

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 1, 2014



Joe Gilliland tackled a job few would want. Armed with clippers, he cleared away poison ivy that was taking over. Westgrove Pack, a citizens group, worked Saturday, April 26, to clean up the Westgrove Dog Park.



Costa Manolas, after clearing a lot of poison ivy and trash from along Fort Hunt Road, stopped to point out the wild azaleas that grow in the area. The cleanup will allow the flowers more room to grow, improving the area around the park.

Westgrove Pack Cleans Up



Jimmy (far left) and Spiro Manolas, owners of Greenblades, helped clean up the area along Fort Hunt Road, with their father Costa and Michele Anderson. Greenblades is also donating their services to provide turf management for the dog park.

PHOTOS BY
RENÉE RUGGLES
THE GAZETTE



Westgrove Dog Park, hidden along Fort Hunt Road, provides an open space for dogs and neighbors to socialize.

MVCCA Spotlights Dedication

Bruce Leonard, Sarah Valencia, Shea Ruffin and Omega Psi Phi honored.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS

Bruce Leonard was recognized as the Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year at the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Association's 26th Annual Gala on April 26.

Leonard is a key participant in the Comprehensive Plan Area Plan Review process, and a member of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation's board of directors.

Karen Pohorylo, the chair of the planning and zoning committee and nominator of the Citizen of the Year Award, recalled when she first met Leonard at a 2008 Fairfax Federation meeting.

"He was giving a presentation on retail trends and redevelopment and revitalization, and the audience was captivated by his fresh perspective and common sense approach to redevelopment. I had



Barney Barnwell, the 2003 Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year and the representative from the 2014 Mount Vernon District Organization of the Year, the Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., addresses the crowd at the 26th Annual MVCCA Gala.

no idea then what an impact Bruce would make on the Mount Vernon district, Mount Vernon Council and even my own points of view," Pohorylo said.

SEE MVCCA, PAGE 6



Judy Harbeck, MVCCA co-chair, Bruce Leonard, the Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year, and Ron Fitzsimmons, MVCCA co-chair, gather at the 26th Annual MVCCA Gala. Leonard received citizen of the year for his participation in the Comprehensive Plan Area Plan Review process and for his many other roles in the community.

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

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No Common Ground on Common Core

Democrats divided on national education standards.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Should American schools share national standards? That's a question that divides the 10 Democrats seeking to replace longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who is retiring after 24 years in the House of Representatives. During a recent candidates forum, the Democrats were asked if they support the Common Core State Standards Initiative, two candidates said they disagreed and eight candidates said they agreed.

"One of the key constituencies that are likely to turn out in a primary are educators, and there are some teachers opposed to Common Core," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "This is a chance to connect with that segment of a very likely to participate part of the Democratic primary electorate."

The Common Core State Standards Initiative outlines what students should know in English and math from Kindergarten through high school. The standards were created by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers along with Achieve, a Washington-based nonprofit organization. Although 45 states have signed on, Virginia joined Alaska, Nebraska and Texas in choosing not

to adopt the standards. Last month, Indiana un-adopted them, and now similar repeal efforts are underway in several other states.

"I can't say that I would vote to require it for the entire country," said state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30). "It works well for some areas, but in Virginia we seem to be doing quite well without it."

AFTER CONSIDERING a plan known as the Common Core of Learning, Virginia education officials created a system known as the Standards of Learning in January 2002. Three years later, the Virginia Department of Education approved SOLs for math, science, English,

history and social science. Unless a school meets the targets for the percent of students who are able to pass the SOL tests, schools can lose accreditation. Currently, the department is denying accreditation to only six schools in Virginia, one of which is in the 8th Congressional District — Jefferson-Houston School in Alexandria.

"I don't have enormous amount of respect

for the SOL system. There's way too much teaching to the test," said former Lt. Gov. Don Beyer, who was the presiding officer of the state Senate when the original system was created. "Yes I respect Virginia's right to do its own thing, but I think it makes much more sense to be part of a national

effort that's been very vetted by teachers and parents and everybody else."

When asked if they support Common Core during a recent debate hosted by the NAACP, two candidates said they opposed the national standards — Ebbin and Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille. When

asked about their lack of support for Common Core, both Ebbin and Euille said they believed the current system was working fine.

"It's an evaluation tool that works, and we don't need to move to do something else," said Euille. "But if the federal government was after standardizing it nationally I would support it."

WHEN ASKED about their support for federal standards, candidates gave a variety of perspectives. Arlington Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) said he supported the concept of optional federal standards, which he said he would support if elected. But he also said he approved of the decision by the Virginia Department of Education to opt out of the program.

"If you are a member of Congress, you're not just a delegate anymore. If you're voting for the state you are voting for the nation," said Hope. "So I said yes because that is the position nationally — give states the power to decide."

Several of the candidates expressed frustration with the current system, which they say is failing students across Virginia.

"We've got to try something or the kids lose out, and everybody will be in private schools," said Lavern Chatman, former president of the Urban League of Northern Virginia. "We've got to do something different, that's going to change this situation."

THE DEBATE OVER national standards is a vexing one for many candidates, who tried to walk a line between supporting rigorous standards while opposing a system that encourages teaching to the test. Many candidates tried to couch their support for Common Core somewhere in between.

"In general, I'm a proponent of hiring good people and letting them have more subjective power," said former Navy pilot Bruce Shuttleworth. "But I absolutely get the other side, the side I took quite frankly, which is to have consistent measurable statistics."

"One of the key constituencies that are likely to turn out in a primary are educators, and there are some teachers opposed to Common Core. This is a chance to connect with that segment of a very likely to participate part of the Democratic primary electorate."

— Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington

Edmond Seizes GOP Nomination for Congress

Former Marine officer to take on winner of Democratic primary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

Even before longtime U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) announced that he would be retiring earlier this year, former Marine officer Micah Edmond was planning to run for Congress — talking to party leaders and beginning to line up support. After Moran's unexpected decision, though, the race became more competitive. Congressional staffer Dennis Bartow entered the race, as did former Texas legislator Paul Haring. But when Republicans assembled for their nominating convention last weekend, Edmond was able to secure a victory.

"Micah Edmond is a breath of fresh air inside the beltway, and he's going to make a fantastic congressman," said Pat Mullins,



Micah Edmond

chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia, in a written statement. "Virginians in the 8th Congressional District have suffered long enough with embarrassing Democratic leadership in the form of Congressman Jim Moran, and the raft of far-left liberals running for their nomination offers little hope for change."

Edmond served as a defense legislative assistant for two subcommittee ranking members of the House Armed Services Committee, Rep. Mike Turner (R-Ohio) and Rep. Joe Wilson (R-S.C.). Before that, he was a speechwriter for the Marine Corps service chief and aide-de-camp for two senior general officers. More recently, he served as a national security advisor for the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction in 2011 and the Simpson-Bowles Commission in 2010.

"Although I worked tirelessly for two years to help generate the tough choices necessary to produce a comprehensive long-term budget plan that would solve our current

Republican Nominating Convention

- ❖ Micah Edmonds: 51 percent
- ❖ Dennis Bartow: 43 percent
- ❖ Paul Haring: 6 percent

fiscal crisis, both efforts failed because members of Congress chose to represent the status quo rather than the interests of their constituents," he said in a written statement announcing his campaign. "Congress' continued lack of action forces us to navigate from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis without a long-term comprehensive budget plan and it is undermining our economic growth and national security."

ALTHOUGH DEMOCRATS are selecting their candidate in an open primary that's available to all voters, Republicans selected to choose their candidate in a convention of party insiders. Alexandria Republican City Committee Chairman Chris Marston says the use of conventions to select candidates is nothing new, adding that the party uses primaries about half the time. In the last nine congressional cycles, he said, pri-

maries have only been held only four times.

"In this case, when the decision was made to hold a convention over a primary there had only been one person who expressed an interest in running," said Marston, adding that the lone candidate at that time was Edmond. "And we thought the chance to have the nomination completed earlier would be an advantage."

Campaign finance records show he raised a little more than \$44,000 in the first quarter of this year, well behind most of the 10 candidates seeking the Democratic nomination. The district includes Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and parts of Fairfax County — a solidly Democratic area where President Obama won with 68 percent of the vote in 2012. That means most of the attention in this race will focus on the June 10 Democratic primary. The winner who emerges from that race, which features 10 candidates, will be viewed by many as the odds-on favorite to win.

"The Democratic primary is tantamount to winning this election," said Stephen Farnsworth, professor at the University of Mary Washington. "So that's why we are seeing so much attention to the Democratic primary right now."

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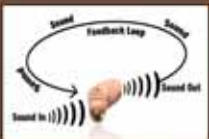
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PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

Sean O'Connell, president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, talks about the history of the chamber and how the area has changed at the group's 60th anniversary celebration.

Chamber Celebrates 60 Years

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber reflects on history and looks forward to future area revitalization.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE GAZETTE

Of all that was discussed at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce's 60th anniversary celebration, Michael Gailliot's announcement that the planned Wegman's at the corner of Beulah and Telegraph Roads at the Hilltop Village received their building permit on April 24 was among the most exciting for those in attendance.

A wave of applause and cheers swept through the audience after this was announced, and was met with equal excitement as Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay said that even though it may look like it still has a long way to go, the Springfield Town Center could open as early as October 2014.

"When it reopens I think you'll be really proud of Springfield Mall again. It will be state of the art and first class, and it's what we deserve," McKay said.

At the celebration, the chamber reflected on its 60 years in operation and looked forward to revitalization and future projects coming to the Mount Vernon-Lee districts.

One of these major projects is the Route 1 Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis, which will determine the best option for transportation along Richmond



Lee District Supervisor Jeffrey McKay talked about Route 1, construction updates, land use and the Fairfax County budget at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce's 60th anniversary celebration.

Highway from the Huntington metro to the Occoquan River. Curbside bus rapid transit service, bus rapid transit service in the median, light rail transit, and Metrorail/bus rapid transit hybrid are being considered, and a recommendation will be made this summer.

