvl town house-style condo in lovely Cameron Station provides loads of modern updates. 2 BR/2.5 BA w/bamboo floors, renovated baths, updated kitchen, new tile, carpeting & much more! Garage + assigned parking. Shuttle to Metro. *Erika Carroll 703-568-7376*



**Old Town**  
**211 South Royal Street.** Wonderfully preserved circa 1890 residence in heart of town. Sensational high ceilings, handsome moldings & large patio garden offering expansion potential. 3 BRs, 2.5 BAs, abounding with charm.

*Diann Hicks  
703-628-2440*



**Old Town Greens** \$560,000  
**1601 B Potomac Greens Dr.** New Listing! One Light to D.C.! OVER 1,700 SQ. FEET. 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 full baths, vaulted ceilings, beautiful wood floors. Many upgrades, huge master bath with Jacuzzi tub. Private sun deck and patio off of kitchen, attached garage, swimming pool and lighted tennis courts.

*Gary Chute  
703-371-9926*



**OPEN SUNDAY 1-4**  
**Alexandria** \$739,000  
**8038 Holland Rd.** Beautiful 4 bed, 3.5 bath home. Gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite, ample storage and counter space. Hardwood floors throughout main and upper level. Stunning master bedroom with 2 walk-in closets! Cathedral ceilings; floor-to-ceiling stone fireplace in family room. Three-car garage, unfinished basement with walk-out. *Maren Seubert 703-835-2580*



**Alexandria** \$750,000  
**8801 Black Alder Dr.** Located Next to Mount Vernon Golf Course on non-thru street/Mins. To Mount Vernon, Ft Belvoir. Full Front Porch/Private Pool/2 Level Deck/Sprinkler System/Whole House Generator/Freshly Painted/New roof w/vent & "clog free" gutters/New HVAC sys/Updated Kitchen/3 updated baths/Master Sitting Room can convert to 4th BR/Laundry on BR Level/See List at Home w/complete List of Upgrades and Conveyance. *Dave Ingram 703 380-9264•Debbie Ingram 703 380-8966*



**RENTAL LISTING**  
**South of Old Town** \$3,300/month  
**8403 Morey Lane.** Tastefully renovated brick Fort Hunt home. Gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar. 4 bedrooms, 2 updated baths. Cozy living room fireplace, wood floors. Closet organizers/abundant storage. With warmer weather, enjoy large flat back yard with deck and slate patio. Near G.W. Parkway/bike path. Rent includes grass/leaf removal. *Greg & Joni Koons 703-209-7678*

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## NEWS

# Seeing How Slaves Lived

**Tour spotlights how slaves' lives on Mount Vernon Estate.**

BY VERONICA BRUNO  
THE GAZETTE

In observance of African American History Month, Mount Vernon Estate offers a Slave Life specialty tour once a day throughout the month of February. The tour provides insight into the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington.

The tour includes living quarters, working gardens as well as reproduction clothing, tools, furniture, cookware, ceramics, and children's toys of the many enslaved individuals who lived there. Inclusion of the slave quarters provides a complete history of what life was like on the plantation; both those who owned it as well as those who toiled there.

While there, visitors may run into the last serving valet to the late General Washington, Christopher Sheels (portrayed by Jonathan Wood). He walks the plantation as one of the important people from Washington's world. More than 300 slaves "contributed heavily to the success of Mount Vernon," Wood said. Seeing a live actor portray the character of one of the enslaved individuals guides visitors toward an understanding that Washington, while a great national hero, was also a conflicted individual. "General Washington did not free his slaves until his death" and the display of the slave quarters is a "part of telling his whole story," Wood added.

Maria Morgan, one of the guides who leads the specialty tour, describes how the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, the current owners and stewards of the estate, received the recommendation to tear down the quarters when they bought the property in 1860. Instead, the Ladies' Association kept the property intact and begin the process of restoring it. They decided to celebrate the good but also, according to Wood, to be "courageous enough to embrace the bad." The inclusion of the slave quarters "paints the full picture of this man ... who "was a visionary." Although Washington did not free his slaves



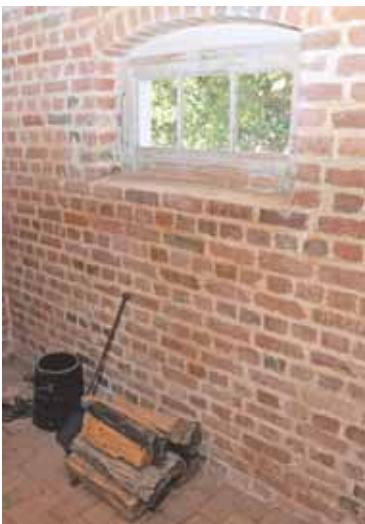
PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE GAZETTE

**Jonathan Wood portrays the slave Christopher Sheels, valet to General Washington and who served until the end of General Washington's life at Mount Vernon estate.**

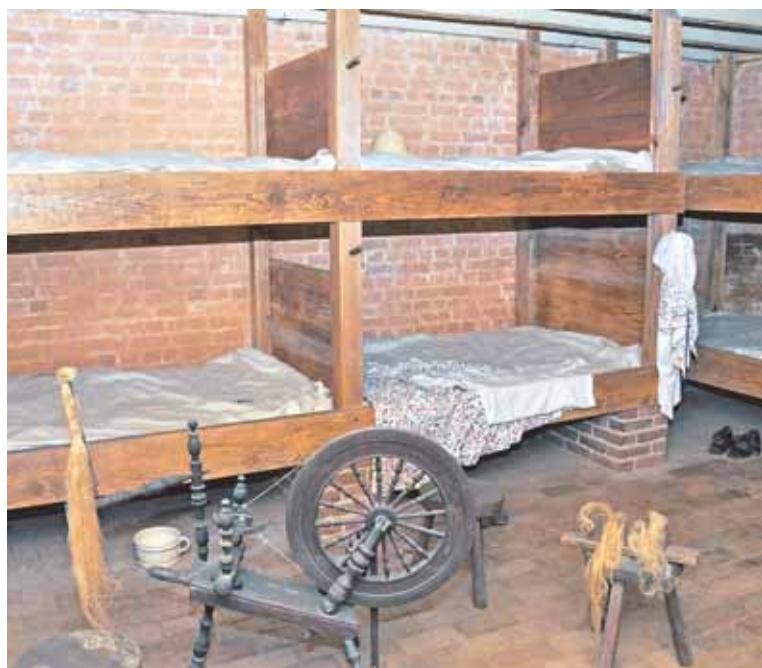
during his lifetime, the fact that he freed them on his deathbed, "left a direction, a map" with which the nation could move forward.

Visitors can follow the path to the slave memorial site for a special wreath laying and presentation, which occur daily at 1 p.m. The steps that lead to the column read "Faith," "Hope" and "Love." The design was created by architecture students from Howard University and opened to the public in 1983.

The Slave Life tour is at noon daily. Character actors are available twice a day at 10:30 a.m. and again at 2:30 p.m. in the Green Room by the High Garden of the estate. African American History Month activities are included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$17; children ages 6-11, \$8; and children under 5 are admitted free.



**Three hundred and eighteen skilled enslaved craftsmen, house slaves, and laborers lived at Mount Vernon during General Washington's time, including many families.**



**Sleeping quarters depict the living conditions of slave life at Mount Vernon.**



**Rex Reiley  
RE/MAX Allegiance**

**703-768-7730  
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com**



**Alex./Mt. Zephyr \$499,900  
8529 Richmond Ave**  
Large beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5 BA Split w/large spacious 2 car garage. Updated kit w/cherry cabinets & Corian counters. 2.5 updated baths w/12" ceramic tile floors & newer vanities & mirrors. Replacement double pane windows throughout plus lovely screened porch overlooking large landscaped backyard with beautiful privacy fence. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 mins to Ntl Airport - Short Sale - In great condition, Super Buy.



**Alex./Riverside Estates \$609,900  
8310 Cherry Valley Lane**  
Large spectacular 4BR/3BA Split w/2 car garage and 3100 sq ft. with a 640 sq ft addition adds an expanded MBR/MBA suite. Beautifully updated kitchen & baths. Updated HVAC system, hot water heater and replacement windows. Professional office below the expanded MBR. This house will cater to your every need.



**Alex./Riverwood \$744,900  
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.



**Alexandria City Cameron Station \$712,500  
5242 Tancreti Lane**  
Cameron Station's finest offering! Beautiful 4 level brick townhome, end unit, with 2 car garage. Gorgeous upgrades throughout and meticulously maintained. Spacious, open floor-plan, gourmet kitchen with granite and SS, high ceilings, hardwood floors, beautiful bathrooms, Trex decking, dual zone HVAC, etc. It's a 10! Fabulous location inside the Beltway, close to Old Town, Pentagon, National Airport, and D.C. Community shuttle to nearby Metro.



**Alex./Mt. Vernon Terrace \$619,900  
5108 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy**  
Stunning 5 BR, 3 BA brick Cape, remodeled from top to bottom on an absolutely spectacular .53 acre lot. Updated kit & baths w/beautiful family rm addition across the back opening to a beautiful deck. Refinished hdwd flrs, fully finished w/o basement to a huge patio overlooking expansive fenced back yard. An amazing setting - 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town & 30 mins to Ntl Airport - Gorgeous Home!



**Alex./Wessynton \$649,900  
3217 Wessynton Way**  
Absolutely Stunning 5 BR, 3 BA Contemporary in prestigious Waterfront Community of Wessynton. Over \$150K in upgrades over the past 10-12 years. Beautifully landscaped .34 acre lot backing to the woods. Planning on coming on the market this spring but can be shown by appointment thru Rex Reiley and sold before that. List price \$649,900 & 3% commission to buyer agent. Call Rex for details.



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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2014 ♦ 5



**WELLINGTON** \$3,295,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151](http://ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151)  
This elegant waterfront residence offers fabulous water views, gracious formal rooms, the finest finishes, a home gym, dock with 2 boat slips and lift, and a 2-car garage.

JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106



**OLD TOWN** \$3,200,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AX8275884](http://ttrsir.com/id/AX8275884)  
This historic free-standing townhouse located on award-winning landscaped gardens features a grand double parlor living room, two wood-burning fireplaces, and a show-stopping kitchen.

CYNTHIA BYRNES-GOLUBIN +1 202 437 3861

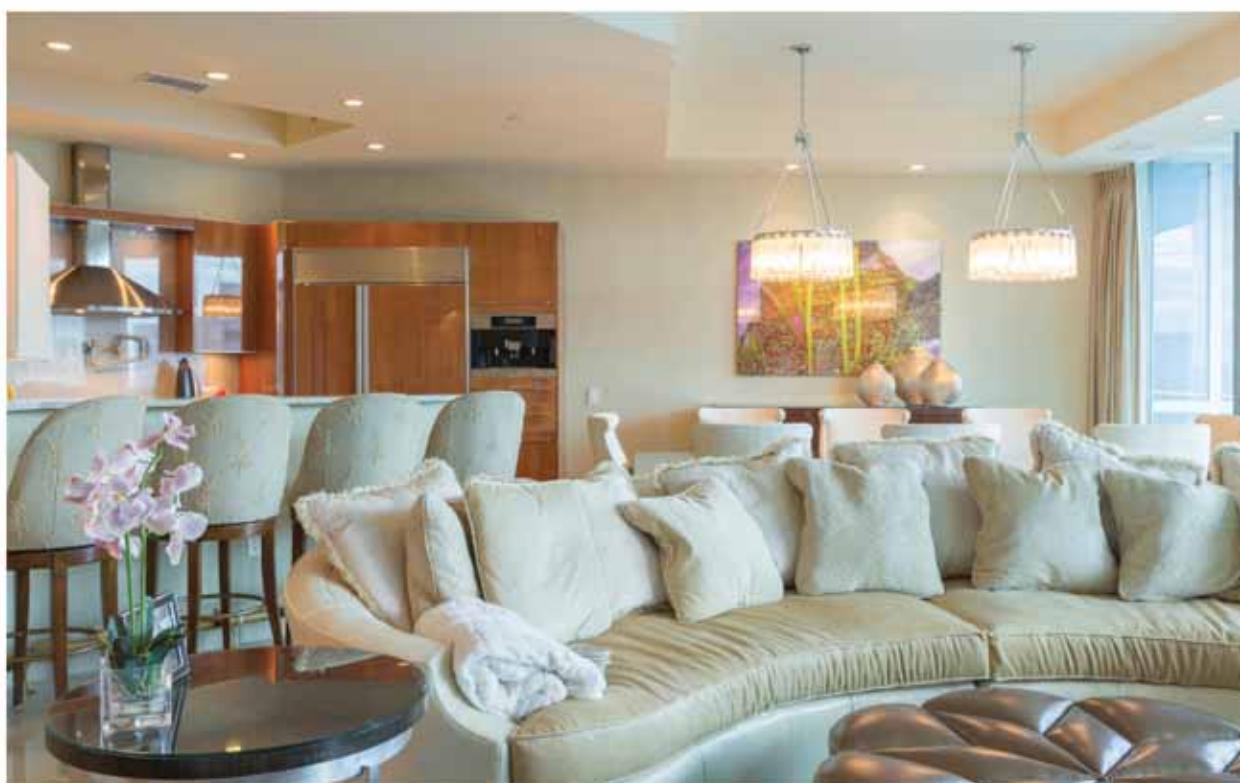


**ARLINGTON** \$3,500,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AR8207559](http://ttrsir.com/id/AR8207559)

Offering dramatic views of DC, this 30th floor penthouse of the acclaimed Waterview residences provides an expansive collection of elegant spaces well suited for both grand entertaining and private relaxation. The property includes access to the services and amenities of the Le Meridien Hotel and includes three reserved garage spaces.

ROB CARNEY +1 703 927 4290

**NEW ADDITIONS:** TTR Sotheby's International Realty is proud to welcome Jessica Richardson to our firm. If you're interested in purchasing or selling a home, please contact Jessica at 703 864 3438.