McKay said at the 60th anniversary celebration that while metro rail may be in the long term goals for Route 1, a solution is needed now. A middle cross-section such as the one that is being constructed in the widening of Route 1 in Fort Belvoir should be replicated all the way up to the City of Alexandria, McKay said.

"I for one am not willing to look at something that is 40, 50 or 60 years away, and in the meantime destroy the Route 1 corri

SEE CHAMBER, PAGE 8

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From right: Colonel Greg Gadson, state Sen. Toddy Puller, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Supervisor Jeffrey McKay, Del. Scott Surovell, Melisa Ridenour of the Federal Highway Administration, and Del. Mark Sickles participated in the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Richmond Highway widening through Fort Belvoir on April 28.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for Widening

Selected officials participated in a groundbreaking ceremony on April 28 for Route 1 construction that will widen a 3.5-mile section of the road that passes through Fort Belvoir. The goal of the widening is to accommodate traffic and improve infrastructure for access to the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. The Route 1 improvements include widening from four to six through-lanes, left and right turn lanes at intersections, on-road bike accommodations, a multi-use

trail, and pedestrian sidewalk.

In 2012, due to the efforts of Representatives Jim Moran and Gerry Connolly, the Department of Defense allotted \$180 million for Route 1 widening to address the increased traffic that resulted in the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

"Pardon our Dust" meetings will be held every six months or before major traffic switches, according to officials at a March 2014 meeting. The widening is expected to be completed in 2016.



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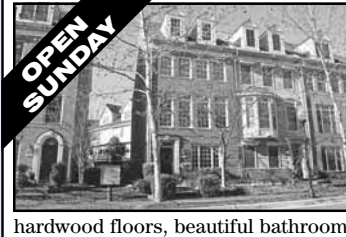
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NEWS



PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE GAZETTE

Queenie Cox, Sarah Valencia and Carol Coyle pose at the 26th Annual MVCCA Gala. Valencia, a student at Mount Vernon High School, is one of the recipients of the 2014 Mount Vernon District Student of the Year award.

MVCCA Awards Honorees

FROM PAGE 1

Leonard, a Mount Vernon resident with more than 20 years of experience in revitalization projects, joined the strategic planning committee and helped to transform MVCCA from an organization of ‘no we won’t’ to ‘yes we will,’ Pohorylo said.

“We needed a guiding force and a neutral party to advise and educate us, someone who understood economic development characteristics and land use,” Pohorylo said.

Leonard, whose company Streetsense is based in Maryland, said he looks forward to spending another 20 years in the area.

“It’s just an incredible area and I’m so proud to be part of this community,” he said.

At the gala, the Mount Vernon District Students of the Year were also recognized. Sarah Valencia, a student at Mount Vernon High School, received the award for her volunteer work at her elementary school library. She has volunteered more than 100 hours at a local child care center and will be the first person in her family to go to a four-year university.

SHEA RUFFIN, the other recipient of the Student of the Year award, is a student at West Potomac High School. She prepares and serves meals at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, and is a Girl Scout.

“She likes food and she likes serving meals, but what impressed me the most was she got her Girl Scout troop to improve the walkway at Darsey Field, where the Little League teams play.

They removed and renovated an outdated walkway to build a new wheelchair accessible passage. I think that’s pretty neat,” said Carol Coyle, co-chair of the MVCCA gala committee.

Ruffin said it has been a pleasure living in the Mount Vernon district.

“I’m thankful for all of the opportunities I’ve had and being able to give back as well,” Ruffin said.

The 2014 Mount Vernon District Organization of the Year is the Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Barney Barnwell, the chapter emeritus



Shea Ruffin, a student at West Potomac High School, received the 2014 Mount Vernon District Student of the Year award.

president, accepted the award on their behalf.

“It is such a pleasure to accept this on behalf of the chapter,” Barnwell said.

Barnwell was also the 2003 Mount Vernon District Citizen of the Year.

“Barney is a very unique individual,” said Queenie Cox, co-chair of the MVCCA gala.

Carol Coyle was also recognized for her years of service to the MVCCA.

Douglas Bradburn, the founding director of the Fred. W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, also spoke at the gala and encouraged residents to visit the library. The library, Bradburn said, was recently certified LEED gold.

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) provided a legislative recap of this year’s events in the General Assembly at the gala. Surovell also discussed the Route 1 Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis, which will make recommendations for transportation options this summer.

“Personally, I don’t think there’s any question that the hybrid option is the best option. To me, it’s just a total deal-breaker if we come out of this without a metro extension of some kind,” Surovell said.

Surovell said that he considers buses, one of the other options, to be second-class compared to what the rest of the county gets.

“What we need on Route 1 in is an investment that will transform the area and make it a cool place to live,” Surovell said.



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 INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber Celebrates 60 Years

FROM PAGE 4

dor," McKay said. "We need to be really careful here as we approach this and looking at it in a phased perspective."

Another important project is the construction occurring at the intersection of King's Highway and Telegraph Road. The combination of the completion of this project and Mulligan Road, which McKay said has been a frustrating project, will improve traffic in the area.

"When it is done, it will be a massive improvement to traffic flow on Telegraph Road," McKay said.

New apartments in one intersection in the Penn Daw area will also allow for road improvement projects in the area where King's Highway meets Route 1. Later this month, a plan will be presented for fixing the traffic in that area, which is fully funded by developer proffers and county money.

"We've been waiting for decades to fix that intersection and without these three cases coming through, we wouldn't be able to do it," McKay said. "I think it's going to change the whole feel of the Penn Daw area."

As for the Fairfax County FY 2015 budget, McKay said he isn't happy with it, but thinks it's the best decision for the masses.

"The downside of the budget this year was that if you were in the middle of the politi-



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

New officers and board members are installed into the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at their 60th anniversary celebration.

cal spectrum, nobody liked you," McKay said.

Chamber president Sean O'Connell took attendees back in time with a presentation of how life has changed since 1954. This included a look at old photos from the area,

including the Beacon Hill airport, as well as a glimpse into the past with the Beatles, the Ford Mustang, and the Watergate Scandal.

"The future will hold even more opportunities for service as we link arms and walk

the path to a stronger community," O'Connell said.

Gailliot, former chairman of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, swore in new board members and officers at the celebration.

Spring Clean

RICHMOND HIGHWAY ANNUAL CLEANUP

Thank you to these businesses that helped with the Richmond Highway Cleanup on April 26.
A joint effort of local business and Fort Belvoir.

- Belvoir Federal Credit Union
- Boy Scouts of America, Troop 301
- Candlewood Suites
- Doctors Express
- Giant at Beacon Hill
- ServiceMaster-National Capital Restoration
- Shoppers Food Warehouse

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BULLETIN

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

FRIDAY/MAY 2

Application Deadline. Applications for the 2014 Education Partnership Scholarships are available at www.mtvernon-leechamber.org. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors pursuing further education in a business related field. 703-360-6925.

MONDAY/MAY 5

Safe Routes to School Workshop. 12:15-3:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary, 4015 Fielding St. Participate in a walking audit to learn how to create more walkable/bike friendly settings with expert Mark Fenton. Registration required, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/safe-routes-to-school-work-session-tickets-11071058835.

TUESDAY/MAY 6

NOVA Class Registration Begins. Registration opens for Northern Virginia Community College's fall 2014 semester. The 16-week semester and first 8-week session starts Aug. 20, with registration ending Aug. 19. Another 8-week session starts Oct. 15, with registration closing Oct. 14. Visit www.nvcc.edu or visit campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge. Call 703-323-3000.

THURSDAY/MAY 8

Home Improvement Workshop. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Staying Home: Making Smart Choices for Easy Living program on aging in place. Experts share tips to minimize financial costs of home modifications, avoid scams and use local resources. Light refreshments provided. Free, reservation requested. Visit http://aarp.cvent.com/VA_May8 or call 877-926-8300.

FRIDAY/MAY 9

Health and Resiliency Conference. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at FCPS Virginia Hills Center- 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. NEXUS presents "Access to Hope: Whole Child & Whole Health." Interactive discussions with public school leaders including students. Morning session, lunch and afternoon session, all free. Contact Laing Bailey at laingeb@cox.net or 703-660-2327. Reservations needed for each session and luncheon.

SATURDAY/MAY 10

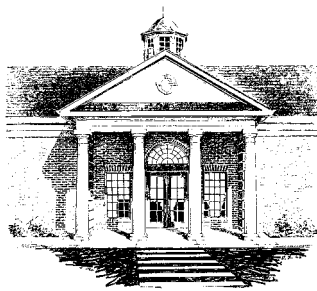
Spring Vendor Fair and Yard Sale. Yard sale 7 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parking lot, fair 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. The PTSA hosts. Vendor tables are \$25, tables for yard sale are \$10. Concurrent yard sale 7 a.m.-1 p.m. in the parking lot, with proceeds to benefit the All Night Grad Party. For fair, contact Dana Melvin at dana.melvin@cox.net, for yard sale contact George Vargas at vargasbe@aol.com or Kay Martinez at akam4@hotmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 14

Bird Banding Presentation. 7:30 p.m., at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Dr. Bruce Peterjohn, Chief of the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory-Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. Free. Call 703-768-2525.

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OPINION

Trending in the Right Direction

Commitment to ending homelessness shows progress, but more affordable housing is needed.

On one night in late January, local jurisdictions in our area fanned out to count the number of people who were literally homeless. Fairfax County released its numbers last week; Arlington and Alexandria will do so in the near future.

In Fairfax County, the commitment in 2010 to end homelessness in 10 years has resulted in significant progress, even in the wake of the great recession. The number of people literally homeless decreased by a third from 2008 to 2014, from 1,835 to 1,225 counted this year.

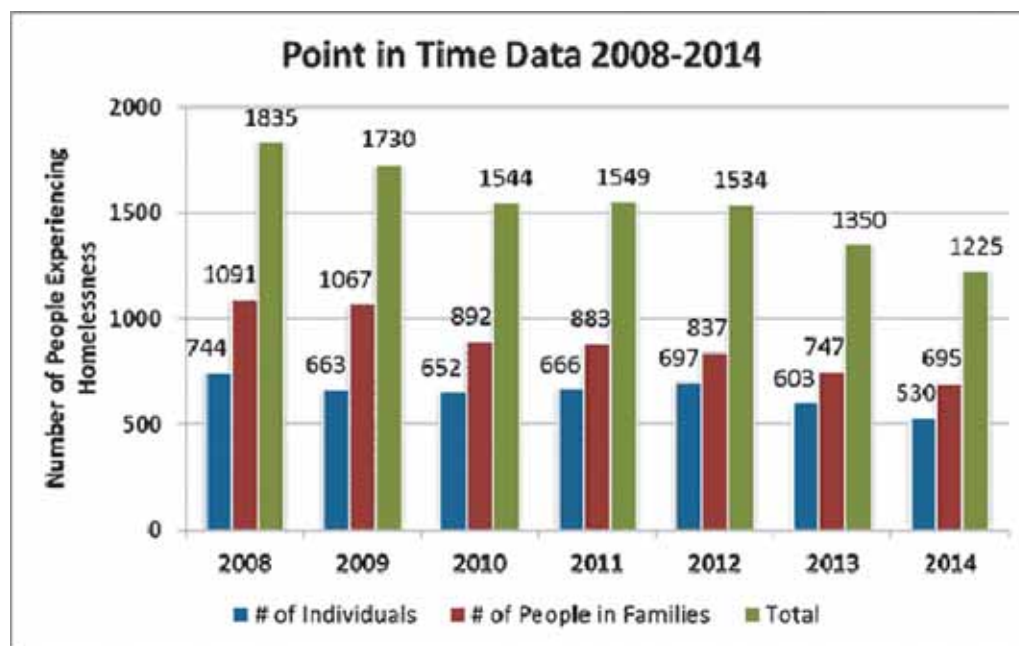
EDITORIAL Many non-profit organizations have partnered to prevent homelessness one family or individual at a time for those on the brink and to house chronically homeless individuals. There is so much still to be done.

On the night of Jan. 29, 2014 there were 1,225 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, a 9 percent reduction from January 2013, or 125 fewer people.

The 2014 point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness includes people who are described as “literally homeless,” those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street at one “point in time.” It does not count the individual who might be homeless but is sleeping on a friend’s sofa or the family squeezed into an uncle’s “spare” bedroom after being evicted from their own apartment.

Two sentences from the county report are worth repeating, even if they are obvious:

“The results would be even more substantial if additional housing options were available. The reduction in homelessness will not continue at the same pace in the future without significant increases in the availability of affordable housing.” A year ago, the coalition of partners committed to ending homelessness embarked on the local piece of a nationwide effort to provide housing for the chronically



Point-in-time data on the number of people literally homeless 2008-2014.

After being homeless for five years, Sandara Perry, left, recently moved into permanent housing with ongoing support provided by FACETS. Perry grew up on Route 1 in Mount Vernon, and was placed in foster care while her mother struggled with addiction. Without support to make the transition from foster care, Perry struggled with alcohol and abusive relationships. She shared her story at the FACETS annual breakfast last Thursday, April 24, and she is pictured here with FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere.



homeless people in our community. There were an estimated 150 such individuals, living in the woods and in cars and on the street, in the county, and a year later, FACETS and others met this year’s milestone of bringing 50 such individuals into housing. These are people who need a continuum of services get on their feet.

Despite the good news on the steady decline, the past few months have been marked by push-back from some residents about allowing more affordable housing in the form of efficiency apartments and by several members of the Board of Supervisors expressing lack of support for even the concept of providing more affordable housing.

This misguided attitude on the part of some county leaders ignores the fact that this region

cannot be economically vibrant if there is no place affordable to rent even for households who make \$50,000, never mind the households that get by on less than half of that.

Two full-time \$10 an hour positions yield \$40,000 a year. Last year, a family needed an annual income of \$56,472 to afford to pay the \$1,412 per month rent on the “fair market rate” for a two-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County. Rents have continued to rise.

Many working families living in Fairfax County struggle financially, balancing choices every month between rent, transportation, food, medical costs and other expenses that are not optional.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ments should be directed to their respective state delegates and senators.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Benefits of Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

Frank Medico’s letter (April 24) is both short
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 20

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Renaming Richmond Highway?

To the Editor:

This week at the County Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Hyland made a motion to re-name Richmond Highway (Route 1) between Telegraph Road and Mount Vernon Highway in honor of retiring U.S. Rep. Jim Moran. Apparently this honor was proposed because Congressman Moran had succeeded in obtaining a \$180 Million earmark to widen

this section of the highway. The motion was unanimously approved.

While I have my own opinion about whether this honor should be bestowed on the congressman, my purpose in writing isn’t to share that opinion. Rather, my purpose is merely to make sure the general public is aware of this proposal so citizens can effectively weigh in concerning whether they think the highway should be re-named and, if so, renamed Congressman James Moran Highway.

I understand the proposal must be approved by the Virginia Legislature and so citizen com-

Mount Vernon Gazette

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HOME SALES

In March 2014, 114 homes sold between \$18,600,000-\$110,000 in the Mount Vernon area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$18,600,000-450,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code
7979 BOULEVARD DR E	6	6	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$18,600,000	Detached	16.50	22308	
8701 STANDISH RD	6	6	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,240,000	Detached	0.60	22308	
1002 EMERALD DR	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.36	22308	
9412 OLD MOUNT VERNON RD	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.34	22309	
909 DANTON LN	6	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$830,000	Detached	0.34	22308	
9428 MOUNT VERNON CIR	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Detached	0.55	22309	
9336 BOOTHE ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$825,000	Detached	0.28	22309	
2112 RAMPART DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$795,000	Detached	0.24	22308	
1115 ALDEN RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$765,000	Detached	0.29	22308	
8888 MCNAIR DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$749,500	Detached	0.46	22309	
7420 PARK TERRACE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.37	22307	
1100 PRISCILLA LN	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$730,000	Detached	0.31	22308	
2626 CHILDS LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$712,000	Detached	0.26	22308	
8038 HOLLAND RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$705,000	Detached	0.68	22306	
6420 BOULEVARD VW	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$700,000	Detached	0.30	22307	
1944 MARTHAS RD	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$699,000	Detached	0.36	22307	
823 EMPRESS CT	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$680,000	Detached	0.27	22308	
3013 CUNNINGHAM DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$661,000	Detached	0.53	22309	
2417 RYEGATE LN	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$660,000	Detached	0.33	22308	
8733 FORT HUNT RD	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$629,900	Detached	0.46	22308	
1707 HACKAMORE LN	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$629,000	Detached	0.24	22308	
8809 TERESA ANN CT	5	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$625,000	Detached	0.26	22308	
2411 POPKINS LN	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$615,000	Detached	0.34	22306	
8310 CHERRY VALLEY LN	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$609,900	Detached	0.24	22309	
7587 LINDBERG DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,999	Detached	0.11	22306	
8317 LILAC LN	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$599,000	Detached	0.29	22308	
3806 ELMWOOD TOWNE WAY	3	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$585,000	Townhouse	0.07	22303	
8211 RIVERSIDE RD	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$575,000	Detached	0.73	22308	
3707 MARYLAND ST	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$558,000	Detached	0.24	22309	
6717 WILLIAMS DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$550,000	Detached	0.17	22307	
8327 STOCKADE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$540,000	Detached	0.24	22308	
5903 MOUNT EAGLE DR #708	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303	
8828 CAMFIELD CT	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$535,000	Detached	0.32	22308	
1501 ALEXANDRIA AVE	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Detached	0.30	22308	
4821 STILLWELL AVE	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$530,000	Detached	0.50	22309	
8007 LYNNFIELD DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$529,000	Detached	0.27	22306	
2202 POPKINS LN	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$525,000	Detached	0.54	22307	
2414 CHILDS LN	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$521,000	Detached	0.29	22308	
2404 ROSS ST	4	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$500,000	Detached	0.38	22306	
6919 DUKE DR	4	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$499,000	Detached	0.17	22307	
3210 COLLARD ST	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$495,000	Detached	0.22	22306	
4502 FLINTSTONE RD	4	2	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$479,500	Detached	0.19	22306	
7646 AUDUBON MEADOW WAY	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$463,333	Townhouse	0.05	22306	
5904 MOUNT EAGLE DR #918	3	2	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$460,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22303	
3447 LITTLE HUNTING CREEK DR	5	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$458,900	Detached	0.49	22309	
6716 STONEYBROOKE LN	3	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$457,000	Detached	0.26	22306	
1904 COLLINGWOOD RD	5	3	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$455,000	Detached	0.33	22308	
7617 GREY GOOSE WAY	3	2	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.04	22306	

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Dr. Catherine Toplansky has returned to Family Chiropractic of Alexandria.

That's great news for everyone.

Family Chiropractic of Alexandria is thrilled to announce that Dr. Catherine Toplansky is back! Dr. Toplansky is best known for her personal commitment to every aspect of her patients' care from start to finish. To schedule an appointment to meet Dr. Toplansky in person, please call or email us. We know you will share our excitement!

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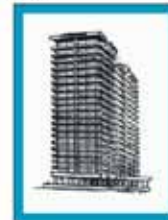
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Estate of Joseph Cipolari:
Real Estate listed by Marie Meyer
Antique and Art collection sold at Potomack Auction

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OPEN SUN 5/4, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Cherrytree; L-Nellie Custis

OPEN SUN

4413 Ferry Landing Rd
\$549,000
Yacht Haven Gem!
Fabulous listing in Yacht Haven Estates, one of area's leading waterfront communities! Many major upgrades include: furnace, A/C, water heater, roof, and washer and dryer. Truly stunning gourmet kitchen with custom cabinets, gas cooktop, top level granite countertop. Hardwood floors, bright, open floor plan, covered parking & stone walkway. Large deck overlooks 1/2 acre gorgeous grounds. **OPEN SUN 5/4, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Ferry Landing Rd.**

OPEN SUN

4200 Ferry Landing Rd
\$675,000
Unique Opportunity!
This gorgeous 4 BR Colonial is in impeccable condition, and is loaded with upgrades. Bright, open floor plan. Fabulous features: main level study and family room, large updated kitchen with breakfast area, finished LL, sumptuous master suite, stunning Brazilian Cherry floors, Andersen thermal windows and two car garage. Size-condition-location can't be duplicated at this price! **OPEN SUN 5/4, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon, becomes-Ferry Landing.**

JUST LISTED

8726 Parry Lane
\$689,000
Prime Location!
One of best locations in Stratford area! Spacious 3 level Colonial at end of quiet cul-de-sac with absolutely the most gorgeous, private yard you will find! Also features rare oversize two car garage. Home is in pristine condition with thermal windows, hardwood floors, and magnificent exterior deck overlooking fabulous grounds! A truly unique property.