**ARLINGTON** \$3,100,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AR8257146](http://ttrsir.com/id/AR8257146)

Stunning residence in the sky at Turnberry Tower. This sophisticated flat offers two bedrooms, den and three and a half baths with spectacular views of Georgetown. Snadiero custom cabinetry, imported marble flooring, private two-car garage with abundant storage space. Building amenities include full-service concierge, state-of-the-art fitness center and spa services.

ALEX VENDITTI +1 202 550 8872



**ARLINGTON** \$2,695,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AR8191145](http://ttrsir.com/id/AR8191145)

This Colonial in Lyon Village has 6 BRs, 5.5 BAs, approx. 6,400 sf, gourmet kitchen, full-house entertainment system, outdoor kitchen, walk to metro, shops and restaurants.

JOHN ERIC +1 703 798 0097



**TAYLOR RUN** \$2,600,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/21064841](http://ttrsir.com/id/21064841)

This renovated home on one acre offers a gourmet kitchen, mahogany library, screened porch, pool, 3-car garage, and guest house.

KERRY ADAMS +1 703 587 7841

DAYNA BLUMEL +1 703 597 2252

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**BELLE HAVEN** \$1,595,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/FX8272904](http://ttrsir.com/id/FX8272904)

This 5 BR, 4.5 BA Colonial sited on a cul-de-sac offers a 2-car garage, 4 fireplaces, hardwoods, walk-out LL, and a bright open floor plan.

**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106

**PHYLLIS PATTERSON** +1 703 408 4232

**BELLE HAVEN** \$1,250,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151](http://ttrsir.com/id/AX7731151)

Beautiful Cape with an inviting front porch offers 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, and is perfect for entertaining and family living. Kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and beautiful master suite.

**JEANNE WARNER** +1 703 980 9106

**WELLINGTON** \$2,950,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/FX8249143](http://ttrsir.com/id/FX8249143)

This French Country Chateau features stunning views of the Potomac River, 8,500 square feet of elegant living space on .61 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds. Six large bedrooms and four+ baths on four levels.

**PHYLLIS PATTERSON** +1 703 408 4232

**BRITT PATTERSON** +1 703 517 0630

TTR Sotheby's International Realty is honored to support the upcoming Prevent Cancer Foundation Annual Spring Gala on Friday, March 7th, 2014. For more information, visit [preventcancer.org](http://preventcancer.org)



# Graceful, Gracious Japan

The Prevent Cancer Foundation  
**Annual Spring Gala**

Friday, March 7, 2014

National Building Museum

**JEFFERSON PARK** \$1,085,000 | [ttrsir.com/id/AX8258899](http://ttrsir.com/id/AX8258899)

Renovated Colonial features 5 BR, 3.5 BA, chef's kitchen and outside entertainment area with fire pit and flat screen.

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**BRITT PATTERSON** +1 703 517 0630

**COLLINGWOOD ON THE POTOMAC** \$699,000  
This home features 4BR, 2.5 BA, 2-car carport, updated kitchen and baths, sunroom off the kitchen and a beautiful deck.

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**BRITT PATTERSON** +1 703 517 0630

**TTR** | **Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## FREE REMODELING & DESIGN SEMINARS!



Sat., March 8th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy.,  
Burke, VA 22015  
(behind the Kohl's shopping center)

Thinking of remodeling? This event is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of free expert advice with no obligation. Learn about the hot topics you should consider when remodeling.

### Saturday's Seminars:

- From Concept to Completion
- 10 Tips for a Stress-Free Remodel
- Universal Design

Seminars run from 10am-Noon.  
Lunch to follow.  
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

Seating is limited!

RSVP: [info@sundesigninc.com](mailto:info@sundesigninc.com) or  
call Sabrina at 703.425.5588

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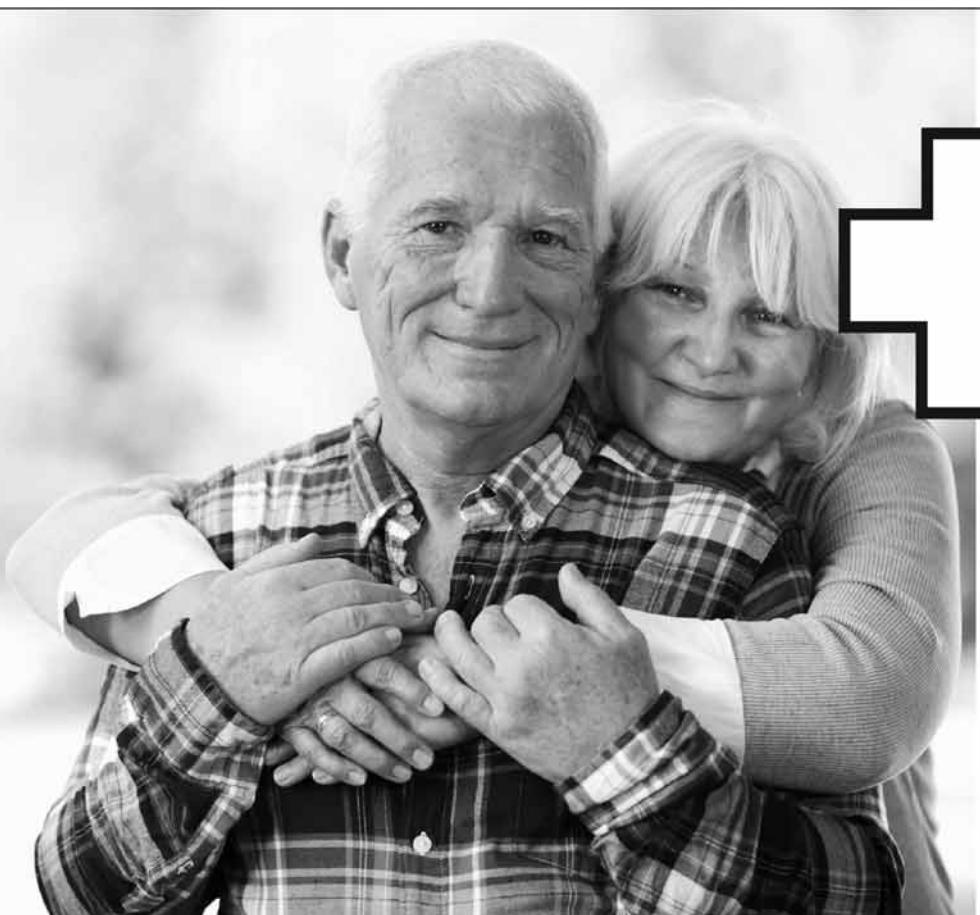
## NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### Grand Champions

On Feb. 22, at Gar-Field's Dance Invitational in Woodbridge, the Carl Sandburg Middle School Dance Team competed in the middle school category against local dance teams from Fairfax County Public Schools and Prince William County Schools. The Carl Sandburg Dance Team won the title of Grand Champions. This is the second Grand Champion title the dancers have won this season. Additionally, the team won first place in the following categories: Captains, Pom, Jazz, and Hip Hop. Eighth graders Rebekah Jenne, Marissa Nolasco, and Nikki Alderman won first, second, and third for their solos. Terrance Yarborough, the principal of Carl Sandburg Middle School, attended the dance competition and cheered for the dancers.



### Join Us in Promoting Health Safety at Home!

The Mount Vernon NICHE Nurses (Nurses Improving the Care for Health System Elders) invite you to join them for this FREE Safety Home Event.

When: Tuesday, March 4 – 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Where: Inova Mount Vernon Hospital – Blue Lobby

What: Brown Bag the morning with us! Bring all your current medications in from home and we will help you create a personalized medication list and give you a FREE gift.

Learn more about fire and fall safety in the home and much more.

Fun, Safety Booths, Snacks and a FREE gift. Hope you can make it!

[inova.org](http://inova.org)

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## NEWS

# Pedestrian Killed On Richmond highway

**W**illiam Godfrey Jr., 68, of Alexandria was struck as he crossed Richmond Highway near the Backlick Road intersection on Feb. 20. A 58-year-old woman driving a Honda Civic struck Godfrey as she was traveling north on Richmond Highway. Godfrey was pronounced dead at the scene. Alcohol may have been a factor on the part of the pedestrian, police said.

According to Fairfax County's pedestrian safety information website, 10-20 people on average are killed every year, with another 300 injured.

In 2012, there were 201 pedestrians involved in accidents in Fairfax County, according to the Fairfax County Police Department.

As of July 2013, there were 98 pedestrians involved in crashes.

In June 2013, a pedestrian crossing two lanes of stopped traffic on Richmond Highway was hit by a marked police car traveling in the southbound left turning lanes. According to police, the 60-year-

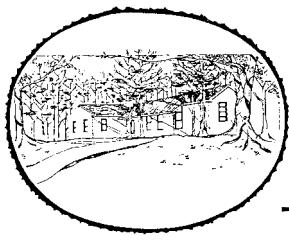
old Alexandria man was not in a crosswalk. The man received non-life threatening injuries.

Fairfax County operates a Fairfax County Pedestrian Program. The following information is advice given from their Pedestrian Safety portion of the website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian/pedsafety.htm>

#### TIPS FOR PEDESTRIANS:

- ❖ Cross the street at marked crosswalks and intersections.
  - ❖ Before crossing, look left, right, then left again.
  - ❖ Use pedestrian pushbuttons.
  - ❖ Only cross the street on the "Walk" signal
  - ❖ Stay visible after dark and in bad weather.
  - ❖ Watch out for trucks and buses that are backing up or turning.
- Tips for Drivers:
- ❖ Stop for pedestrian at crosswalks.
  - ❖ Slow down and obey the posted speed limit.
  - ❖ Look before opening your door.
  - ❖ Be careful when passing stopped vehicles.
  - ❖ Allow 3 feet when passing bicyclists.

(Information via Fairfax County Pedestrian Program at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian/pedsafety.htm>)



## Open House

**Tuesday, March 4,  
from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM  
~ Parents Only ~**



**Montessori School of Alexandria**  
**6300 Florence Lane,**  
**Alexandria, VA 22310**  
**703-960-3498**  
**[montessorischoolofalexandria.com](http://montessorischoolofalexandria.com)**



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- Accessing free and low-cost spay/neuter and vet services
- Practical aspects of trap-neuter-return
- Be part of the humane solution!
- Meet other concerned animal lovers & learn how you can help cats & kittens in your neighborhood.

  
**Fairfax County Animal Shelter**  
4500 West Ox Road,  
Fairfax, VA 22032  
703-830-1100, ext. 2  
[fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/trapneuterreturn.htm](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/trapneuterreturn.htm)

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[www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org)  
**703-360-6925**

**Monthly Networking**  
Feb 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Hampton Inn Mt Vernon  
Mar 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Good Shepherd Housing

**MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306

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200+ ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE SHELTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
COMPREHENSIVE, CREATIVE FOSTER PROGRAM- SHORT AND LONG TERM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
TRAP, NEUTER, RETURN AND LOW-INCOME SPAY/NEUTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PET RETENTION AND POST-ADOPTION FOLLOW-UP PROGRAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
PUBLIC RELATIONS / COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT / SOCIAL MEDIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
INNOVATIVE ENRICHMENT PROGRAM FOR DOGS, CATS AND SMALL ANIMALS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL PREVENTION AND REHABILITATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STAFF DEDICATED TO PROACTIVE REDEMPTIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HARD-WORKING, COMPASSIONATE SHELTER DIRECTOR AND STAFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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# OPINION

## Budget Process: Get Involved

### Chairman gives blueprint for community engagement in Fairfax County budget process.

BY SHARON BULOVIA  
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

In Fairfax County, when we adopt the budget, we are investing in the priorities and needs of the community. At the center of this open and transparent process is community engagement. It is critical that we have the community at the table with us when we are considering changes to the budget that the County Executive released for advertisement at our Board Meeting on Feb. 25. Below are some opportunities to learn about the budget, ask questions and make suggestions during the months of March and April. I look forward to hearing from you.

♦ **Ask Fairfax Chat:** The Ask Fairfax Chat is a great opportunity for residents to submit questions about the County's proposed Fiscal 2015 budget directly to County Executive Ed Long. The chat takes place online from 2-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28. To submit questions and join the chat visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax).

♦ **Track BOS Budget Questions:** You can view the answers to budget questions asked by the Board of Supervisors throughout the



GUEST  
EDITORIAL

budget process at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/qa\\_search.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/qa_search.htm).

♦ **Sign up to speak:** All public hearings take place in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035) and are open to the public. To sign up to speak at a hearing, please visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker\\_bos.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm) or call 703-324-3151.

#### ♦ Important public hearing dates:

Effective Tax Rate Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 8, 2014  
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 6 p.m., April 8, 2014  
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 9, 2014  
Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 10, 2014

**BUDGET FORUMS AND TOWN MEETINGS** will be hosted by Supervisors and com-

munity organizations throughout the county. Below is a list of currently scheduled meetings. Information on additional forums, as well as a current full budget calendar, will be listed in the coming weeks at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb).

♦ **Hunter Mill District Meeting,** Frying Pan Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon — Saturday, March 1, 9 a.m.

♦ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — Wednesday, March 5, 7 p.m.

♦ **Braddock District Budget Meeting,** Kings Park Library, Braddock Hall, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke — Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

♦ **Herndon Town Council,** Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon — Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.

♦ **Mason District Budget Meeting,** TBD — Tuesday, March 18 - 7 p.m.

♦ **Providence District Budget Meeting,** Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring — Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

♦ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean — Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.

♦ **Lee District Budget Meeting,** Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria — Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

♦ **Braddock Town Hall,** Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax — Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

I hope you will take the time to learn about and participate in this year's budget process. You can contact my office directly by calling 703-324-2321 or emailing [chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## Schools, Medicaid at Issue in State Budget

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL  
DELEGATE (D-44)



RICHMOND  
REPORT

Board of Supervisors.

Both budgets fail to restore funding for "Cost-to-Compete" allocations. In the mid-1990s, a study determined that Northern Virginia's labor costs should be accounted for in budgeting because they are substantially higher than in the rest of Virginia and out of local governments' control. This funding was cut during the recession and today it is still \$70 million behind formula guidelines. Last week, I introduced a floor amendment to restore \$7 million, but it was rejected on a party-line vote.