JUST LISTED

4119 Robertson Blvd
\$685,000
New Orleans Colonial!
Bourbon Street flair in the heart of Mount Vernon! Fabulous Colonial with distinctive New Orleans flavor! Numerous features include: 4 large bedrooms, 3 finished levels, open floor plan, updated custom kitchen, oversize 2 car garage. Unique second floor front balcony overlooks ground and wooded neighborhood. A truly fabulous property at a great price!

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CONTRACT

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6817 TIDDLE WAY
Historic 1930 Farmhouse, magnificently renovated and decorated with a modern hi-end flair, sited on .59 acres with in-ground pool and extensive grounds for play and entertaining!
4BR/2.5BA boasts fabulous French Country kitchen, generous dining room and sunlit living area, plus spacious family room with poolside access. Extensive custom appointments thru-out, new roof, windows and more. Minutes to Ft Belvoir and Kingstowne.

Kim Muffler 703.282.7739

OPEN HOUSE 1 - 4!
\$ 710,000
Stratford on the Potomac
2411 CHILDS LN
Charming 5BR/3FBA home in a premier neighborhood featuring an award winning kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and extra-large island perfect for entertaining. Main level MBR suite with private deck. Fully finished basement walk-out with family room/gym/game room, surround sound and bonus guest bedroom. Screened porch leads to lower level brick patio. Made for family living.

Effie Blankini 703.593.2634

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 800,000
Alexandria / Mt Vernon
9300 MAYBROOK PL
This sunny and spacious Colonial home offers 4BR/3.5BA, updated baths and kitchen with large butler's pantry, and formal/informal areas for entertaining with access to rear decks. The MBR suite has fireplace, sitting room + a 9x12 walk-in closet. There are 3 addition BRs and 2FBAs. The LL offers a spacious recreation room with private sauna and access to fenced rear patio and yard.

Mary Lou Sage 703.851.5441

\$ 245,000
Alexandria South
"ROOMMATE LAYOUT..."
with each bedroom on opposite sides of unit. Bright top floor condo, ready to move in. Brand new carpet and freshly painted. Washer/dryer in unit. Gas fireplace. Near shopping, restaurants, public transportation. Excellent for commuting. Near beltway, Metro and Old Town.

Brian Hong & Jerry Beamer 703.929.5764

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 627,900
Alex. / Waynewood
8506 CROSSLEY PL
Best Value in Waynewood! A wonderful sunroom addition and many improvements make this a terrific buy! With a redone kitchen and baths, replaced systems, and 4BRs, this home offers space, convenience and is a short distance from Waynewood Elementary School.

Leah Chapla 703.929.4875
Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 574,900
Alex. / Kings Landing
6406 KING'S LANDING RD
Stately center hall brick Colonial, 4BR/3.5BA and 2-car garage. Family room with brick fireplace off kitchen. SS appliances, eat-in kitchen with hardwoods. Finished walk-out basement with full bath, large rec room and separate laundry room. Large 2-level deck overlooks spacious yard and woodlands. Includes extra land in an "outlot".

Martha Deal 703.622.6797

\$ 739,900
Alex. / Waynewood
"LOCATION"
Large, 5 level renovated "Mayfield" move-in ready across from park and walk to school. Sunroom, huge kitchen/dining combo with island, new granite and appliances. 4BR/2.5BA, finished basement family room + large storage room/workshop/gym. New windows and more!

Anita Vida D'Antonio 202.460.1809
Elke Kohler 703.967.7633

\$ 995,000
Alexandria
"MASON HILL"
This home will surprise you! Soaring ceilings and glass provide the structure for the "Big Room", a family and entertaining area with French doors leading to a deck and private backyard. 4-5BR/3.5BA, an au-pair suite, hardwoods and much more@!

Catherine Foltz@longandfoster.com
Catherine Foltz 703.626.6914

OPEN SUNDAY 1 - 4!
\$ 248,000
Alex. / Belle View
6507 10th ST
Spacious first floor end unit with 3 sides of replaced windows and gorgeous wood floors - just refinished. The cook will love the extra large kitchen with built-in wine rack and dishwasher. Laundry and extra storage just downstairs. Steps to bus, shopping center, restaurants, pool, marina, and Mt Vernon bike/hike trail. Minutes to Metro, Ft Belvoir, Old Town, and Pentagon.

Margaret Keagle 571.332.5264

\$ 299,900
Alexandria
"MONTEBELLO"
Wonderful 2BR/2BA condo! Updated eat-in kitchen, master suite with private bath, wonderful closet space, and great enclosed balcony overlooking the trees. Enjoy all the fantastic amenities that Montebello has to offer - pools, tennis, bowling alley, bar/cafe and more! Close to Huntington Metro (courtesy shuttle), minutes to Old Town and EZ access to the beltway.

Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
Glenn Witucki 703.518.8708

\$ 450,000
Alexandria
"OPPORTUNITY"
Great investment opportunity at Montebello with long term tenants in place! Impeccably updated, very special, well-appointed 3 bedroom "J" unit (1,695 sq ft). No detail overlooked, from hardwood floors, upgraded berber carpet, ceramic tile, granite and maple cabinets in kitchen/baths to upgraded lighting, new doors and more!

Mindy Brubaker 571.242.9913
Susan Haughton 703.470.4545



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400 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 • Fax 703.683.1303



ENTERTAINMENT

'Blues for an Alabama Sky' at Port City

Port City Playhouse stages 1930s drama set during the Harlem Renaissance.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Port City Playhouse is staging its final production of the 2013-14 season, "Blues for an Alabama Sky," by playwright Pearl Cleage, May 2-17.

The show is a bittersweet story of five friends at the end of the Harlem Renaissance and the onset of the Great Depression. Directed by Eleanore Tapscott, the play is Port City's fourth 'Salute to the American Voice' production. Numerous social topics envelop the play, such as raging unemployment, homelessness, the fight for reproductive rights, homophobia and brutal gay bashing. "The playwright may have written 'Blues for an Alabama Sky' in 1995 and set it in 1930," said Tapscott. "But its umbrella themes of cultural intolerance and desperate times/desperate measures are quite relevant in 2014."

A central theme of the play is self-awareness — what a person thinks they are and how they are perceived by others, and how others actually perceive them, said Tapscott. "I wanted the audience to understand the importance of self-awareness and truth. Self-awareness leads to understanding and allows us to make informed, conscious choices."

Tapscott said she loves the Harlem Renaissance time frame and the outpouring of African-American creativity it unleashed — at a time when Josephine Baker was viewed not as a black artist but as an artist in France.

"I think telling the story of this group of five people and the racial and society struggles they experience illustrates that

despite the progress we've made, there is still a lot more work to be done," added Tapscott.

Producer Sydney-Chanelle Dawkins said she first saw the play three years ago in the African Continuum Theatre's production directed by Walter Dallas, and she still gets goose bumps when she thinks about it.

"'Blues for an Alabama Sky' is a beautiful, meaningful play bringing to life vibrant characters, and as Pearl Cleage says, it 'speaks the truth to the people,'" said Dawkins.

"You can't have a heartbeat and not be affected by the power and mission of Pearl Cleage's writing," added Dawkins. "That's why I am psyched to share this wonderful storytelling with the citizens of Alexandria and our extended theater-loving community."

Actor Mack Leamon plays Leland Cunningham, a transplant to Harlem from the South who's seen some tragedy and isn't quite healed — but with clear definitions of right and wrong. Leamon said doing a period piece presents unique challenges with its customs, style, culture, and even technology of the time period, which all impact behavior. "It is a difficult task for the actor to identify those differences, recognize how they would affect behavior and incorporate them into your behavior in a true and honest way," he said.

"As people, we tend to judge things and view things through the prism of our own lives and experiences," he said. "And that usually makes us view things as very black and white."

He added, "In reality, there are many different shades of gray. If I put myself in the shoes of another person, I can understand how they are who they are. I hope audiences can appreciate this idea in all of



Malcolm Lee (Guy) and Lolita-Marie (Angel) star in "Blues for an Alabama Sky" at the Port City Playhouse.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL DEBLOIS

"Doc," who he describes as a giving man who cares very much about the people in his community. "Unfortunately for him, the close connection with the community also exposes his soul to the tough realities of life in 1930s Harlem."

He said, "I would like for people to see that our lives are an opportunity to experience great and wonderful things... We all may not get to Paris, but at least we can help a fellow man and let the good times roll in the process."

Actor Christine Wells plays the character of Delia Patterson, a social worker at a family planning clinic. "Delia is all too aware of the sacrifices and consequences that women made and endured during that time, especially when facing pregnancy, whether planned or unplanned," she said. "As a result, she becomes an ardent activist for family planning and for women's right to the use of contraceptives."

Wells added, "One main challenge I have had during this play is identifying and defining Delia's character, and being able to illustrate that onstage and in rehearsals."

Actor Lolita Clayton plays Angel, the entertainer embroiled socially in the Harlem Renaissance movement. "Truly though, her

profession, love-life, and her relationships are all consciously or unconsciously fostered by the slowly aging diva with her survival as the ultimate goal."

Clayton also said, "I hope that audiences will leave with a reminder that a life driven by fear is no life at all. Each of us has a responsibility to dream extraordinary dreams for ourselves," she said.

"Blues for an Alabama Sky" runs Friday-Saturday, May 2-3, 9-10 and 16-17, and Tuesday, May 13, at 8 p.m., with Saturday matinees on May 10 and 17 at 2 p.m. Port City performs at 1819 N. Quaker Lane. \$18 for adults, \$16 for seniors, students and military. Visit www.portcityplayhouse.org.

Details

As its 36th season comes to a close, Port City has announced its 2014-15 productions. The season will begin with "Black Hole" by Jean Koppen, Port City's first "Playwright Incubator Project" production, in which the company works with a local playwright to provide a creatively stimulating environment to develop original theatrical works. The season will continue with "In the Next Room" by Sarah Ruhl, "Shining City" by Conor McPherson, and "Stick Fly" by Lydia R. Diamond.

CALENDAR

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

All Alexandria Reads. Spring events mark Alexandria's annual one book, one community campaign. Adults are invited to ready the recently republished "When Washington Was in Vogue," a once-lost novel by Edward Christopher Williams which depicts the vibrant social life of

Washington D.C.'s upper class African Americans during the Harlem Renaissance and jazz age. Younger readers are invited to read the picture book, "Harlem's Little Blackbird," by Renée Watson or the chapter book, "Bud, Not Buddy," by Christopher Paul Curtis. More than 50 related activities are planned through May; for full list of programs visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

Pop Art Exhibit. Works by Art League members celebrating the pop movement with a modern twist. Through May 5 at the Art League, Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-

Saturday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday, noon-6 p.m. Sunday. Art on the Rocks cocktail reception Wednesday, April 30, 7-10 p.m., \$35. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit. "Printed Painted Potted," Avis Fleming's one-artist show of etchings, lithographs, monotypes, paintings and ceramics features landscapes of Ireland, Maine and Louisiana and birds, people and dogs. May 1-June 30 at Printmakers Inc., Studio #325 in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Open daily 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Opening reception Sunday, May 4, 2-4 p.m. Call 703-683-1342.

Art Exhibit. May 2-June 8 at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Meditations on the Boundless, an exhibit of acrylic paintings on yupo paper by Arlington artist Kimberly DiNatale. Opening reception Saturday, May 3, 4-6 p.m. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Art Exhibit. See "LOULOU DI Flower/To Flower" at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The exhibit explores the natural process of flowering and its metaphorical context through object making and installation. Free. The exhibit runs through May 4. Call 703-

548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.
Film Screenings. Duncan Cinema Club begins monthly series, "Films of the Pre Code Era," May 7, 6:30 p.m. Films will be shown the first Wednesday of the month at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Post-screening discussions at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. at 9 p.m. Call 703-746-1705 for film.

Art Exhibit. Courtney S. Hengerer's acrylic paintings on wood panels are on display for the exhibit "Playground" May 8-June 2 in Studio 21 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Opening reception to meet the artist Thursday,

ENTERTAINMENT

May 8, 6:30-8 p.m. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Art Exhibit. "Words and Letters" May 8-June 22 in the Athenaeum gallery, 201 Prince St. This multimedia show from regional artists uses text as a component of visual art. Opening reception Sunday, May 11, 4-6 p.m. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

Art Exhibit. "Sound of Butterfly," a solo exhibition of new work by Soomin Ham, a photographer and multimedia artist. Through May 11 at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Studio 312, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. except Thursdays, 1-9 p.m. Call 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Art Exhibit. See "Spirit of Place: Dyke Marsh," an exhibition of photography by Anthony Peritore and sculptural works by Megan Peritore through May 18 in the Crossroads Gallery, located in Goodwin House Bailey's Crossroads, 3440 S. Jefferson St., Falls Church. Free.

Theatre One-Man Shows. Through May 25, two shows will be performed in repertory at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. The Thousandth Night by Carol Wolf and starring Marcus Kyd, and Underneath the Lintel by Glen Berger starring Paul Morella will be performed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 or 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 (students \$25) at 800-494-8497 or www.boxofficetickets.com. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

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/peron. Reservations required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov or 703-746-4242.

Spy Program at Mount Vernon. 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through June 1. Learn about spying during the Revolutionary War, including concealment codes, invisible ink and double agents. Self-guided programs with map provided. Free with admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/spy.

Photography Exhibit. "Threesomes," photography by Maureen Minehan in sets of three standalone images. On display in the Multiple Exposures Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St., Alexandria, May 13-June 22. Open daily 11 a.m.-5 p.m. except Thursday, 2-8 p.m. Opening reception Sunday, June 1, 2-4 p.m.

Historical Exhibit. Through August at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. "Sit Down and Take a Stand" commemorates the 1939 library sit-in of five African American men and its mastermind, Samuel Tucker. One of the earliest occasions of individuals using the sit-in as an act of civil disobedience in the modern civil rights movement. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-746-4356.

Doggy Happy Hours. 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Thursdays during the summer. Free, drinks sold separately. Treats and water for dogs, with pet boutique and service vendors. Portions of proceeds benefit People. Animals. Love. Visit www.Monaco-Alexandria.com/alexandria-hotel/doggy-happy-hour.html.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group

meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

Songwriter's Showcase. Every Tuesday at 8 p.m. at The Old Town Theater, 815 1/2 King St. Features a different Songwriter's Association of Washington artist each week. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com for tickets.

George Washington's Mount Vernon has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon

request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria - a \$26 added value. Learn more at PresPassport.Monticello.org.

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.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Pre-School Studio. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. June 9-19, Mondays-Thursdays children ages 4-6 attend for explorations of clay, collage, drawing and painting as well as creativity, problem solving, collaboration and fun. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

History Camp. The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum, is now registering for a camp for children ages 5-7. The camp runs Tuesday, July 29-Thursdays, July 31, 9 a.m.-noon at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Clio's Kids Mini-Camp engages children in American

history and life in historic Alexandria. Cost is \$105, which includes snacks and souvenirs. Advance registration is required. Call 703-746-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Youth Summer Classes. Beginning Monday, July 7, Metropolitan School of the Arts offers pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps, as well as a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts. Visit, www.metropolitanarts.org.

Martial Arts Camps. Potomac Kempo teaches Shaolin Kempo, a blend of Japanese Karate and Chinese Kung Fu. Potomac Kempo's locations will

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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Mount Vernon Gazette, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



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mansionhousemembership@hotmail.com

Special Thanks to the Mt Vernon Gazette

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)

Sunday
7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word);
10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 www.gs-cc.org

Loving as Christ loves, serving as Christ serves



Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, followed by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass en Español

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ENTERTAINMENT

host a camp "virtual tour" of China July 14-18 at the new Huntington location, 5914 N. Kings Hwy.; and Japan, July 21-25 at the Foxchase location, 4617 Duke St. For children age 5-12. Campers will learn about art, cuisine, history and language. Morning and afternoon sessions or all-day option. Visit www.potomackempo.com/summer-camp or call 703-206-8064.

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 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.

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.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. 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.

Theater Camp. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold sessions starting June 30 to Aug. 22. There are two-week sessions with morning, afternoon or all day sessions, and one-week sessions that go all day. To register, visit www.mvctt.org.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/MAY 1-2

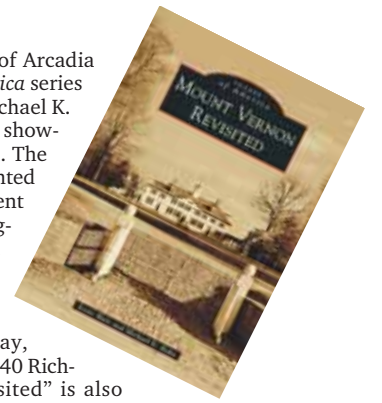
Theatre Performance. 5 p.m. at West Potomac High School's Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. A Lot of Medieval Merry Making Set for the West Potomac Theatre with Monty Python's "Spamalot." \$10/students and \$12/adults. Visit <http://wphs-spamalot.brownpapertickets.com>.

FRIDAY/MAY 2

Preschool Fun Fair. 4:30-7 p.m. at 7719 Fort Hunt Road. The Tauxemont Cooperative Preschool Annual Fun Fair has a carnival theme with games, crafts, magic shows, music and face painting. Food is available for purchase. Tickets sold at door: \$12 per child ages 2 and up,

Book Signing

"Mount Vernon Revisited," part of Arcadia Publishing's popular *Images of America* series by local authors Jessie Biele and Michael K. Bohn, boasts more than 200 images showcasing the history of Mount Vernon. The modern history of the site is highlighted as well, showing how the development of Route 1 and the George Washington Memorial Parkway in the 20th century contributed to today's economic development and growth in the Mount Vernon area. Meet the authors for a book signing Saturday, May 10, 11a.m.-1 p.m. at Costco, 7940 Richmond Hwy. "Mount Vernon Revisited" is also available at area bookstores, independent retailers, and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at 888-313-2665 or at www.arcadiapublishing.com.



adults free. Visit www.tauxemont.org or email tauxemontpp@gmail.com.

Art Reception. 6:30-9 p.m. at B&B Gallery, 215 King St. Artist Serenity Hanley will exhibit a series of black and white oil on canvas pieces. Free, contact mddbrumbaugh@me.com.

Middle School Play. 7 p.m. at the George Washington Middle School Auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre." Tickets \$5, cash and check only. Concessions available. Call 703-706-4500.

Student Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Twenty T.C. Williams High School students selected as this year's National Art Honor Society inductees exhibit artwork May 2-11. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 2-3

School Musical. 7:30 p.m. at T.C. Williams, Main Campus, 3330 King St., in the main auditorium. "A Chorus Line," a PG-13 show not suitable for young children. \$5 for ACPS students, staff and senior citizens; \$10 adults. Call 703-824-6800.

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Morning Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Epiphany Weekday School, 5513 Old Mill Road. Crafters & home business owners welcome. Enjoy crafts, yard sale finds, and other items. Baked goods & refreshments. Contact ewsmorningmarket@gmail.com.

Children's Music. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Theatre, 815 1/2 King St. "Uno, Dos, Tres con Andrés," interactive, bilingual movement-and-music show with Andrés Salguero, full band and guests. Opening act The Uncle Devin Show. Visit www.theoldtowntheater.com or call 703-549-1025.