Medicaid, the federal-state health insurance program for low-income and disabled people, is also a major controversy. The 44th District has the second largest Medicaid population in all of Northern Virginia. Over 9,000 children or one in three kids in the 44th district receives health care covered by Medicaid. Each of those 9,000 kids has a parent without health insurance.

The Senate budget contains a proposal to extend a private insurance approach to Medicaid for low-income families at 138 percent of the federal poverty level (\$32,499 for a family of four). The House budget does not. The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of this expansion in the first years and 90 percent in the out years.

Providing health insurance to more people will save taxpayer dollars largely by covering

uninsured medical expenses, such as uncompensated emergency room visits that we all pay for through our insurance. Expanding Medicaid can reduce public funding for free clinics and help keep people healthy. Broadening Medicaid coverage is projected to create about 30,000 jobs which will bring revenues to the state.

Because the House budget fails to expand Medicaid and accept \$2 billion per year in federal monies, the House budget was forced to cut law enforcement, school resource officers, jail funding, foster care, home care for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults and other safety net programs to make up the difference. The House budget also funds a new General Assembly Office Building at a cost of \$300 million (\$400 million including interest). Additionally, legislators continue to have the option of a full state-sponsored health insurance plan with our \$17,600 annual salary. (I do not accept state health insurance. Luckily, I have the option of two other plans through my and my wife's employment.)

Only one of my Republican colleagues voted to expand Medicaid coverage. I am very concerned that both sides are hunkering down for a protracted conflict, but I also feel it is the height of hypocrisy for the General Assembly to fund a new office building for ourselves and keep our own state health insurance in the same budget in which we deny health insurance coverage to 400,000 low-income and disabled Virginians at minimal cost.

I voted "no" on this budget and will continue to craft a better budget.

Aside from Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, most members of the County Board of Supervisors appear to be unwilling to raise taxes of any kind to come close to our neighboring jurisdictions and meet the Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) request for an increase of \$98 million. Therefore, the state's contribution is critical to enable FCPS pay teachers and staff competitive salaries.

In the FY14 state budget, Virginia sent \$584.1 million to Fairfax County for schools. Former Gov. Bob McDonnell's proposed budget would have provided \$602.7 and \$612.6 million to Fairfax County in FY15-16 or a net increase of \$47.1 million. The House of Delegates' proposed budget parrots McDonnell's funding, but the Senate budget proposes to increase Fairfax County's funds in FY15-FY16 by \$9 million more. This would cover about 33 percent of FCPS's 2015 budget request to the

### Mount Vernon Gazette

[www.MountVernonGazette.com](http://www.MountVernonGazette.com)

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## LETTERS

### Letting Down Victims Of Domestic Violence

To the Editor:

State Senate Bill 510 — prohibiting individuals who have been convicted of the misdemeanors of stalking, sexual battery, or assault and battery of a family member, from possessing a firearm for a period of five years following their conviction, after which their gun rights would be automatically restored — passed the Virginia State Senate with bipartisan support. It then went to a sub-committee in the House of Delegates, where it quickly died.

My delegate, Dave Albo, was the lone Republican on that sub-committee to vote in favor of SB 510.

To be clear, these are not just any misdemeanors, but ones that have displayed a pattern of violence — violence that far too often escalates into horrific tragedy. SB 510 is supported by law enforcement associations, state prosecutors, the medical community, women's groups and groups that advocate against domestic violence throughout Virginia.

I grew up in a military and staunchly Republican household, back in the days when the Republicans were the party of "law and order," who were toughest on criminals and had little sympathy for their so-called "rights." Have they now become the party of protecting criminals? How did they decide that the "rights" of these dangerous

criminals are more important than the safety and lives of their victims — mostly women and children?

I know this wasn't an easy vote for Delegate Albo, and I thank him for his courage. But Delegate Albo is also a leader in our House of Delegates, with considerable influence and power in the Republican Party. I urge him to use that influence and power to fight for SB 510 — and to fight for the well-being and lives of women and families, in his district and everywhere in Virginia.

It's the right thing to do.

**Laura Austin**  
Mount Vernon

### A State Religion?

To the Editor:

Public opinion on the subject of marriage is being systematically "stamped-out" in Virginia. Where it conflicts with the will of the State, conscience holds no bearing — so says the Obama faction.

This causes me to think a mistake was made (inadvertently, I'm sure) when the editorial, written by Mary Kimm, was published in the Feb. 20 edition of the Gazette. It was placed under the subject heading, "Opinion," which surely offends the worldview of those (like Obama) who've gone to such great lengths to ensure there is no opinion, beyond that of the State.

In response to her curious recital, I submit the following observations:

Homosexuality is religion. It is dark, humanist religion. The religion of those who hate God. It is agnosticism (Gk., ignorance), deliberately carried into practice, by those "in pursuit of a vain thing."

But in recent years it has transformed (politically) into something even more foul, as Judge Arenda Wright-Allen seemed to confirm by her recent ruling on the subject. It has become a compulsory doctrine, imposed on ordinary citizens by the sheer will of those in power.

And now it comes to this: The establishment of one 'State' religion, to rule all religion. Instilling "government-sanctioned" hatred toward God, with an aim to confuse the will and conscience of those who might otherwise desire to know; to acknowledge; and to love God, with all their heart (as right requires).

After all, if same-sex marriage is to be imagined as a civil right, I suppose it won't be long before our new Attorney General finds justification to initiate a political assault against the Church, casting congregations (of all colors) in the same light as Klan members; and pastors (of all denominations) in the same light as supremacists. I expect it would be his duty — if not rather his pleasure — to follow this path, would it not?

Churches found to be out-of-compliance with the State (because of what they teach, or because of who they will or will not

marry) will be treated as political adversaries, while those finding a way to accept the State's narrative on homosexuality (by breaking ties with God) will be rewarded with political dividends.

In all of this, may the good people of our Commonwealth be reminded of why our founding generation advocated so strongly on behalf of religious freedom, and so emphatically against the establishment of State religion. Surely it was meant for such a time as this.

**Joe Glean**  
Alexandria

### Expensive To Recycle Sand

To the Editor:

In reading the exchange from the two residents of Stratford Landing, I would like to add this.

As a dog walker in this neighborhood I have noticed that there is not enough sand still lying in the street to justify the effort, especially when you consider that most of that sand is mixed with soil, road residue and decaying leaves. I do note that these two writers just happen to live on the street with the most sand lying around, but even if that amount were to be found on all the streets in our neighborhood, it would not justify the expense of collecting and cleaning the sand for reuse.

**John Dickert**  
Mount Vernon

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directed by Rob Batarla  
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PLAYHOUSE

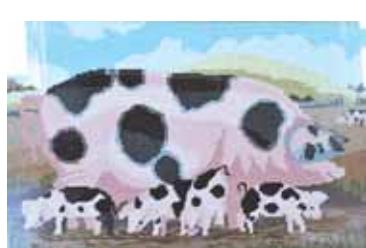
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# NEWS



Original embroidery by Joyce Houck



Canvaswork-Traditional by Kate Callahan



Sampler-Traditional by Sandy Cornett



Embroidery-Silk Ribbons by Lynn K. Bayer



Cross Stitch by Mary Mouser

## Woodlawn Needlework Exhibit Starts March 1

51<sup>st</sup> annual show to feature First Families' knack for needlework.

**W**oodlawn, a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will showcase the work of skilled needleworkers from across the country, including objects created by First Ladies and First Family members, during the site's annual needlework show that begins on Saturday, March 1.

"After celebrating the 50th anniversary of the needlework show last year, we wanted to do something special that would build on that excitement and success this year," said John Riley, interim director of Woodlawn. "This year's

program will feature a blend of contemporary and historic needlework that is as impressive in its craftsmanship as it is in its historical significance."

In addition to hundreds of high quality needlework items on display throughout the Woodlawn mansion, the work of First Families on loan for the special exhibit, "Needlework and the White House: A First Family Tradition," includes a rug by Barbara Bush, napkins embroidered by Edith Roosevelt, and Dolley Madison's pin cushion. Visitors will also see needlework ornaments from the

1991 White House holiday display.

The exhibition honors the legacy of Eleanor Custis Lewis, who lived at Woodlawn and was one of America's foremost needleworkers, by supporting her passion for needlework and raising funds to preserve her home. The show is supported by Nelly's Needlers, a volunteer auxiliary that works year-round to raise funds for Woodlawn. Since their founding in 1975, the Needlers have donated more than \$750,000 to the historic site.

The needlework exhibition is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

Wednesday through Monday. The show ends on Monday, March 31. The historic site is located at 9000 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria. During the needlework exhibition, Nelly's Needlers will be offering lunch between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Entrees cost from \$7 to \$9. The proceeds will benefit Woodlawn.

Daily admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students through grade 12, and free for children five and under. Friends of Woodlawn and Pope-Leighey House are admitted free. For more information, visit <http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org>.



Canvaswork-Multistitch by Liv Weiss

PHOTOS BY  
LOUISE KRAFFT  
THE GAZETTE

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### Public Notice—Convention to Select an 11th Congressional District Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives and a Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee

Republicans residing in Northern Virginia's 11th Congressional District will meet in a Convention on May 10, 2014, at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA, to select a Republican nominee for U.S. House of Representatives from the 11th Congressional District; and to elect a Chairman for the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

Any person seeking the nomination for U.S. Representative from the 11th Congressional District must notify, in writing, Mr. Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count), and at the same time convey to Mr. Tamargo a non-refundable filing fee of \$1,500.00, payable by check or money order, made payable to the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee. Further details are specified in the Official Call for the 11th Congressional District Convention; this Official Call can be found on the 11th Congressional District Committee's website ([www.vagop11.org](http://www.vagop11.org)). Similar information pertaining to the submission and consideration of any Committee resolutions is also found in the Official Call.

Any person seeking election as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee must notify, in writing, Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia, 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count). Further details are specified in the Official Call

for the 11th Congressional District Republican Convention, which is found on the Committee's website ([www.vagop11.org](http://www.vagop11.org)).

Any Republican who is unsure as to whether he or she resides in the 11th Congressional District should consult his or her Commonwealth of Virginia Voter Card. If the notation "CONG 11" appears on the card, he or she is eligible to register and vote at the 11th District Convention.

Delegates to the Convention must register through their local county or city Republican Committees. Those 11th District Republicans living in Prince William County (PWC) will register through the Prince William County Republican Committee ([www.pwcgop.org/wordpress](http://www.pwcgop.org/wordpress)). The PWC deadline for Registration is March 1st. Those having questions about this process can call 703-680-7388. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax County (FC) will register through the Fairfax County Republican Committee ([www.fairfaxgop.org](http://www.fairfaxgop.org)). The FC deadline for registration is March 15th. Those having questions about this process can call 703-766-4467.

At this time, no registration procedures have been established for those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City should monitor the Fairfax City Republican Committee's website ([www.fairfaxcitygop.com](http://www.fairfaxcitygop.com)) to obtain instructions for filing as a delegate to the 11th District Convention.

# NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

To show support for Fairfax County schools and teachers, the Alliance for Fairfax Public Schools held a "Fund Our Schools" rally at the Fairfax County Government Center before Long's budget announcement.

## Bulova: 'A Challenging Budget'

FROM PAGE 1

budget," Bulova said, citing disappointing projected revenues from business taxes.

Among those disappointed with the proposed budget is Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza, who last month requested supervisors send \$2.5 billion to the schools, an increase of 5.7 percent in annual taxpayer funding and \$98 million more than the schools requested last year.

**SUPERVISORS** have said they were willing to increase their transfer by only 2 percent, which accounts for 52.1 percent of the proposed county budget expenditures.

Garza's request is about \$64 million more than Long's budget recommendation of \$1.93 billion, a 2.07 percent increase (or \$39 million) over the current fiscal year.

Garza's budget proposal would have increased school funding, but also called for \$96 million in cuts, including classroom

testing fees for high school students, large class sizes and staffing cuts.

Long's proposal also includes \$72.6 million in additional support for school services including Head Start, school health, resource officers and crossing guards, after-school programming, field maintenance and recreational programs, among others.

To show support for Fairfax County schools and teachers, the Alliance for Fairfax Public Schools held a "Fund Our Schools" rally at the Fairfax County Government Center before Long's budget announcement. The Alliance is a partnership of parents, students, and civic organizations including the Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Council of PTAs, and Fairfax County Federation of Teachers.

"Our schools are bursting at the seams, talented teachers are leaving, and already large class sizes could get even bigger. The supervisors must make our schools the priority," the FCCPTA said in an online petition addressed to the Board of Supervisors.

"It's absolutely stunning that supervisors put forth a budget that shortchanges students," said Kevin Hickerson, an FCPS teacher and parent-advocate who supported the rally. "Two percent is not enough."

To close that gap and fund other priorities, Bulova said she will consider advertising an increase in property tax rates, which would add about \$150 to the average homeowner's tax bill, on top of the \$330 jump resulting from higher assessed values this year.

Bulova said the board will set the advertised real estate tax rate on March 4; the advertised rate represents the maximum potential tax rate for FY2015.

"Through the budget process, the board may adopt a rate lower than the advertised rate, but cannot adopt a higher rate," Bulova said.

According to the County Executive's proposed budget, one penny of the tax rate is equal to roughly \$21.9 million in the general fund and \$50 for the average Fairfax County residential tax bill.

"As the county continues to face fiscal challenges, we must persist in our cautious and deliberative approach to budgeting, only funding items that are sustainable," Long said Tuesday, adding that almost all of the budget increase in his proposal will be earmarked for capital investment and employee compensation.

"These are two critical elements of our

## Budget Event Schedule

### Feb. 25

Release of the County Executive's FY 2015 Advertised Budget Plan (including Multi-Year Budget: FY 2015 and FY 2016) - 10:40 a.m.

### Feb. 28

Ask Fairfax: Online Chat with County Executive - 2 - 3 p.m.

### March 4

Board of Supervisors' Meeting: Advertisement for FY 2015 Tax Rate and FY 2015 Third Quarter - 10:30 a.m.

### March 18

Budget Committee Meeting - Govt. Center (CR 9/10) - 1 - 3 p.m.