House & Garden Tour. Noon-6 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School on 2310 Nordok Place. Bi-annual House & Garden self-guided walking tour of mid-century modern architecture and landscape. Ten Charles Goodman-designed properties and three gardens will be opened to hundreds of modern architecture enthusiasts. A lecture will take place prior to the tours in the school cafeteria at 11 a.m. \$25 in advance, \$30 day of. Visit www.hollin hills.net.

Middle School Play. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the George Washington Middle School Auditorium, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Adaptation of Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre." Tickets \$5, cash and check only. Concessions available. Call 703-706-4500.

Food History Symposium. 1:30-5 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Four presentations by local food historians and business people, a post-symposium book signing, and tasting of Shuman's famous Jelly Cake. \$50, advance registration encouraged. Visit <https://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx> or call 703-746-4994.

Theatre Performance. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School's Springbank Auditorium, 6500 Quander Road. A Lot of Medieval Merry Making Set for the West Potomac Theatre with Monty Python's "Spamalot." \$10/students and \$12/adults. Visit <http://wphs-spamalot.brownpapertickets.com>.

Author Event. 3-6 p.m. at Hunting Creek Club, 2059 Huntington Ave. Myra G.C. promotes her novel "Rough Woman-Not? Angry; Scorned." The book takes readers on a journey in which "women openly express feeling different and unappreciated." Myra describes them as women, "who are frustrated and tired of defending themselves against being labeled as angry, loud,

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Mar 13, 5:30-7:00 pm @ Good Shepherd Housing

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

ENTERTAINMENT

aggressive, and rude.”

Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W. & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Meditations on the Boundless, an exhibit of acrylic paintings on yupo paper by Arlington artist Kimberly DiNatale. On display through June 8. Gallery hours 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/gallery.html.

Kentucky Derby Party. 4:30-8 p.m. at Belle Haven Country Club. Junior Friends of the Campagna Center present Bowties & Belles Kentucky Derby Party. Watch the Derby and enjoy a raffle, live music, silent auction and cocktail reception. \$100 tickets to benefit the Campagna Center's programs. Visit www.campagnacenter.org/events/bowties-belles.

Country-Western Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association hosts lessons, 6:30-7:30 followed by open dancing with DJ. Couples and singles welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-860-4941.

Spring Benefit. 7-10 p.m. at the Deringer home, 1198 Janneys Lane, Alexandria. The Child & Family Network Centers' annual spring benefit will honor U.S. Rept. Jim Moran (D-Virginia 8th). Silent auction and light refreshments. Tickets \$250. Visit www.cfnc-online.org/category/events or contact Danielle Grigsby at 703-835-0214, ext. 234 or dgrigsby@cfnc-online.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 3-31

Historic Attic and Alley Tours. 9 a.m.-noon, Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. or at the Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. The curious are invited to visit rarely seen spaces at four of Alexandria's historic sites on this special three-hour walking tour of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden and Carlyle House Historic Park. \$35. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/GadsbysTavern.

SUNDAY/MAY 4

Women's Bike Ride. 9:30 a.m. beginning at Jones Point Park, under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Women on a Roll Ride organized by Alexandria Spokeswomen. Leisurely ride will visit cycling shops to remind businesses that female cyclists are a growing market. Riders are encouraged to wear green and must wear helmets. Snacks and refreshments provided at the shops. Free, registration available at <http://goo.gl/7v8PJ2>.

Wetlands Awareness Day. Noon-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Learn about the wetlands and the birds and animals that live there. Family fun fair with displays, games, face paintings. Free event, fee for some activities. Rain or shine. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park.

T.C. Williams Titan Expo. 1-5 p.m. at the school, 3330 King St. Carnival games, car bash, bake sale, bingo, used book sale and music. Rain or shine. Free admission but activities

cost, to benefit scholarships.

Women's History Guided Tour. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Ramsay House, 221 King St. Historic Alexandria Director J. Lance Mallamo guides the 2014 Alexandria Women's History Tour, covering several sites in a one-mile tour highlighting the stories of Alexandria women past and present. Light refreshments provided at the end at the Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Free, but registration required. Visit <http://alexandriava.gov/historic/enews/thisWeek.html>.

Jazz Concert. 2 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Jazz music with the Northern Virginia Community College Jazz Combo. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1751.

History Book Club. 1 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Group will discuss "Historic Alexandria: an Illustrated History" by Ted Pulliam. Free. Visit <http://nvfaa.org>.

Gallery Talk. 1:30 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists exhibiting in LOULUDI Flower / to Flower will discuss their work. Free. Visit <http://nvfaa.org>.

Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Printmakers Inc., Studio #325 in Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. "Printed Painted Potted," Avis Fleming's one-artist show, on display May 1-June 30.

History Lecture and Book Signing. 3 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Historian and author John Beakes will speak on the military career of Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee during the American Revolution. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 day of. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

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Saturday, May 3,
between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. (3 minutes)

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

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Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm • Sunday 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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ENTERTAINMENT

TUESDAY/MAY 6

Handcraft Tuesday. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Share projects, tips and ideas with other crafters while working on a craft. Bring your own project. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1751.

Author Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Author Alan Taylor will discuss his most recent book "The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832." Free for Alexandria Historical Society members. Visit www.alexandriahistorical.org.

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St. "Close to Home: An evening with American Composers" includes performances by the NOVA Community Chorus, the NOVA Alexandria Band and the NOVA Alexandria Jazz Ensemble. Contact Lisa C. Eckstein at 703-845-6252 or leckstein@nvcc.edu.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 7

Opening Reception to Art Exhibition. 5-8 p.m., at the The Gallery@Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Opening reception for the art show, "Art Uniting People." For information on submitting artwork contact artunitingpeople@gmail.com or visit www.healthieralexandria.com/antistigma.

Film Screening. 6:30 p.m. at the Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Duncan Cinema Club begins monthly series, "Films of the Pre Code Era." Post-screening discussions at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. at 9 p.m. Call 703-746-1705.

DJ Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's

Nightclub, 642 South Pickett St. DJ Dabe Murphy. \$6. Call 703-359-9882 or visit www.gottaswing.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 8

Art Exhibit Opening Reception.

6:30-8 p.m. in Studio 21 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Courtney S. Hengerer's acrylic paintings on wood panels are on display for the exhibit "Playground" May 8-June 2. Visit www.theartleague.org or call 703-683-1780.

Author Talk. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Author Adam McKible of John Jay College, who discovered "When Washington was in Vogue," uncovered the identity of its anonymous author, and the life and legacy of Edward Christopher Williams. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1751.

Live Music. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Second Thursday Music: Izzabella Perelman. \$10. Visit <http://nvfaa.org>.

Live Music. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Four-time Grammy Award winner Steve Wariner will perform. \$29.50 Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 9

Farm to Table Dinner. 6:30-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Reception, tour and four-course dinner with products cultivated and produced on the Estate. Wine pairings included. Tickets are \$175 including tax and gratuity. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 9-10

School Musical. 7:30 p.m. at T.C.

Williams, Main Campus, 3330 King St., in the main auditorium. "A Chorus Line," a PG-13 show not suitable for young children. \$5 for ACPS students, staff and senior citizens; \$10 adults. Call 703-824-6800.

SATURDAY/MAY 10

Alexandria Art Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in Colasanto Park, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Local artists will perform. Browse artwork by local artists and more. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtMarket for more.

House and Garden Tour. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. in Del Ray, begins at A Show of Hands, 2301 Mount Vernon Ave. Biennial event serves as a fundraiser for neighborhood projects and the Alexandria Scholarship Fund. \$20 in advance, \$25 day-of. Visit www.delraycitizens.org or come to the Del Ray Farmers Market April 26 and May 3. Volunteers welcome. Contact docentvolunteers@comcast.net.

Mothers Day Fashion Show and Dinner. 4-7 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. Live entertainment by Al Muntzie and the Renaissance Gospel Singers. Tickets range from \$7 for seniors to \$25 for couples, discounts for advance tickets. Contact Sharlene Jones at 571-332-1006 or Judy Garnett at 703-919-5143.

SUNDAY/MAY 11

Mother's Day Tea at Carlyle House. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park for more.

Mother's Day Museum Tours. 1-5



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

17th Annual T.C. Williams Art Show

Del Ray Artisans and the T.C. Williams High School Art Department jointly present the 17th Annual Student Art Show at Del Ray Artisans gallery. The exhibit will feature the work of members of the National Art Honor Society.

An opening reception will be held Friday, May 2, 7-9 p.m. Light snacks and beverages will be available.

The show will run May 2-11 at the Del Ray Artisans gallery at the Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Gallery hours are: Thursdays, noon-6 p.m. (First Thursday noon-9 p.m.); Fridays, noon-9 p.m.; Saturdays, noon-9 p.m.; and Sundays, noon-6 p.m. The gallery is free, open to the public and handicap accessible. Call 703-838-4827 or visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

p.m., at Old Town historic sites: Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St.; Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St.; or the Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. In honor of Mother's Day, mothers enjoy free admission. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/calendar-of-events/spring.

Mother's Day Open House. 1-4 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. Tour the firehouse for

free. A photographer will take portraits of families next to historic equipment. Children will receive a fire hat. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse or 703-746-4994 for more.

Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. in the Athenaeum gallery, 201 Prince St. "Words and Letters" runs May 8-June 22. The multimedia show from regional artists uses text as a component of visual art. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

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MVUC Greenhouse Offers Heirloom Tomatoes and Rare Annuals

The heirloom seedlings, grown in the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church greenhouse, are ready for planting in residents' gardens.

Greenhouse manager Mary Barnett and her team of volunteers have over 30 varieties of tomatoes heirloom and hybrid including Green Zebra, Sun Gold, Cherokee Purple, Black Krim, and Chocolate Cherry. Among the flowering annuals are the Sensitive Plant, which Thomas Jefferson grew at Monticello; Ammi, which is like Queen Ann's Lace, and Cuphea, which attracts hummingbirds.