### April 1

Budget Committee Meeting - Govt. Center (CR 9/10)

### April 8

Effective Tax Rate Hearing (FY 2015 Budget) - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m. \*

### April 8

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 6 p.m. \*

### April 9

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m. \*

### April 10

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m. \*

### April 18

Budget Committee Meeting - pre-Mark-Up on FY 2015 Budget - Govt. Center (CR 9/10) - 1 p.m.

### April 22

FY 2015 Board Budget Mark-up and Approval of FY 2015 Third Quarter - 10 a.m.

### April 29

Formal Adoption of the FY 2015 Budget Plan - 10:30 a.m.

### July 1

Beginning of FY 2015

\* Opportunities for public comment

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 26

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**Old Town** \$975,000  
218 Fairfax Street N, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Fabulous Historic Townhouse in the Heart of Old Town. This 2BR/Den with 2.5BA features Updated Gourmet Kitchen w/ Granite, SS, & Private Walled Garden.  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068

**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**

**Alexandria House** \$825,000  
400 Madison St 1108, Alexandria, VA 22314  
Smashing custom corner unit w/ wrap around balcony! Water views from every room Huge master BR w/ step down sitting room, closets galore, 2 garage spaces!  
Katherine Zwicky 703-408-0399

**OPEN SUN 1-4PM**

**Mason Hill** \$779,900  
1722 Hollinwood Drive, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Beautiful Center Hall Colonial in Mason Hill. This home has been updated inside & out. Enjoy a chef's gourmet kitchen & dining room, deck & patio, 2CG  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068

**NEW LISTINGS**

**Rosemont Park** \$659,000  
108 East Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301  
Coming Soon! Charming Cape Cod located in Rosemont, minutes to Del Ray and Metro has it all! Move-in ready, complete with CAC, off-street parking, screened-in porch and much more!  
Bonnie Rivkin 703-598-7788

**JUST REDUCED**

**The Point At Twin Lakes** \$649,000  
219 Twin Lake Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22401  
5BR/4BA 5000 sqft home on almost 2 acres less than 2 miles from VRE stop. Close to new biking/jogging path.  
Kevin Harold Posey 703-628-5823

**NEW LISTINGS**

**Huntington** \$297,500  
2104 Farrington Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22303  
A few min. walk to Metro! It can't get more affordable and convenient than this! 3 fin. flv Duplex with Lg. fenced back yard and spacious patio. 2BR/2BA.  
Fred Marcellus 703-340-2925

**JUST REDUCED**

**River Towers** \$252,900  
6621 Wakefield Drive 313, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Largest 2BR floorplan offering stunning view of park-like setting, neutral decor, ample closet space, lg picture windows. Amenities incl pkng, pool, tennis. OPEN 3/2 (1p-4p). Heidi Burkhardt 703-217-6009

**NEW LISTINGS**

**Belle View** \$184,900  
6604 Boulevard View Bz, Alexandria, VA 22307  
Sunny cute Belle View 1BR/1BA condo. Top floor unit, great value, low condo fee, parking. Restaurants, shops & more nearby! Bus to-metro, just off GW Parkway near Old Town.  
Greg Doherty 703-408-5068

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**JUST LISTED**

4300 Sheridans Point Ct  
\$829,900  
Elegant Georgian Colonial!  
Abundant custom enhancements make this property a true showplace. 3 fin. levels, open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, sunroom, magnificent custom trim detail, luxury master bath, recently finished lower level. Huge deck and 2 car garage. Hard to find home with this size and luxurious appointments under \$1,000,000.



**OPEN SUN**

4200 Ferry Landing Rd  
\$698,500  
Spacious Colonial Shows Like Model! Unique opportunity! This gorgeous 4BR Colonial is in impeccable condition, located on large lot and is loaded with upgrades. Exceptionally bright, open floor plan. Fab features: main level study and family room, large kitchen, breakfast area, finished LL, sumptuous master suite, stunning Brazilian Cherry floors, "Andersen" thermal windows, and 2 car garage. Property provides unique combination of size, condition and prime location. OPEN SUN 2/23, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing.



**OPEN SUN**

9409 Ludgate Dr  
\$1,980,000  
Magnificent Setting! Stately Colonial Estate in the Virginia plantation tradition. Magnificent setting on high bluff overlooking Potomac at its widest point. Views protected by bordering conservation land. Home is truly spectacular with high ceilings, gourmet kitchen, 4BRs, each with its own private bath and a breathtaking view from the master bedroom suite. A 300 ft dock (approx.) with lifts. OPEN SUN 3/2, 1-4. GW Pky S, past Estate, L Old Mt Vernon Rd. L Washington Woods, R Ludgate.



**JUST LISTED**

9309 Reef Ct  
\$629,000  
Three Level Colonial-Near River! Exceptionally attractive property on magnificent half acre grounds fronting quiet cul-de-sac in one of area's premier neighborhoods. Special features include: 3LVL, 4BR, 2.5BA, family room with FP off kitchen, gorgeous stained hwd firs, economical gas heat and hot water, and oversize 2 car garage. Major upgrades include thermal windows and glass doors. Unique opportunity!



**NEW PRICE**

8428 Old Mount Vernon Rd  
\$339,000  
Large Home-Totally Updated! One of a kind compound consisting of a luxurious 5645 sq ft home and a totally remodeled and updated 2BR cottage. Ideal situation for home office or extended family. New home has everything including 6BR, 7BA, custom kitchen open to family room, large living and dining rooms, main level study, stunning master suite, finished lower level and 3 car garage. Most house & lot for \$5 in Mt. Vernon!



**SOLD**

4821 Stillwell Ave  
\$529,500  
Curb Appeal Galore!

8888 McNair Dr  
\$749,500  
5 Bedroom Colonial Prime Location



**SOLD**

9009 Captains Row  
\$665,000  
Great Opportunity!



**JUST LISTED**

1938 Shiver Dr  
\$625,000  
Totally Updated!



**SOLD**

9410 Coral Ln  
\$649,500  
Yacht Haven-Near River!



**JUST LISTED**

4325 Adrienne Dr  
\$598,950  
Southwood Gem!

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\$ 499,900  
Alexandria South  
"EXPANDED"

Adorable brick Cape Cod with 2 Lvl addition joins the craftsmanship of yester-year with today's open floor plan style. This 4BR/3.5BA home is updated fresh/bright. The family room/kitchen spans width of the house and opens to a large sunroom overlooking the gorgeous backyard. Home has large BRs, walk-in closet, workshop, garden shed and 5 zone sprinkler. EZ commute via GW Pkwy.

See details at [www.3210Collard.com](http://www.3210Collard.com)  
Catherine L. Parker 703.627.5688



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!  
\$ 985,000  
Alexandria / Potomac Greens  
1744 POTOMAC GREENS DR

Visit this spacious and sunny 4 level townhouse with 4BR/3.5BA, roof top terrace and 2 fireplaces. There are hardwood floors, formal living and dining rooms; roomy eat-in kitchen with granite counters and SSA plus a 2-car garage. Located at the North End of Old Town, 1 stop to DC

[www.marylousage.com](http://www.marylousage.com)  
Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!  
\$ 519,000  
Alexandria South  
8320 FT HUNT RD

This large 3-4BR / 2.5BA home with a solarium addition will delight nature lovers! The lush garden provides views of nature and greenery from every window. Skylight, bay windows, warm hardwoods, separate DR. Freshly painted, replacement windows. LL family room with fireplace. Rec room addition. Fenced yard with patio and storage shed. New roof. Meticulously maintained.

Martha Deal 703.622.6797



\$ 414,900  
Alexandria  
"BRICK TOWNHOUSE"

NEW PRICE! Well constructed 3 level interior TH with 3BR/3.5BA plus the option of a 4th bedroom on the LL (with full bath). Tall ceilings. Open plan. Granite kitchen has breakfast room. Hardwoods throughout the home including the finished basement. Walk out basement to fenced yard with garden beds. 200 sq ft deck off main level bump out with view. 1-car garage parking. Quiet alcove of newer homes.

Margaret Ruhe 703.599.7527



\$ 289,000  
Alexandria  
"WALK TO METRO"

Open kitchen with new appliances, granite counter tops, hardwood floors. A spacious living/dining room combo. Brand new family room on LL. Fully fenced large, level backyard opens to parkland. New deck and roof. Large shed. Easy access to 495 and Old Town.

Catherine.Foltz@longandfoster.com  
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!  
\$ 680,000  
Alexandria  
1911 SWORD LN

4BR/3.5BA home offers ML open floor plan with fireplace, hardwoods. The screened porch overlooks a private fenced yard backing to woods. Entertain or work from home in separate office space. Rec room has wet-bar/minibar and built-in bookcase/entertainment center. Large kitchen, separate DR plus carpet round out this great home.

Katherine.Ward@Inf.com  
Katherine Ward 703.627.8782



OPEN SUNDAY 2 - 4!  
\$ 700,000  
Alexandria South  
7625 MIDDAY LN

Meticulously maintained and updated 4BR/3BA split foyer and move-in ready. Heated and air-conditioned 1-car garage with custom shelving and protective floor coverings. 2 fireplaces, huge LL rec room, spacious BRs, formal dining rooms plus 3 season sunroom.

[www.novaproertyshop.com](http://www.novaproertyshop.com)  
Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913  
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!  
\$ 425,000  
Alexandria South  
7606 AUDUBON MEADOW WAY

3BR/2BA garage townhouse offers easy family living floor plan with 12x10 bump-outs on every level! Eat-in kitchen with abundant countertop and cabinet space. Master suite offers sitting room, soaking tub, shower, walk-in closet. Basement rec room with fireplace to private, fenced-in patio. Pool, tot lot & trails.

Ginger Webre 703.595.8776



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!  
\$ 649,900  
Alex. / Waynewood  
8506 CROSSLEY PL

New Listing in Waynewood! An addition and many improvements make this a terrific buy! With a redone kitchen and baths, replaced

systems, 4BR and a wonderful sunroom, this home offers space, convenience and is a short distance from Waynewood ES.

Leah Chapla 703.929.4875  
Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343



\$ 369,000  
Alexandria City  
"IDEAL LOCATION"

Pretty 1BR/1BA pied-a-terre boasts sunny open floor plan, wood floors, bright kitchen, recently updated bath and excellent closet space including large walk-in. Both LR and MBR access huge private balcony with a peek of the Potomac. Roof top pool with panoramic river views too! 2 blocks to river and more and just 9 blocks to Metro.

Ann Z. Logsdon 703.568.8433  
Emily Capelli 703.472.1282



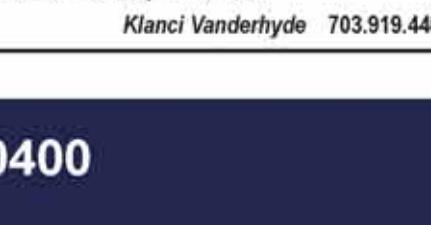
### RENTALS

6624 Wakefield Dr #A2 \$1,550  
Belle View Garden 2BR/1BA  
Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

5353 Columbia Pk #208 \$1,400  
The Palazzo Mid-Rise 1BR / 1.5BA  
Ann Logsdon 703.568.8433

2451 Midtown Ave #1322 \$1,790  
Midtown Alexandria Station Hi-Rise 1BR / 1BA 1 assigned Pkg  
Marcy Covarrubias 703.772.6569

3 Leather Bark Ct \$1,995  
Whitson Ridge Detached 4BR / 3BA 1 Frpl 2-car Garage  
Natoya Joshua 703.518.7990



OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!  
\$ 515,000  
Alexandria South  
7109 COVENTRY RD

Updated rambler on 1/2 acre lot. Main level has a very open floor plan with 4BR/2BA, updated kitchen with SSA and granite counters and access to a new large deck overlooking large and private backyard. Master bath has custom walk-in shower. Lower level rec room is light-filled and also opens to back yard. Bonus room under master bedroom has entry from outside.

Klanci Vanderhyde 703.919.4460

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2014 ♦ 15

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

## ONGOING

**Celebrate Black History Month.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through Feb. 28 at Mount Vernon Estate. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. A wreathlaying and presentation occurs daily at the slave memorial site throughout the month of February. Black History Month activities are included in admission: adults, \$18; senior citizens, \$17; children age 6-11, when accompanied by an adult, \$9; and children under age 5, free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Reincarnations" art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Features art from salvaged items, art from encyclopedias and more. Free. Runs through March 2. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Frances Gallardo: Meteorology" through March 2 at the Target Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org/target](http://www.torpedofactory.org/target).

**Art Exhibit.** See The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show, on view from Feb. 19-March 2. Faculty works will be showcased alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by the student body. Located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Songs of the Shore," archival inkjet prints by Chantilly resident Peter Toth in the Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery, of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Runs through March 16. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See Katie Runnerstrom's drawings and paintings through March 16 at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The show reflects her exploration of several areas of science such as mycology and the study of jellyfish. Free. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://nvfaa.org) or 703-548-0035.

**Theater Performance.** See "Ella Fitzgerald: First Lady of Song" at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St., through March 16. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets may be ordered by calling 1-800-494-8497 or online at [boxofficetickets.com](http://boxofficetickets.com). For group sales and information call the theatre at 703-548-9044. Visit [www.metrostage.org](http://www.metrostage.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "7th and H Streets, NW: The Hidden Refrain of Inner City DC" by Fred Zafran at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Feb. 18-March 30. Visit [www.multiplexposuresgallery.com/](http://www.multiplexposuresgallery.com/) for more.

**Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.** At The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St., through Sunday, March 23. 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](http://www.alexandriahistory.org) or call 703-746-4994.