The circa 1930 greenhouse on the grounds of MVUC, 1909 Windmill Lane, is open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays through Memorial Day. Vegetables and herbs are \$1-4, annual and perennial flowers are \$3 to \$14. Questions? Email Mary at info@mvuc.org

No garden? MVUC leases a small number of garden plots. Email Leah Chowdhury at property@mvuc.org to inquire. MVUC also maintains a vegetable garden to produce food for the Mount Vernon United Community Ministries food bank. To lend a hand, contact Mike or Isabel Arnold at mi_arnold@msn.com.

Greenhouse manager Mary Barnett with a Cuphea, a flowering plant that attracts hummingbirds. Perennial and annual flower, vegetable, and herb seedlings are on sale at the MVUC Greenhouse through Memorial Day weekend.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

sighted and naïve. Let me explain. In Virginia, we have over 400,000 low-income, uninsured, and hard-working men and women who qualify for Medicaid (70 percent actually live in households where at least one person holds a full or part-time job). This figure also includes over 32,000 uninsured or under-insured veterans; a third of which would be expected to qualify for health insurance under Medicaid expansion. This is an inexcusable affront to those who have served our country in war and peace. Regrettably, the figure also includes kids going into foster care and adults with disabilities. And let's be clear. Not accepting expansion funds means that large numbers of our people — men, women, and children — will get sick and die before their time. Does the House of Delegates not understand that actual lives are at stake here? Is politics more important than human life?

According to the White Paper on Medicaid expansion, the Commonwealth's ranking is a shameful 47th out of all the states in per capita spending for Medicaid, while the state ranks 7th in per capita income! Is there not something terribly wrong with this picture? The feds will pay 100 percent of costs through 2016, decreasing incrementally to 90 percent by 2020 and subsequent years. The question Mr. Medico and most Republicans and some delegates ask is the same: What will we do if the Feds stop or reduce the flow of money?

Let's step back. Virginians currently pay for the cost of providing health care to the uninsured through the most costly provider, the emergency room.

One of the most unique Medicaid programs is long-term care. Those under 65 and eligible for Medicaid will receive a wide range of preventive services, treatment for early detection and treatment of acute conditions, and the management of chronic illness. The result will be to keep them out of expensive emergency rooms and contain health and long-term care costs in the future as they enter their senior years.

By not accepting these funds thus far, the state has lost an astonishing \$5 million per day since Jan. 1 that is a lot of lost ser-

vices for Virginians.

If we accept these funds, money will be saved in the long run by preventing costly treatment later on. When the government's contribution levels off, these savings will significantly help pay for Virginia's share of the costs by 2020 and beyond most importantly; it will save lives and increase the quality of life for all Virginians. We should expect no less from our elected representatives charged with our well-being.

John S. Glaser
Alexandria

More Taxing And Spending

To the Editor:

Well the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors did it again. More taxing and spending.

Chairman Bulova in her Bulova Byline FY 2015 budget summary states: "It has been a long and winding road as our nation, region and county have struggled throughout these sluggish post recession years." So what does the board do to ease the financial pain of struggling taxpayers?

The board consisting of Chairman Bulova (D), Cook (R), Foust (D), Frey (R), Gross (D), Herrity (R), Hyland (D), Hudgins (D), McKay (D), and Smyth (D) voted 7 to 3 (Herrity, Cook and Smyth) to increase the real estate tax rate to \$1.09 per hundred of assessed value increasing taxes on the average homeowner by \$25. That is in addition to the \$330 increase in real estate taxes on the average homeowner because the assessments increased in 2014. But, that wasn't enough. The board by a 7 to 3 vote (Herrity, Cook, Smyth) also raised seven fees including the sewer tax and the sick tax for ambulance service ranging from \$100 to \$150 per trip depending on the transport type. Also, a transport fee increased from \$10 to \$12 per mile. And they passed a motion to form a committee to come up with recommendations for a meals tax referendum. The last time I checked the county had over 100 taxes and fees. It looks like there is no let up.

While taxes and fees are raised, the board is not too careful about spending. Some examples: The board passed on a 9 to 1 (Herrity) vote a \$30 million bank bailout to pay off an unsecured loan belonging to Lorton Arts Foundation, taxpayer subsidized housing includes units in a plush neighborhood where housing units sell from \$850,000 to over \$1 million with a resort style swimming pool, executive business center with computer printers and internet access, billard room, heated spa, clubroom with big screen TV and 24 hour athletic center. And, in November 2013 the board paid out over \$10 million for bonuses to employees regardless of whether the employee excelled or not. And, if that isn't enough, the Fairfax County Public School System spends \$39 million or more on English as a second language for undocumented (illegal) aliens. It isn't clear how many years English as a second language is taught before the students have learned English to complete their education. The goal should be to have such students become part of the student body speaking English as soon as possible. That is good for the school system and particularly for the affected students who will proceed to further their education or pursue a career of some sort. Graduation and dropout rates are significant issues because the affected students involved haven't received an education.

School transfer funds is a significant part of the Fairfax County FY 2015 budget, about \$2 billion or 52.1 percent of the proposed FY 2015 county budget expenditures, according to the county executive. Although the Board of Supervisors doesn't have direct authority over the Fairfax County Public School System policies and personnel, the Board of Supervisors should exercise influence on the School Board to make improvements and not provide money blindly. The students deserve better.

There are many more examples of questionable spending that I have provided to the Board of Supervisors but, except for a generalized email response from Chairman Bulova, no one else has responded.

Contact your supervisor and make a dif-

ference. Call the Clerk of the Board at 703-324-3151 for supervisors' phone numbers.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon

Appreciate Local Experts

To the Editor:

The Fort Hunt community is fortunate to be home of select, small businesses that provide exceptional service and make this place as neighborly as Andy Griffith's Mayberry. I recently had plumbing issues with my toilet and shower, for which a plumber handed me a written estimate of \$712. Alan and Steve of Village Hardware guided this handyman-challenged homeowner through a few basic steps that solved both problems. And they even loaned me the socket wrenches to fix it.

The plumber told me the toilet required new internal apparatus. After explaining the problem to Alan, he figured it was a simple issue of replacing the flapper. However, my wife can testify that I can make a simple home improvement task a lengthy and accursed time-waster. But Alan and Youtube made it a 5-minute job. Problem solved.

The shower was a bit more complicated. The diverter knob, which shifts the water flow from the tub up to the shower head, was broken. The plumber told me it required a new stem. After showing Alan and Steve pictures on my cellphone, they loaned me a set of socket wrenches to remove the diverter stem. I took the stem to Village Hardware, and Steve and I replaced three washers on the diverter stem. I reinstalled the diverter — problem solved. I still have \$712 (minus the \$75 diagnosis fee) in my pocket.

Thank you Village Hardware, Alan and Steve. Yes, their prices are a tad more than Lowe's and Home Depot, but can anyone picture my story happening at one of those big box stores? Please support and frequent Village Hardware. They are awesome.

Sean Todd
Mount Vernon

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West Potomac senior Brooke Pierson has signed a letter of intent to row for the University of Washington crew team. From left are Randy Pierson (father), Sherri Pierson (mother), Pierson, Choyce Hay (grandmother), Alyssa Pierson (sister), Alan Weatherley (coach), Aaron Helmick (DSA), Leslie Shinnars (coach), and Ronald Hay (grandfather).

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BURIAL NOTICE

Theodore M. Haverchack, 91, of Alexandria, VA, whom passed away on March 9th, 2014. Funeral services were already held. The burial will be taking place at Ivy Hill Cemetery on Monday, May 5th, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.

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OBITUARY

Jones, Gerald, 69 of Dunnsville, formerly of Alexandria, passed away April 24, 2014. He is survived by his daughter, Angel Dondero and her husband, Tommy; two granddaughters, Noelle Dondero and Hope Dondero; his sister, Jacque Cason; his brother, David Jones and a number of close friends. Services will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Lung Association.

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Participant
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The subject property is participating in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The property was the former location of the Central Operations Area of the Potomac Yard rail yard, which operated from 1906 to 1990 and was used for locomotive repair, maintenance and fueling. Environmental investigations found petroleum and metals contamination of soil and groundwater. The petroleum constituents are associated with diesel and heavy oils, and the metals are associated with cinder ballast ash fill material. Remedial actions to mitigate potential risks to human health and the environment from the contaminants have been proposed by Potomac Yards Apartments, L.L.C. c/o Bozzuto and accepted by DEQ. The remedial actions consist of: an environmental health and safety plan; an impacted material management plan; soil excavation and disposal; dust control; construction dewatering; clean fill/surface cap; vapor mitigation; Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) screening of groundwater; and a groundwater use restriction. A Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation has been requested of the VDEQ VRP for the site. Questions or comments regarding this notice will be accepted for 30 days from the date of publication and should be addressed to the contact below:

John Diehl
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
John.Diehl@eccfirst.com
(703) 327-2900

Chris Evans
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Chris.Evans@deq.virginia.gov
804-698-4336

SPORTS BRIEFS

WP's Pierson Signs With University of Washington

West Potomac senior Brooke Pierson has signed a letter of intent to row on the crew team at the University of Washington, one of the most prestigious collegiate rowing programs in the country.

Pierson carries a 4.2 GPA and has taken nine Advanced Placement courses during her high school career. Pierson joined the crew team at West Potomac this year, her first year at the school. She rows in the women's varsity 4, which has been consistently placing as a top-three finisher in local races this season. She is a three-sport athlete at West Potomac, also participating on the cross country and swim teams.

Pierson previously attended school in Coronado, Calif. and Corpus Christi, Texas.

MV Boys' Soccer to Host 4 of Final 5

The defending state champion Mount Vernon boys' soccer team will host four of its final five regular season games.

The Majors will take host Wakefield at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 1, and Washington-Lee on Monday, May 5 before traveling to Stuart on May 8.

Mount Vernon is scheduled to close the regular season with home games against Thomas Jefferson on May 9 and rival West Potomac on May 13.

After beating Falls Church 4-2 on April 22, Mount Vernon has dropped its last two, losing to South County, 4-1, on April 24 and Yorktown, 1-0, on April 28, dropping its record to 2-3-3.