**Art Exhibit.** "Portraits of Pop Culture

art exhibit will be on display at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see artists' interpretation of pop culture, featuring compelling cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians, pundits and other pop figures. Show runs March 7-30. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Woodlawn Exhibit.** See work of needleworkers from across the country, including objects created by First Ladies and First Family members, including items by Edith Roosevelt, Dolley Madison and Barbara Bush. The exhibit runs March 1-31 at Woodlawn, 9000 Richmond Highway. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday through Monday. Lunch is available from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for a fee. Admission is \$10/adult; \$5/student. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See photographer E.E. McCollum transform the figure in "The Cocoon Series" March 13 through April 7 in the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Through a series of black and white photographs, McCollum transforms the human figure by using nylon tubing to encase the body. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

**Art Exhibit.** See "REVOLUTION: Art and Technology" art exhibit from April 4-27 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists explore their relationship with technology in computer-created art, digitally manipulated art, art made from electronic parts, mixed-media pieces expressing feelings about technology, and more. Hours are Thursdays noon-6 p.m.; Friday & Saturday noon-9 p.m.; Sunday noon-6 p.m. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

**Attics and Alleys Tour.** Tickets are now on sale for the Attics and Alleys tour, a three-hour walking tour featuring rarely seen spaces of four sites — the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and Carlyle House. Tours will be offered Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-noon. \$35/person. Reservations required. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Art Exhibit.** "Women Legends of Alexandria: 2007-2013" art exhibit will be on display at Prudential PenFed Realty, 300 N. Washington St., suite 100. The exhibit will showcase portraits from the Living Legends of Alexandria project with selected works from the Del Ray Artisans. Show runs March 3-June 27. Hours are Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** See "Sit Down and Take a Stand: Samuel W. Tucker and the 1939 Alexandria Library Sit-In" at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. The exhibit focuses on the life of famed civil rights attorney Samuel Wilber Tucker, and highlights the role of Robert Strange, who was a runner between the library and Tucker's office, keeping Tucker abreast of developments. The exhibit runs through August. Free. 703-746-4356.

## CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Metro Club After-School Program.** Through June, 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

# 'Next Fall' Opens This Weekend

**Port City Playhouse presents gay love story.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Port City Playhouse is staging "Next Fall" from Feb. 28 to March 15. The contemporary love story written by Geoffrey Nauffts is about two gay men in an up-and-down relationship in New York. The character of Luke is devoutly religious and his lover Adam is an atheist. The action revolves around their five-year relationship and how they make it work despite their differences. However, when an accident changes everything, Adam must turn to Luke's family for support.

"I want to tell a realistic story about two people who love each other very much," said Director Rob Batarla. "And that at the end of the day, the differences that you think really matter just don't really matter." He added, "Although the story centers around a same-sex couple, the central theme is universal."

"Next Fall" opened off-Broadway in 2009 and was nominated for the 2010 Tony Award for Best Play. It also received a 2010 Outer Critics Circle Award as Best New American Play.

According to Richard Isaacs, 50, of Old Town, who plays the role of Adam, one of the two leads, "All of the characters are in search of where they are in life. They seem to be looking for something, but they aren't sure what they're looking for. I think it's about life's journey and finding who you are in life."

Added Isaacs, "In this five-year relationship, they are trying to find a common connection and make the relationship work despite different theological attitudes ... Some of the questions Adam asks Luke, I have asked these same questions in my own life."

Frederick Dechow, 37, of Alexandria plays the role of Luke — an actor in love with Adam who was brought up as a fundamental Christian. He says the play portrays a wide spectrum of the human experience — it's funny, silly, sad and serious. "I'd call it a dramedy," he said.

Dechow said, "[Luke] is from New York and sees things from a broader perspective; he's a serious Christian. He loves everybody and tries to see things from Adam's perspective."

Batarla said he wants people to walk away from this show relating to the characters. "I want people to say to themselves that they heard things on stage that they have said themselves at some point in their life," he said. "I believe that connection will draw

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](http://www.metropolitanarts.org).

**Life Drawing.** Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Just drop-in for the

session and bring your supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

**Photography Workshop.** 10:30 a.m.-



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

**"Next Fall" features actors Frederick Dechow, 37, who plays Luke (left), and Richard Isaacs, 50, who plays Adam.**

the audience into the story."

Batarla said that because the show bounces back and forth in time a lot, they date-stamped each scene for the audience — with every scene having an exact time and location. He said, "Not only will that help the audience understand what is happening where, but also give that sense that maybe at that specific time and place these things really did happen."

A challenge for Batarla was to make the acting real. "I have asked my actors to speak as they would speak in real life," he said. "In real life, we don't stop on our way to the kitchen to say a line ... So we worked a lot on the fluidity of the show to enhance its realism."

According to producer Carol Strachan, Port City Playhouse has a board and a subcommittee who read plays and make recommendations on which plays to produce. In turn, the board approves them or not and then asks the community for directors. Last February, Batarla interviewed for the director job and got the job in March, which means he's been processing the material for about a year. Rehearsals started about six weeks ago.

Strachan has also produced for Port City's production of "Medea," "The Children's Hour" and "The Drawer Boy." She also accent-coached several of their plays when called for a British accent. Her background is director, producer and actor since 1979.

The other actors in "Next Fall" include: Butch (Cal Whitehurst), Arlene (Gayle Nichols Grimes), Brandon (Andy De) and Holly (Suzanne Martin).

**"Next Fall" performances take place at 8 p.m. on Feb. 28 and March 1, 7, 8, 11, 14, and 15; and 2 p.m. on March 8 and 15. Port City Playhouse is located at 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Purchase tickets for \$16-\$18 at [www.portcityplayhouse.org](http://www.portcityplayhouse.org). Recommended for ages 15 and above as it contains strong language and mature themes.**

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.

[www.CONNECTIONNewspapers.com](http://www.CONNECTIONNewspapers.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Dance Classes.** Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, #4, will hold adult classes starting in February. Ten percent of the fees will be donated to American Heart Association. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org](http://www.metropolitanarts.org) or 703-339-0444 for a schedule.

## CONTEST

**Spotlight on Pet Adoptions.** From Jan. 27 to Feb. 14, ACTion Alexandria is holding a photo contest for animal lovers in Alexandria. Participants are asked to post a photo of their adopted pet on ACTion with a short description of their pet. All contest participants are encouraged to sign up to be a Social Media Animal Ambassador for an animal who has been in either King Street Cats or the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria for a longer period of time. To participate visit [actionalexandria.org](http://actionalexandria.org).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 20

**African Jewelry Making.** 5:30 p.m. at Charles Houston Rec Center, 905 Wythe St. Families can learn about the history of African jewelry while create their own piece.

**Lecture Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. "Excavations at the Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery and the Concept of the Proper Coffin in the Mid-19th Century" is the topic.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 22

**Fun Fly.** 8 a.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The Fun Fly consists of a free-flight area, a radio controlled plane area, and an outdoor flight area, weather permitting. There is also a kids' exhibit, where younger children are taught how to build a custom paper airplane, and a flight simulator, where participants can experience flying a plane. There is a \$5 landing fee for all flyers; the event is free to everyone else. For additional information or with questions, contact [WESTPotomac.engineering@gmail.com](mailto:WESTPotomac.engineering@gmail.com).

**Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres!** 10:30 a.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Children can sing, shake and sound out rhythms while trying regional Latin dances and practicing Spanish words. 703-884-1040.

**Show.** 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Max Major will perform his show "THINK: An Evening of Mind Reading and Magic." Major uses a combination of magic, mind-reading, psychology, hypnosis, and suggestion to demonstrate the untapped powers of the mind. At Old Town Theater, 815 King St. \$32/general; \$49/VIP. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) for tickets and times.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Wedding Open House.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Kimpton's Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Couples can tour the hotel and see the ballroom, courtyard and guest rooms, taste food, meet with wedding professionals and vendors and more. Raffle prizes will be drawn throughout the day. Couples can RSVP to [weddings@monaco-alexandria.com](mailto:weddings@monaco-alexandria.com). Visit [www.monaco-alexandria.com](http://www.monaco-alexandria.com) or [www.jackson20.com](http://www.jackson20.com) for more.

**Walk with Washington.** 2 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitors Center, 221 King St. Tour some of the sites associated with George Washington. Free. 703-746-3301.

**Downton Abbey Tours.** 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The current owner of Highclere Castle, the real world castle where Downton Abbey is filmed, is a direct descendant of the original owner of

Lee-Fendall House. The tour will compare similarities between people and places within the world of the television series and those of Lee-Fendall House and also include the rarely seen servant's wing and kitchen area. \$5/advance; \$7/day of. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or 703-548-1789 for tickets.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear chamber music of Brahms and Beethoven. \$10 suggested donation. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-838-4994.

**Dance Performance.** 4 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. See "I Missed It" by Jane Franklin Dance Company. \$20. Visit [www.janefranklin.com](http://www.janefranklin.com) or 703-933-1111.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 25

**Swing Dance.** 9-10:30 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Dance to music by Shannon Gunn and the Bullettes. \$10. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

**Book Making Celebration.** 6:30 p.m. at Cora Kelly STEM School, 3600 Commonwealth Ave. Parents and children can create their own family history book.

**Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. "Archaeology of the War of 1812: From Barney's Flotilla to Bladensburg." Presented by the Office of Historic Alexandria and Alexandria Historical Society.

**DJ Dance Party.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Swing dance to music of the 1930s, '40s, '50s and more. \$6. Visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 27

**Benefit.** 6-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed and Grain, 106 S. Union St. Portion of the proceeds benefit the Alexandria Seaport Foundation. Hear live music by Molly Winston duo. Visit [www.alexandriaseaport.org](http://www.alexandriaseaport.org) for more.

**Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. The sixth-graders will perform "Burgundy on Broadway: Heroes and Legends," a musical revue that spans "Spamalot" to "Footloose" to "Hercules." \$5/person; \$1/child at the door.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 28

**Gala Benefit.** 7-10 p.m. at Virtue Feed & Grain, 106 S. Union St. The Fifth Annual CAC GALA benefiting The Center for Alexandria's Children. The Center will honor 2014 Board Award Recipients: Nigel and Lori Morris Alexandria Deputy City Manager Debra Collins. Includes a buffet, silent auction, raffle and more. Tickets start at \$150. Visit [www.centerforalexandriachildren.org](http://www.centerforalexandriachildren.org) or 703-746-6008 for more.

**Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. The sixth-graders will perform "Burgundy on Broadway: Heroes and Legends," a musical revue that spans "Spamalot" to "Footloose" to "Hercules." \$5/person; \$1/child at the door.

**Music Performance.** Carly Harvey will perform with her band Kiss & Ride at the Old Town Theater, 815 Ω King St. Visit [www.theoldtowntheater.com](http://www.theoldtowntheater.com) or 703-884-1040 for tickets.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org](http://www.sssas.org) arts or

703-212-2950.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 1

**Dance.** Lessons at 6:30 p.m., dancing from 7:30-10 p.m. at Lincoln Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St. A DJ will provide music. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association. \$10/member; \$12/non-member; \$5/child under age 18. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.

**Speakeasy Era Fundraiser.** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy music, silent auction, food and more. Benefits the museum. \$100/person. Visit [www.facebook.com/GadsbysTavernMuseum](http://www.facebook.com/GadsbysTavernMuseum) or 703-746-4242 for tickets.

**St. Patrick's Day Parade.** 12:30 p.m. at the corner of King and Alfred streets, continuing to King and Lee streets. Hosted by the Ballyshaners, this year's parade will be led by Grand Marshal Martin White, owner of King Street Blues. In addition to the Parade, festivities will include a Classic Car Show, which begins at 8 a.m. on Pitt St. between King and Cameron Streets. The car show judging will begin at 10 a.m. The "Fun Dog Show" will be held in Market Square, 301 King St., beginning at 11 a.m. Visit [www.ballyshaners.org](http://www.ballyshaners.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** 2 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org](http://www.sssas.org) arts or 703-212-2950.

**Make Your Pizza Workshop.** 10 a.m.-noon at Pizzeria Paradiso Old Town, 124 King St. Families can learn how to make pizza. \$30/one adult or one adult and one child over 5 years of age, \$10/each additional child or adult. Prize drawings and more. Reservations required. Visit [eatyourpizza.com](http://eatyourpizza.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 2

**Opening Reception.** 2-4 p.m., meet the artist of "7th and H Streets, NW: The Hidden Refrain of Inner City DC" by Fred Zafran at Multiple Exposures Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Runs Feb. 18-March 30. Visit [www.multipleexposuresgallery.com](http://www.multipleexposuresgallery.com) for more.

**Film and Panel Discussion.** 2 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Watch "An Ordinary Hero," the true story of Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, a civil rights legend from Arlington, who was a Freedom Rider, a white participant in the Jackson Woolworth Sit-In and who helped plan the March on Washington. Following the movie there will be a panel discussion. \$15 with a reservation or \$20 at the door. Students with ID will be admitted free. Reserve at [wrjhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:wrjhospitality@gmail.com) or contact Michele Milden, 703-820-7794.

**Closing Reception.** 2-4 p.m. see The Art League's annual Student/Faculty Show. Faculty works will be showcased alongside hundreds of paintings, drawings, printmaking, stained glass, jewelry, ceramics, pottery, fiber, mosaics, sculpture created by the student body. Located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) for more.

**History Book Club.** 2 p.m. at 201 Prince St. Alexandria Gazette Packet reporter, and local author, Michael Lee Pope will lead a discussion of "African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century." At this inaugural meeting, members will determine what time and day they would like to meet and what book they would like to read

# Happy St. Catrick's Day!

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**Join us at Lost Dog Café-McLean**  
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SKILL EVALUATION: MVHS Field (or Woodley Hills ES Gym if bad weather) – SUNDAY, MARCH 9. 1:00-2:00 for coach-pitch, 2:00-3:30 for 12u, and 3:30-5:00 for 18u.

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Special thanks to [Mount Vernon Gazette](#)

## ENTERTAINMENT

next. The meeting is free and open to the public. Call 703-548-0035 or visit [www.NVFAA.org](http://www.NVFAA.org).

**What's Happening to Frogs?** 3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park Visitors Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Chris Hobson, zoologist with the Virginia Division of Natural Heritage, will talk about the issues frogs are facing, tips on how to identify them and more. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks) or call 703-768-2525.

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Beau Soir Ensemble, a flute, viola and harp trio will perform. \$15/adults; \$10/children. The performance will include music by Ravel, Villa Lobos and Tangos by Milton Barnes. Visit [www.beausoir.org](http://www.beausoir.org) or 202-607-6000.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 4

**Illustrated Lecture.** 6 p.m. at Morrison House Hotel, 116 S. Alfred St. "The Story of the Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial Bas-Reliefs." Free. Visit [www.visitalexandriava.com](http://www.visitalexandriava.com) or [www.alexandriaarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriaarchaeology.org) for more.

**Book Talk.** 7 p.m. at Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, 3600 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. C.L. Bragg will discuss "Crescent Moon over Carolin: William Moultrie and American Liberty." Free, registration required. Visit [MountVernon.org/BookSeries](http://MountVernon.org/BookSeries) to register.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

**Swing Dance.** 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. Smokin' Polecats with Marianna Previti provide the music. \$10. Call 703-359-9882 or visit [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 6

**Children's Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. The NOVA Alexandria Band and the John Adams Elementary Orff Ensemble will perform a variety of selections. Free. 703-845-6252 or e-mail [leckstein@nvcc.edu](mailto:leckstein@nvcc.edu) for more.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will perform music for the jazz quartet. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 6-9

**Ikebana Show.** The Art League Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., will be host to The Sogestu

### 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.

parade, stories, rhymes and movement. Free. Registration required.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 1

**Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss.** 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library. All ages can enjoy stories, games and more Seuss related activities. 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, 703-339-4610.

**NANOWRITER Writers Group.** 1 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library. Inspired by National Novel Writing Month, this group will explore new avenues of writing, including fiction and non-fiction. Free.

### MONDAY/MARCH 3

**Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Library. Children age 2-5 can enjoy stories, games and more Seuss related activities. Free. Registration required.

**Fun for 2s & 3s.** 10:30 a.m. or 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library.

Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required.

**Early Words.** 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy songs and stories. Registration required.

**Read to the Dog.** 2 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Children ages 6-12 can read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Register for a 15-minute session. 703-768-6700.

**Wild and Wonderful: Hidden Pond.** 3:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 6-12 can learn about animals in nature. Free. Registration required.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 4

**Sherwood Poetry Read-Around.** 6:45 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Adults can share favorite poems, either original or by a favorite poet. Free.

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

**Mardi Gras Storytime.** 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Children ages 1-5 can enjoy a

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

**Toddler Time.** 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library. Children ages 13-23 months can listen to stories. Registration required.  
**Daytime Book Discussion.** 12:15 p.m. at Kingstowne Library. Discuss "Creole Belle" by James Lee Burke. Free.

**Reading Buddies.** 4:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Children in grades 1-3 can bring a book or check one out at the library and then read it to an older Reading Buddy. Reservations required for a 20-minute slot. For children age 5-9.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 6

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

### SATURDAY/MARCH 8

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

**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, 703-339-4610.

**Chapbook Swap.** Noon at Martha Washington Library. Enjoy a chapbook swap and discussion. Free.

### MONDAY/MARCH 10

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

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

**Reading Buddies.** 3:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library. Children in grades 1-3 can bring a book or check one out at the library and then read it to an older Reading Buddy. Reservations required for a 20-minute slot. For children age 5-9.

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Join us at Lost Dog Café-McLean Saturday, March 15, 3-7 p.m. Enjoy snacks & soft drinks while learning how you can help. 1690 Anderson Road, McLean (near Safeway) [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org)

# ENTERTAINMENT

School, which promotes Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arranging. Sogetsu members have selected works of art by Art League and Torpedo Factory artists to inspire and complete their harmonious installations. There will be a reception from 6-9 on March 6, performances on March 8 at 2 p.m. and flower arranging demonstration on March 9 at 2 p.m. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 7

**Reception.** Meet some of the artists of "Portraits of Pop Culture" from 7-10 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Come see artists' interpretation of pop culture, featuring compelling cartoons, lampoons and caricatures of celebrities, politicians, pundits and other pop figures. Show runs March 7-30. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org) for more.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or 703-212-2950.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 8

**Swordsmen's Rendezvous.** Noon-4 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Enjoy a re-enactment of 18th-century swordplay, displays, discussions and more. Includes audience participation. \$6/person. Reservations required, [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Music Performance.** Alexandria

resident Marquita Renee Ntim will perform from noon-3 p.m. at the John 3:16 Christian Bookstore, 7953 Annapolis Road, Lanham, Md. Free. Visit [www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/?id=14752](http://www.tatemusicgroup.com/epk/?id=14752) for more.

### A Talent of Women Arts & Crafts Show

2-5 p.m. at 1451 Belle Haven Road, #420. Browse crafts, photography, art, jewelry and more. Free. Complimentary wine and hors d'oeuvres.

**Symphony Ball and Auction.** 6 p.m. at the Westin Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. The Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria is celebrating 70 years with an auction, food, dancing and more. \$200/person. E-mail Anna Russi for tickets at [annarussi@live.com](mailto:annarussi@live.com).

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Country/folk singer Kate Campbell will perform with Jeep Rosenberg. \$18/general; \$15/advance. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) for more.

**Music Performance.** 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Adolphe Sax Bicentennial Concert. \$17/advance; \$20/door. Visit [classicalsaxophonist.com](http://classicalsaxophonist.com) or 703-244-3710.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Chapel/Performing Arts Center, 1000 St. Stephen's Road. See a production of "Once Upon a Mattress." \$5/person. Visit [www.sssas.org/arts](http://www.sssas.org/arts) or 703-212-2950.

**Fundraising Gala.** 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Alexandria Choral Society will perform Dvorak's Mass in D Major in its original version for choir, soli, and organ. A reception and silent auction will follow. \$25/adult; \$15/senior,

## Casino Night Aids Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's Fairfax County Region will hold its inaugural Casino Night fundraiser March 7, 6:30-11:30 p.m. at The Ritz-Carlton, Tyson's Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The Fairfax Regional Board will bring a bit of friendly Vegas-like fun to support the programming for the region's two Clubs.

Casino Night guests will receive funny money and a bidder number. They will use their winnings from casino-favorites such as Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em, and Craps to bid on raffle prizes. The more chips players accumulate at the gaming tables, the better their chances to win raffle prizes. There will also be live and silent auctions.

The Fairfax Region of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington provides a safe haven for more than 580 poor children with support for homework and academic success, life skills training, character building and fun.

To purchase tickets for Casino Night and for more about Fairfax Region of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington visit: [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night). The evening includes Ritz-Carlton dinner buffet, open bar, casino games, raffle, dancing, DJ and more, for \$95 a person or \$175 per couple. Special overnight room rate of \$119 available.

military; \$10/student. Youth age 13 and under are free. Visit [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 9

**Talk.** 2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. A symposium will discuss "Women with a View," about three women who were instrumental in preserving Mount Vernon. \$30 includes a tour of the View and Mount Vernon and reception. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/womenwithaview](http://www.mountvernon.org/womenwithaview) to register.

**Winter Warmer Tea.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 138 N. Royal St. Eat period-inspired delicacies while enjoying tea and American Heritage Chocolate. A historic guest will be visiting. \$35/person and is all

inclusive. Reservations required, [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4242.

**Choral Evensong.** 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, will direct the adult choir in a choral lenten evensong. This will be preceded by mezzo soprano Barbara Hollinshead and lutenist Howard Bass performing devotional songs by 16th century English composer John Dowland. Free, with donations going to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. A reception will follow. Contact Grant Hellmers at 703-549-3312 or e-mail [grant@stpaulalexandria.com](mailto:grant@stpaulalexandria.com).

## MONDAY/MARCH 10

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road. The Duke University Chorale will perform a free concert. 703-549-4766.

## THURSDAY/MARCH 13

**Toast to Fashion.** 6:30-10 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Hosted by the Junior Friends of the Campagna Center, the event features a fashion show, marketplace, raffle, cocktail reception. All the proceeds will benefit programs operated by the center. \$55/advance or \$65/door. Visit [www.campagnacenter.org](http://www.campagnacenter.org) for more.

**Opening Reception.** 6:30-8 p.m., meet the photographer of "The Cocoon Series" E.E. McCollum, in the Art League Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Through a series of black and white photographs, McCollum transforms the human figure by using nylon tubing to encase the body. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org) or 703-683-1780.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will perform music for mixed chamber wind ensembles. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 15

**Touch-a-Truck Event.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Children can explore, climb and press buttons on trucks of all sizes. \$5/person older than 2 years of age. Visit [www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html](http://www.forthuntpreschool.com/events.html) for more.

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## PET CONNECTION



Raja, 3 and a half, got his princely moniker because of his regal countenance and rather entitled attitude. When Raja moved in, I had a bay window with a gallery of framed photos on display. He quickly swiped them away with his paws and made the bay window his "throne." I've been his loyal subject ever since.

— MICHAEL PAYNE



**Teddy** is half Newfoundland/half Border Collie. He is 10 and 3/4 years old. Last June, Teddy was diagnosed with a non-treatable Sarcoma and we were told to "just keep him comfortable because he did not have long to live." Eight months later, Teddy is still with us and enjoying the 2014 snowstorms. He is alive, because we have changed his diet to a no-grain feed, organic meat and a nutritional powder, consisting mainly of turmeric, ginger and medicinal mushrooms. We also give him extra turmeric and fish oil. We are hoping to share this information with other pet owners, especially those who may be faced with the same circumstances.

— THE POWERS FAMILY



This is our dog, Fido, taken shortly before Dec. 14, 2013, when he reached the end of a long and happy trail. He was 13 and a half. He is pictured sleeping peacefully on his favorite bed.

— ANDY RUDIN



Bridget watching the snow come down — hoping I'll be off from work!

— LAURA M. PORTER

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### AMUSINGS

Many people wonder about George Washington's Grist Mill, which is on Mount Vernon highway up near Route 1. In fact, many people have no idea where his Grist Mill was/is. Even more people have no idea what the heck a Grist Mill is in the first place. So, I will humbly educate you (I went to Trinity College, and am qualified). A Grist Mill is where crops such as wheat, corn, oats and a few unavoidable dandelions are ground into powder, to be used for some purpose that escapes most people. But through months of diligent research, I have discovered the real function of that Grist Mill. It is where crafty ol' George snuck away to when he got tired of Martha telling him to do his chores. He could smoke his two-foot clay pipe there all day, for instance, or just veg.

We guys all have neat secret places like that. We want to be just like George.

— Bart Hewitt

## PET GAZETTE



**Nora, having fun out in the field**

I am lucky to have the job of caring for these animals. [The owner] was happy that I took these pictures. She said she could never get a good photo of them actually looking at the camera! I am 14, and I love to take pictures (especially of my dog). I also go to West Potomac High School. I love taking care of her pets.

— CHARLOTTE COSTANTINO

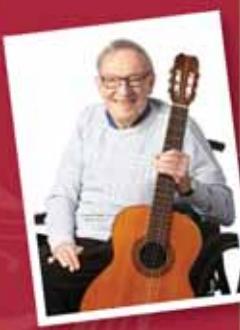


**Sabrina, relaxing on the couch**



**Charlie Bruno is a 3-year-old, 7-pound Japanese Chin dog who loves to play all the time.**

— VERONICA BRUNO



*"I've made a lot of good friends since moving to the Hermitage."*  
—John Mutchler



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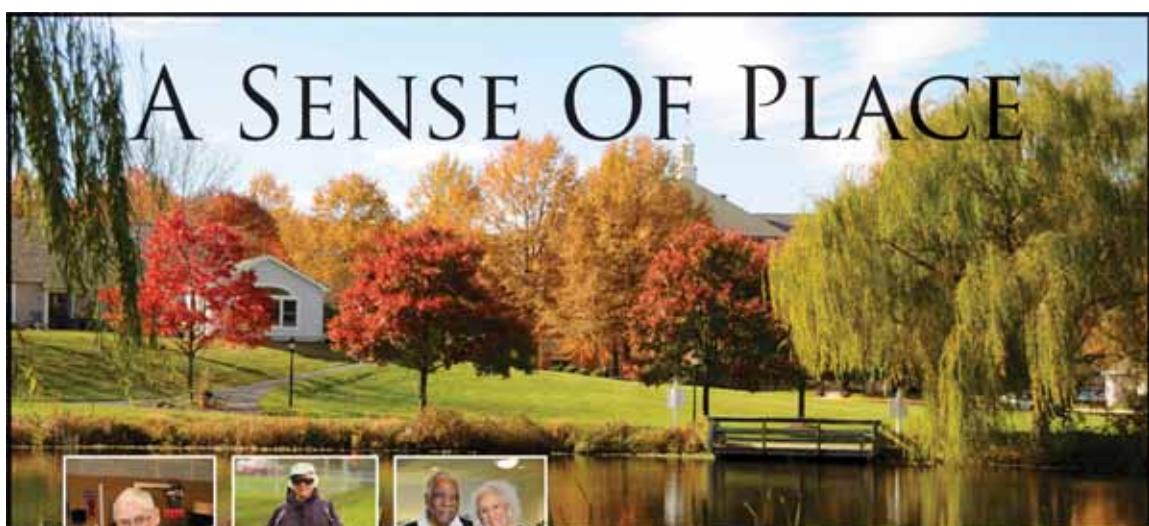
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<b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am; 9:00 am ( <i>with Sign Language Interpreter &amp; Children's Liturgy of the Word</i> ); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm	<b>Thursday &amp; First Friday of the Month:</b> 7:30 pm Mass en Español
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MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2014 ♦ 21

## PET GAZETTE



**Erin Buckles and Solomon**



**Sarah Wishart and Darby**



**Rachael Wessell and Dawson**



**Alex Keefover and Kingsley**



**Natalie Kiddie and Dolce**



**Adam Campbell and Kenan**



**Joan Brady with Fred and Hank.**

# Making Connections

**Service dogs and their “handlers” are teamed up through paws4people.**

BY JOAN BRADY

I was already one of those embarrassingly crazy dog people, when I first met Kyria and Terry Henry, founders of paws4people.org. But I had no idea how little I truly knew about the bonds possible between animals and their people.

After photographing puppies coming home for the first time, dogs sharing their favorite pastime and pets who are older and/or ill, I really thought I knew all about the animal/people connection.

But nothing prepared me for the emotional bonds that I began to capture for paws4people.org of dogs and the “handlers” who are the paws4people clients.

These were assistance dogs, trained to provide support in mobility, psychiatric service, educational and rehabilitative assistance, and social therapy. The dogs’ training is done largely in prisons by inmate trainers.

Children and adolescents, veterans and active-duty service members who are accepted into the program, meet with trainers and dogs at the prisons (called a “bump”), in hopes that there will be a match between each of them and a dog. When a match is found, the dog is trained specifically to the needs of his/her new “handler.”

If you have ever tried to photograph your pet, you know it requires patience, a quick finger on the shutter and fast equipment. Capturing the relationship between assistance dogs and their handlers, is something altogether different.

It’s about capturing the intimacy of two beings who live largely for each other. As a photographer, that means creating the right environment, without intruding too much on the moment.

Here are a few of the pairs I have photographed, and a little bit about each.

**SONNY MORROW**, of Alexandria, stepped on a land mine while serving in Vietnam. As he has aged, the injuries he sustained

have continued to limit his activities and those of his wife, Peggy.

When Sonny went to West Virginia for his “bump” at FCC Hazelton, four years ago, he didn’t know what to expect. Sonny was introduced to two dogs, one by one. Each dog took one look at him and walked the other way. Sonny had heard that you don’t pick the dog, the dog picks you. And he wasn’t getting picked.

Another dog, Jake, a black lab, was not felt to be ready to meet any of the “clients.” Maybe it was the way he looked at Sonny from across the room, maybe it was just a gut feeling, but it was decided that Jake should meet Sonny. Within seconds, Jake was upside down in Sonny’s lap and it was clear they were meant for each other.

Sonny gives Jennifer, Jake’s lead trainer, a great deal of credit for thoughtfully questioning him that day on what he was going to need from his assistance dog and then making sure that Jake had the training that would allow him to meet his specific needs. They remain close friends to this day.

Sonny can’t imagine his life without Jake. Jake is not only a caring constant companion, but his practical skills are critical to Sonny’s well being. Jake is able to call 911 if Sonny gets into trouble and helps Sonny with his mobility and stability. Sonny describes Jake, with great pride, as being able to do absolutely anything.

**DAWSON HAS BEEN WITH RACHAEL WESSELL** about a year now. He helps her with daily tasks like picking up dropped items, alerting her when someone is approaching her wheelchair from behind, helping her to balance when she needs to right herself, carrying bags, getting out her wallet or cell phone, getting help in an

emergency. He is able to remove her socks and coat and will even bring her a hot pizza without scarfing it down himself. He lives for Mondays when Rachael rides at Lift Me Up therapeutic riding in Great Falls.

**FOR ERIN BUCKLES**, born a conjoined twin and separated as an infant from her sister Jade, having Solomon meant that she would no longer be the girl in the wheelchair at school in Northern Virginia. She would be the girl with the dog. And, she wouldn’t have to wait for someone to pick

### FROM MY PERSPECTIVE

up a dropped pencil or bring her shoes to her.



**Sonny Morrow, Peggy Morrow, Jake and Jennifer, Jake’s trainer.**

**ADAM CAMPBELL** says he felt connected to Kenan as soon as they met at Lakin Correctional Center in West Virginia. “[it was] the way he looked at me, while he leaned into me, while I pet him. It was a moment I will never forget.”

**SARAH WISHART**, a veteran, and Darby were matched last July and both are still in training as of the writing of this column. They train together and Darby continues her training separately until they are both ready for Darby to go home with Sarah.

This training time is hard on Sarah, especially leaving Darby behind when she heads home. She can’t wait for Darby to come home with her. “She’s going to get me back out and helping my community again.”

At the paws4people.org annual reunion in October, Sarah struggled with her fear of crowds, related to her PTSD. Not only was she facing the crowded reunion, but that weekend marked the first anniversary of the death of one of her fellow soldiers.

He had been a true leader who was lost to an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan. To Sarah, he will always be known by his call sign, “Cowboy.” His

psychiatric service dog, work as co-therapists at North Spring Behavioral Healthcare in Leesburg helping youths and adolescents with mental health impairments. Often it is Dolce with whom they feel comfortable sharing their thoughts.

**ALEX KEEFOVER AND KINGSLEY** met when Alex was 16. This year, they started college. Like so many of the paws4people clients, Kingsley is Alex’s everything, “He’s there for me. If it’s picking up stuff, taking my coat off, stuff like that, and also the emotional support. If I’m having a bad day or worried about school, I just have to look at him and I’m laughing.”

Alex remembers well how he felt the day he met Kingsley for the first time, “When we got [to the prison] I was so nervous. ... then when I met the dogs, pure joy.”

Alex felt the connection to Kingsley the minute they met. He says that Kingsley’s only limitation is that he cannot type for him as Alex has much to say, but has speaking and typing difficulties.

*Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4people, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her by email at joan@joanbradyphotography.com.*

memory and the knowledge of what he would want for her helps to propel her forward.

She was thankful to have Darby by her side.

**GETTING TOGETHER** with friends is challenging for Josh Gregor of West Virginia. Because of his medical needs, he is fed and/or receives medications through a tube throughout the day. He is sensitive to other kids observing the intimate details of his daily life and he always has to have a nurse or his mom nearby.

Mason, his assistance dog, has practical, life saving responsibilities like alerting adults when Josh’s tube gets twisted, but what Josh cares most about is that now he has someone to play with all of the time.

**NATALIE KIDDIE AND DOLCE**, a psy-

### Details

Paws4people foundation specializes in training customized assistance dogs for two general groups: children and adolescents with physical, neurological, psychiatric, or emotional disabilities; and veterans and active-duty service members with chronic/complex post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, and military sexual trauma. Visit paws4people.org.

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## PET CONNECTION

# The Mardula Pet Parade

**F**rancis and Susan J. Mardula of Alexandria have volunteered for 21 years at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Susan Mardula writes:

Our lives have truly been enriched by the animals we have adopted over the years and by the wonderful animal caring people we met through our volunteer work.

When my husband and I first met, we each had pets with "S" names. We continued the tradition over the years.

In photo, front row, on floor:

❖ Speaker, a three-legged Airedale who is a true inspiration. His former owner allegedly beat him when he was 4 months old crushing the bones in his hind leg necessitating amputation of the leg. The owner didn't want to pay for the surgery and told the vet to put the dog to sleep. The vet asked ownership of the dog be surrendered. He was given proper medical care and taken to AWLA where we adopted him. Speaker is a wonderful life lesson for all of us. What did he do? He forgave, he forgot, and he went on to lead a very happy life. Because he is such a joy, we decided to share him with the wounded warriors at the new Fort Belvoir hospital. Because he is missing a limb, we thought the soldiers could relate to him, and because he was so euphoric, we thought his happiness would be contagious. The first sentence expressed by everyone who meets him for the first time: "Oh, what a happy dog!"

❖ Shortcut, a Cardigan Welch Corgi, was part of a lawsuit in western Pennsylvania where an individual was charged with hoarding. He was one of 30 dogs left out-

side in a field all his life. Seventeen of the 30 were in such horrible shape they had to be euthanized. He was turned over to Corgi Rescue and was fostered by two senior women in eastern Pennsylvania. They gave us directions to their home via back roads with no route numbers or street names. We took a wrong turn by a barn and a two-and-a-half hour drive one way took five hours — hence his name Shortcut. He had never been inside and didn't know how to climb stairs. He was fearful of unknown noises such as a hair dryer or blender, and he had never been socialized. Our dogs at the time taught him the necessary skills for indoor living and how to relax. Because the Cardigan Corgi has such short legs and is low to the ground, in week one he took it upon himself to become the "Guide Dog to our Blind Dog," a miniature Schnauzer. He certainly earned his keep in the first week.

Second row on the couch:

❖ Smooch, an American Curl, has no ears. At approximately 8 weeks of age, he was run over by an industrial lawn mower. His ears were sawed off and he had lacerations to his skull. A passerby found him a day or two later and flies had laid eggs in the blood in his head. He had his arm around his little sister who did not make it. Thank goodness the person who found him was proactive and took him for medical attention. We were volunteering at AWLA shortly after his surgery and adopted him. He acts like a dog. He comes when he is called, greets you at the front door, and loves people. He follows you around to supervise all of your work. And, fortunately, he has no hearing impairments.



❖ Shenanigans, a Papillon/Border Collie mix, had an owner who kept dogs only for breeding and selling puppies to make money. When they could no longer have litters, he/she would dump the dogs at the shelter. We adopted her from the AWLA. She was, guessing, approximately 5 years old. She is quite the character and full of antics which we discovered quickly after she arrived at our home. Hence, her name Shenanigans. She is so smart we could write a book of all of the clever maneuvers she has executed. She is a lively little girl who keeps us challenged trying to stay one step ahead of her.

❖ Spumoni, an Orange Tabby, was left behind when his family moved. Thinking that he had gotten lost, the neighbors called the family to tell them they had found their cat. Much to their dismay, the family had not planned to bring the cat and left him. Thank goodness there are people with morals; the neighbors brought him to the AWLA for an opportunity to find a new home. We had recently lost our older cat to cancer. We were volunteering and were introduced to this extremely affectionate adult cat. The first time I held him, he started purring, rubbing his head on mine and started nibbling on my ear. That's all it took. We had

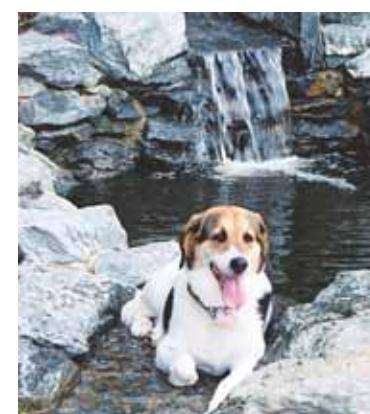
just returned from Italy and loved their sweet spumoni ice cream. Since this guy was so, so sweet, we named him Spumoni. He had obviously lived with a dog and immediately bonded with our canine kids.

❖ Sez, a miniature Schnauzer, was 4 and a half months old when he was relinquished to the AWLA by a young couple. Five weeks prior we had lost our elder Schnauzer, Simon, to cancer. The AWLA contacted us. They did not share the sex, markings or age. We arrived to find an exact duplicate of our Simon. The first two weeks in our home were very unsettling. Everything this young guy did was the same thing Simon did — same mannerisms, same habits. It was as if Simon had returned reincarnated in this young man. Do you remember the game, "Simon Says?" It was as if Simon was saying to him, go do this, go do that. We named the new fellow Sez and it keeps Simon in the present. Sez and our three-legged Airedale, Speaker, race and chase in our backyard. Speaker has no mobility impairments and could win a gold medal.

Everyone gets along very well and we are extremely blessed with love brought to us by these formerly homeless animals. For those of you considering a new pet for your home, we highly recommend adopting.



Here is a photo of my dog Molly. I was originally going to send it as a photo of my sweet dog



enjoying her back yard. But sadly she passed away Feb 15, 2014 of cancer so I am now sending it to you in her memory. Molly just loved being in the stream on hot summer days to cool off her tummy. Check out that smile on her face! Molly was a rescue dog who came to me very overweight and with serious hip issues. On the proper diet and exercise program she thrived for many years in the company of my other dog Bailey and her two cat buddies. She loved to chase squirrels, take walks in the neighborhood and cool herself off in the stream. She will be missed.

— KATHERINE WARD

Nina is a hard-working dog, never off-duty, even in the cold of a fresh snow. She has the very important household task of watching the yard for suspicious intruders, usually in the form of squirrels and rabbits. She loves this job, and practices and trains for it continuously — even indoors, with her many squeaky toys. She can't wait for it to warm up so she can sit outside all day and keep watch over her yard. We moved to this area less than a year ago from a small apartment, and Nina is in love. We only adopted her about a year and a half ago, and we think she is probably happier than she's ever been — and the feeling is mutual. It's a dog's life here in Mount Vernon.

— MEGHAN BIERY

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Our dog Huck (7 years old) and our daughter Leah (1 and a half years old) love to hang out together in our bay window keeping a watchful eye on all the neighborhood activities. It's an exciting day when another dog walks by or even better a cat or a fox! They both love each other very much.

— DANIELLE ALBERS

Rob Young's cat, Stretch, is balancing along the edge of an old boat near Telegraph Road and Roxanne Street.



PHOTO BY SALLY B. MACKLIN

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 5, 2014 ♦ 23

# SPORTS

## West Potomac Swimmers Compete at State Meet

**Valceanu places fifth in 200-yard freestyle.**

**W**est Potomac's swim and dive teams capped off a successful season by sending the largest contingent of swimmers in recent years to the Virginia 6A state championships Feb. 21-22.

Standout swimmers Michael Valceanu, Maxine Clifford, Allie Puskar-Beckett and Will Rausch led the way for the Wolverines, each competing in individual events at the Collegiate School Aquatic Center in Richmond. All three of West Potomac's girls' relays, as well as two boys' relays, also qualified for and competed at the state meet, putting five boys and seven girls into the state meet for the Wolverines. To qualify to compete at the 6A state championships, swimmers had to either finish in the top six places at the 6A North region meet held Feb. 6-8 at Oak Marr Rec Center, or achieve the state qualifying time in an event at any point in the season.

Valceanu, a junior, was the most successful of West Potomac's swimmers at the state meet. He competed first in the 200-yard freestyle event, where he finished in fifth place with a time of 1:44.75. Valceanu later swam the 100-yard butterfly, placing 11th in 52.08 seconds.

Rausch, a junior, represented West Potomac in the 100-yard breaststroke, swimming 1:00.98 in Friday's preliminary heats, good enough to qualify for Saturday's



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The West Potomac swim and dive teams competed at the state meet.**

finals, where he placed 15th.

For the West Potomac girls' team, Clifford, a junior, continued to excel in the freestyle events. She swam 24.46 to finish 11th in the 50-yard freestyle, and followed that up later by placing 12th in the 100-yard

freestyle in 53.87.

Freshman Allie Puskar-Beckett made an impressive debut in her first trip to the very competitive state meet, swimming two individual events. She finished eighth in the 100 freestyle with her time of 53.14. In the

100-yard backstroke, Puskar-Beckett swam 1:00.21 to finish 21st.

West Potomac's boys' team competed in the relay events at the state meet for the first time in many years. Valceanu teamed up with senior Cyrus Adams-Mardi, sophomore D.J. Pinter, and freshman Kevin Adams-Mardi to swim both the 200 freestyle relay and the 400 freestyle relay. In the 200 freestyle relay, West Potomac's 1:30.42 put them in 15th place. Later, the 400 freestyle relay finished 14th in 3:21.26.

The West Potomac girls' team sent three relays to the state meet. The 200 medley relay team of Clifford, freshman Natalie Hohman, Puskar-Beckett and junior Melanie Bomberg swam 1:53.21 to finish 19th. Puskar-Beckett, Clifford, Bomberg and senior Carolyn Murphy combined to swim 1:41.80 and place 11th in the 200 freestyle relay. Senior Kristine Pinter and junior Torie Bolger joined Bomberg and Murphy to finish 21st in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:54.69.

The Virginia 6A state championships were the culmination of a successful season for the Wolverines. Leading up to the state meet, the boys' and girls' teams each finished the season with a winning record of 4-3 in the very competitive Conference 7. Both teams placed fourth at the Conference 7 swim & dive championships, and sent all three relays on to the 6A North region meet. Four individual girls, Clifford, Puskar-Beckett, Kristine Pinter, and Hohman, qualified for and swam at the 6A North region meet, as did three of West Potomac's boys – Valceanu, Rausch, and D.J. Pinter.

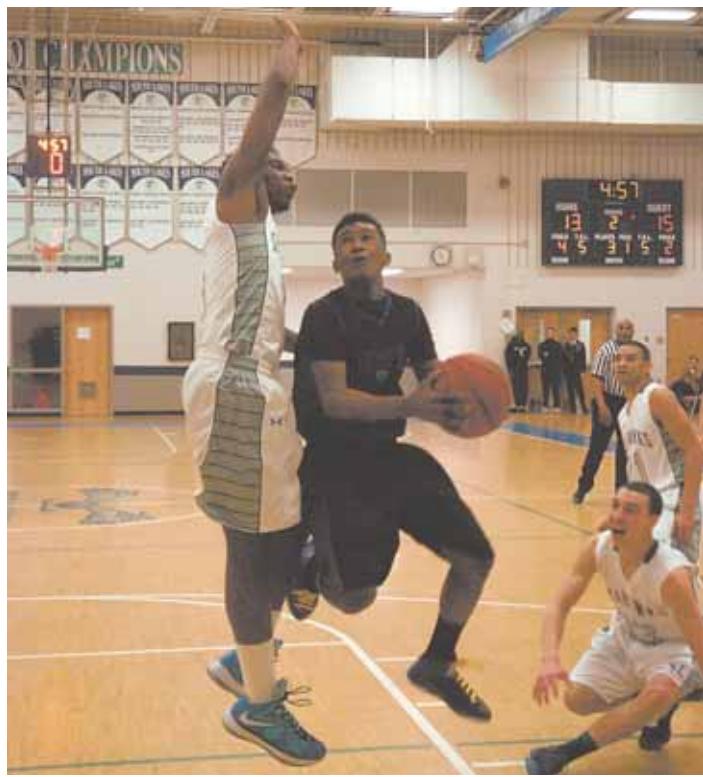


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

**West Potomac freshman Alan Treakle goes up for a shot against South Lakes during the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on Feb. 24 at South Lakes High School. Treakle finished with 12 points. West Potomac lost, 64-48, ending its season.**

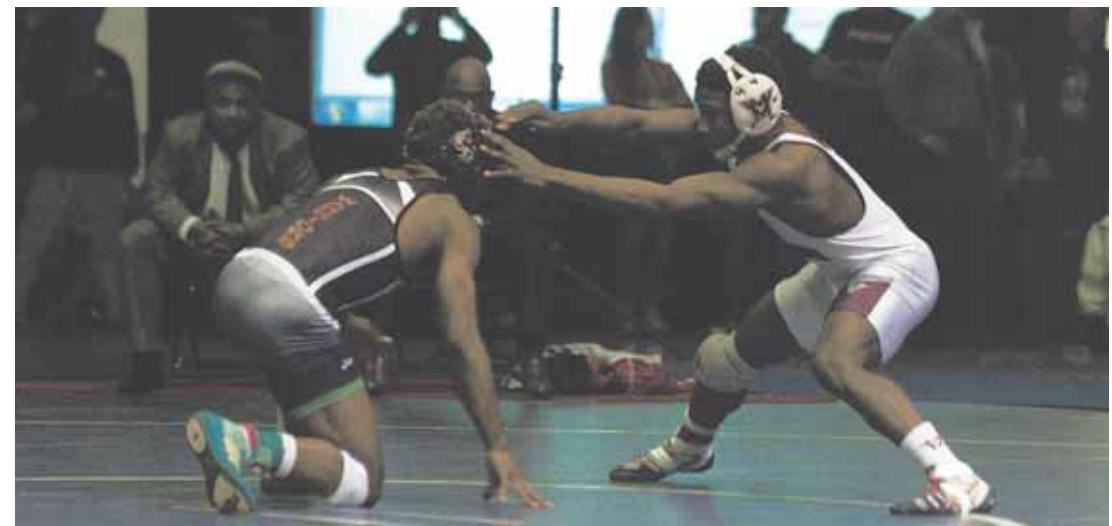


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE GAZETTE

**Mount Vernon sophomore Bill Adusei-Poku, right, finished runner-up in the 132-pound bracket at the 5A state wrestling meet Feb. 22 at Robinson Secondary School. Adusei-Poku lost to Matoaca's Kyle Gordon, 3-1, in the state final. Adusei-Poku won a state championship as a freshman.**

### SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Samuel Frazier**, of Alexandria, has been named to Curry College's dean's list.

**Christine Dua**, of Alexandria, was

named to the dean's list at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, for the fall 2013 term. She is studying communication.

**Jacqueline Bouffard, Freddie Perez, and Jerome Mitchell** have been named to the dean's list at The University of Hartford.

**Michael Thomas Johnson** graduated from Missouri University of Science and Technology. Johnson earned a master of science degree in engineering management.

**Julia A Eckardt** was named to the dean's list at Baylor University.

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## OBITUARY



**Charles E. Figgins, 70**, of Alexandria, Virginia died on February 4, 2014 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Mr. Figgins is survived by his wife of 47 years, Virginia J. Figgins; his daughter, Tara Kelley and her husband Brian; and his son, Troy Figgins. He is preceded in death by his brother, Clifford "Skip" Figgins.

A graduate of West Point class of 1966, LTC Charles Figgins, USA, Ret. was a decorated Vietnam veteran and served in Korea and Germany. He was most recently a senior consultant at Technica Corporation. Mr. Figgins is a member of the West Point Association of Graduates, the West Point Society, the Military Officers Association of America and the American Legion Post #24.

Interment will be held for Mr. Figgins at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the West Point AOG at [www.westpointaog.com](http://www.westpointaog.com). Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA.

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-Ethiopian Proverb

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-Werner Heisenberg

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**Charles Burdette Ramsey (Chuck)**

Charles Burdette Ramsey (Chuck) died suddenly on February 16th from a heart attack while on a glorious vacation in South Africa. He was born in Suffolk, Virginia on November 20, 1944 to William Burdett Ramsey and Frances Stallings Ramsey. He is survived by his wife, Madeline Hutcheson Ramsey, originally from Emporia, three sons, Robert Hutcheson Ramsey and wife Meredith, William Burdette Ramsey, and David Quinn Ramsey, foster son, Peter T.W. DeVine and twin grandchildren, Emily Katherine Ramsey and Allan Parker Ramsey. He is also survived by his brother Terrill Watkins Ramsey, his wife Rose, and daughter Wanda Frances Ramsey.

Chuck grew up in Charlotte Court House, VA, and graduated from Randolph-Henry High School in 1963. He earned an engineering degree from the University of Virginia in 1967, and subsequently earned a J.D. from Louisiana State University in 1971, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from Georgetown University in 1979. He worked as a tax attorney for the I.R.S. from 1974 to 2013, retiring in July of 2013. He lived in Alexandria, Virginia for the last 40 years. He was an elder and active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Visitation will be Saturday, February 22 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Alexandria. A memorial service will be held Sunday, February 23 at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 4:00 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Westminster or the charity of your choice. Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA is in charge of arrangements.

## 21 Announcements

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-St. Francis de Sales

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## Notice of Public Hearing

The Alexandria Community Services Board is holding a public hearing to receive comment on the needs of Alexandrians with mental illness, intellectual disability or a substance dependency, and on the proposed Plan of Services (Performance Contract), available Feb 26 at [alexandriava.gov/DCHS](http://alexandriava.gov/DCHS). The hearing will be Thursday, March 6 at 6:30 p.m. at 720 North Saint Asaph Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. To sign up to speak or to send comments, call 703-746-3523 or email Donielle Marshall. Comments can also be faxed to 703-838-5070.

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## Long Proposes 2014-15 Budget

FROM PAGE 13

continued success," Long said.

But members of the County's Government Employees Union — SEIU Virginia 512 — called Long's proposed budget disappointing.

"We are disappointed that the county executive's proposed budget fails to meet the needs of our community, and we call on the Board of Supervisors to do more to invest in our future success," SEIU Virginia 512 Secretary-Treasurer Karen Conchar said.

"The county executive's proposed budget falls short in protecting the county's jobs and services," said Joe Wilhelm, president of SEIU Virginia 512.

Wilhelm said Fairfax County employees have fallen behind peers in neighboring jurisdictions when it comes to pay, and Long's budget proposal fails to help employees catch up.

"As a result, the best librarians, social workers, engineers and more will continue to leave Fairfax County to serve in other jurisdictions, hurting the services residents depend on," Wilhelm said.

**OTHER HIGHLIGHTS** of Long's budget proposal include:

- ❖ A 1.29 percent compensation increase for county employees based on a Market Rate Adjustment, effective July 1, 2014, as well as an increase in funding of health insurance and other benefits.

- ❖ Increase in capital construction funding, including capital renewal (planned replacement of aging roofs, electrical systems, HVAC systems, plumbing systems, etc. in county facilities), compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and athletic field maintenance.

- ❖ Increase in public safety funding, including 9-1-1 support and requirements, and full year funding of operations at the Wolftrap Fire Station.

- ❖ Increase in human services funding including behavioral health services for youth, school readiness for preschoolers and domestic violence services.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearings on the proposed FY 2015 Budget are held in the Government Center Board Auditorium:

- ❖ April 8, 6 p.m.
- ❖ April 9, 3 p.m.
- ❖ April 10, 3 p.m.

Those wishing to speak at a public hearing can sign up online to place their name on the speakers list or contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903. The public hearings will be held in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center and will be shown live on Fairfax County Government Channel 16.

Residents can also provide feedback and comments on the proposed budget through mid-April at [dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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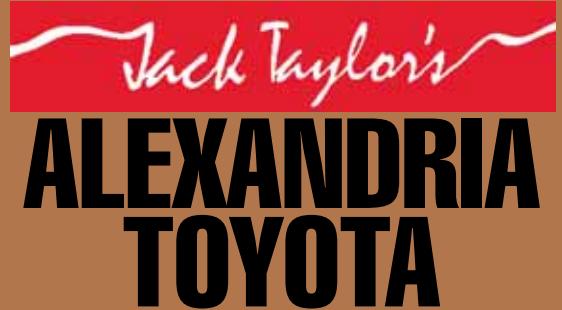
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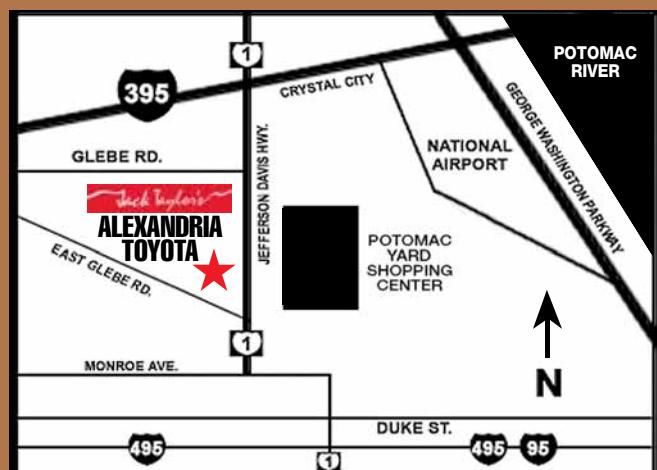
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NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES. ONLY OFFER EXPIRES 3/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.

**HEADLIGHT RESTORATION**

**SPECIAL**

**\$89.95**

Plastic lenses can yellow with age, reducing the vehicle's market value. Headlight brightness & the overall safety during nighttime driving. The headlight lens restoration from us allows you to shine and restore headlights to like-new conditions.



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**BREATHE EASY SPECIAL**

**\$59.95**

Includes: Replace cabin air filter and inspect Air conditioning system

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**TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL**

**\$139.95**

INCLUDES: BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 80 month proration, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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**ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL**

**\$49.95**

Includes: Rotate and balance all 4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.

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**WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS**

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**COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION**

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

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# **COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU...**

## **SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY'S ‘I UNDERFUNDED SCHOOLS’ TOUR**

**Teachers and education experts agree:**

**“It’s a sham.”**

**“Politics at its worst.”**

**“Kids deserve better.”**



After 4 years of underfunding Fairfax schools, Jeff McKay is putting on a **really big show**. He's visiting schools to hear about their "challenges."

His big show is about **photo opportunities** for him and **zero education opportunities** for students.

### **McKay's underfunded schools hurt students and taxpayers:**

- Underfunded schools put kids at risk and crowd classrooms
- Underfunded schools lower property values and quality of life
- Underfunded schools deny students the individual attention they deserve

 Call or email Supervisor Jeff McKay; tell him to fund our schools:  
703-971-6262  
[supervisormckay@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:supervisormckay@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Fairfax County Federation of Teachers  
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