WP Softball Beats Woodson

The West Potomac softball team defeated Woodson 19-4 on April 25, improving its record to 11-2.

The Wolverines have won five in a row

since dropping a spring break contest to Oakton, 12-4, on April 12.

West Potomac will host first-place South County in a Conference 7 matchup at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 1. The Wolverines are 4-1 against conference opponents.

MV Softball Improves to 13-2

The Mount Vernon softball team defeated Thomas Jefferson 13-2 on April 28, improving its record to 13-2.

The Majors will travel to face Lee at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 2, before hosting Wakefield on Monday, May 5.

WP Baseball Beats Woodson

The West Potomac baseball team defeated Conference 7 foe Woodson 3-2 on April 28. The Wolverines improved to 7-5 overall, including 4-2 against conference opponents.

West Potomac will host T.C. Williams at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 2.



Liam Bourgeois and the Mount Vernon boys' soccer team lost to South County 4-1 on April 24.

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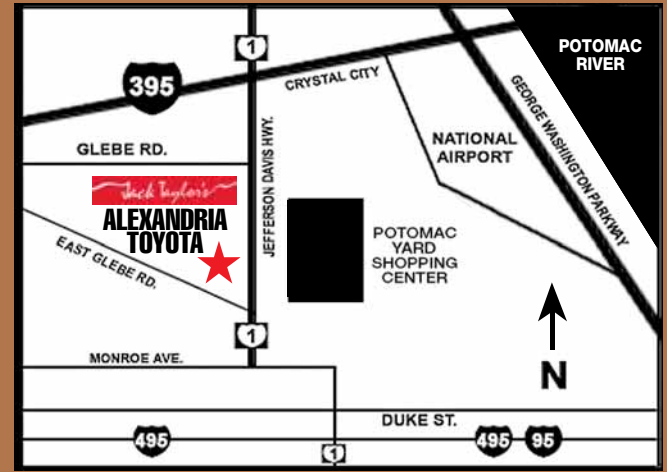
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Mount Vernon Gazette

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Choosing a Summer Camp

Professionals offer advice on selecting a camp, but now is the time to register.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Many families with school age children will plan to have their children spend some of the much-anticipated summer season in camp. If you haven't yet selected camps for your children, now is the time.

"Popular classes and programs always fill early," said Kevin Rechen, camp director of Summer at Norwood in Potomac, Md.. "Families that are choosing a camp based on a specific program or class should register as soon as they can."

Whether you choose a traditional day camp, a specialty camp or a sleep away camp, the Washington, D.C. region has a multitude of offerings. The array of options can be overwhelming for some parents, but summer camps can be an important part of a child's development. Local child development experts say there are a few things to keep in mind when choosing for a camp.

"Summer camp is an opportunity for children to develop social skills with their peers," said Linda Guly, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Camps give the benefits of social interaction in a more relaxed setting."

When selecting a camp, there are factors that parents should keep in mind. "When parents are looking for a camp they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming and counselors and staff," said Rechen.

An array of specialty camps offer children a chance to focus on one activity.

"Developmentally, as children get older they get more specialized in their skills and interests," said Guly. "Summer camp is an opportunity to hone in on those skills. Go with the child's interest and skills and further develop those because they are an important part of a child's identity."

Specialty camps can help children develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

For example, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria offers camps that include Quadcopters and Video Editing, MiKiDo Mixed Martial Arts, CSI Detective, Hunger Games, Civil War, Fantasy Battle Gaming, Filmworx Movie Making, Eco-Adventures, Junior Musical Theater, Zoology, [and] Junior Veterinarian, said Linda Stratton of SSSAS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUMMERTIMES CAMP

Campers at SummerTimes at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School show their art project.

OTHER SPECIALTY CAMPS include cooking camps, yoga camps and sports camps that run the gamut from tennis to hockey.

"A specialty camp gives children a sense of one particular area for a short period of time and allows them to decide if it is something that they want to pursue long-term," said Bethesda, Md., resident Deborah Helfeld who has taught art and yoga summer camps.

"Camps give the benefits of social interaction in a more relaxed setting."

— Linda Guly, Ph.D.,
Marymount University

At George Mason University, high school juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to attend a camp that will give them a head start on college. "It's not your parents' summer camp," said Sudha Kamath. "Mason is giving high school juniors and seniors the chance to take some rare classes for college credit, covering everything from insects that crawl underground to objects that spin through outer space."

Cathy Evans, director of special projects at George Mason University said, "Subjects include astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, environmental science, ethics, global affairs, health behav-

ior, history, mathematics, nutrition and public speaking. The sky's the limit as students explore topics like 'Stars, Galaxies and the Universe' and 'The Ecosphere.'"

Camp Greenway at The Madeira School offers three options for two-week camp sessions with outdoor and indoor activities, said Laura Temple, spokeswoman for school in McLean, Va. "Water sports, games, team sports, music, arts and crafts, and MAD Science are all part of the daily action for campers."

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers camps nature camps that are designed to immerse children in the outdoors. "We want the children to connect with the world around them," said Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority. "When they leave camp, we hope that they have a deeper appreciation for the world around them for and the environment." You don't need to be a resident of Fairfax County to attend the camps, Pedersen said.

The Arlington Art Center offers summer camps for children and teens that meet daily for several sessions throughout the summer, 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. Classes range from portfolio development to drawing, acrylic painting, and contemporary landscapes with oil paint.

ANOTHER OPTION is sleep away camp, which can sometimes be a nerve-wracking but rewarding experience for both a parent and a child.

How does a parent know that their child is ready for to make this leap? "It is going to vary from child to child and family to

family," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

"I think if a child has spent time having sleep overs with friends and has done ok, and is independent and feels comfortable sleeping at friends' houses then it should be fine."

Garofalo suggests that the first sleep away camp experience should be brief.

"I think you want to do a shorter experience to get them ready. The first summer, send them to a four-day camp to test the waters. Their first experience should be at a camp that is close to home. Don't send them to a camp in California the first time."

An open dialog between parent and child is key. "Explain to the child that they

are going to be on their own and tell them what will be expected of them," said Garofalo. "Parents can prepare their children and have an honest conversation about what will happen at the camp."

Those who think they can't afford the cost of summer camp should research financial aid options.

"Many summer camps offer financial aid and there are foundations that give grants for camps," said Rechen.

"Popular classes and programs always fill early."

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Summer Learning Activities

Local educators offer tips to keep children learning during the summer.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When summer vacation begins and school ends in a few weeks, learning doesn't have to take a hiatus. Students can keep their academic skills sharp without entering a classroom or even sitting down with a pencil and paper.

Local educators say opportunities for reading, math, science and history skills are plentiful and none require that children set foot in a school. From a walk in the park to a trip to the grocery store, teachable moments are virtually everywhere.

"There are a thousand ways to do it, but reading is critical," said Marjorie Myers, Ed.D., principal, Francis Scott Key Elementary School in Arlington. "I think the most important thing to do is read in a fun way. Read as a family. Parents can read challenging books to their children. Go to your local library and take advantage of fun activities there.

Some elementary schools encourage their students to read and discuss what they are reading with their parents.

Blake M. Giliotti, staff development teacher at Potomac Elementary in Potomac, Md., said, "We ask kids to read and then have discussions with their parent about what they are reading. We don't ask them to do anything written because we don't want them belabored by school work during summer."

The book discussions or questions that parents ask their children about books don't need to be complicated, Giliotti said. "It can also be as simple as saying, 'Tell me about what you are reading.' Engaging in a natural conversation about a book can give you insight into what your child understands and helps build oral communication skills," she said.

WHEN IT COMES TO science, Len Annetta, Ph.D., professor of Science at George Mason University says he and his wife Jennifer spend a lot of time at the Smithsonian museums with their two children, Samantha, 13, and Joey, 11.

"We particularly like the Air and Space Museum," he said. "It keeps them engaged in science. We walk around together and we ask them questions after



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center marvel at a crayfish they netted in the creek.

we leave a museum. When they get home they get to go online and do more research on things that interest them."

There are subtle science lessons to be learned even when taking a summer stroll. "We're out for a nature walk and we see an animal or plant and we start talking about it," said Annetta. "We also look at and talk about grasses and trees and animals."

For parents who don't have a science background, Annetta suggests looking up information on a smart phone during a walk or museum trip.

A shopping trip can also be an opportunity for a math lesson, said Myers. "Take your children to the grocery store and use actual money instead of credit cards, so the children can see a value for money and numbers," she said. "Give children an allowance so they can make the connection between money and the cost of things they want to buy. Sitting in a classroom with fake money doesn't quite get it."

This area offers an abundance of locations for history lessons. "I go out to the battle fields near Manassas," Anetta said. "There are placards that help describe what is going on. There are a lot of local museums that offer the same opportunities."

Keeping a journal is another way to keep skills sharp outside of a structured setting.

"Keeping a travel or camp journal is a fun and easy way to support academic skills," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "A travel or camp journal reinforces writing, geography and social studies and organizational skills."

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Pre-School Studio. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. June 9-19, Mondays-Thursdays children ages 4-6 attend for explorations of clay, collage, drawing and painting as well as creativity, problem solving, collaboration and fun. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

Youth Summer Classes. Beginning Monday, July 7, Metropolitan School of the Arts offers pre-professional summer dance, music theater and acting camps, as well as a wide variety of youth summer camps where students can explore and learn many facets of the performing and visual arts. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

Martial Arts Camps. Potomac Kempo teaches Shaolin Kempo, a blend of Japanese Karate and Chinese Kung Fu. Potomac Kempo's locations will host a camp "virtual tour" of China July 14-18 at the new Huntington location, 5914 N. Kings Hwy.; and Japan, July 21-25 at the Foxchase location, 4617 Duke St. For children age 5-12. Campers will learn about art, cuisine, history and language. Visit www.potomackempo.com/summer-camp or call 703-206-8064.

Theater Camp. Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will hold sessions starting June 30 to Aug. 22. There are two-week sessions with morning, afternoon or all day sessions, and one-week sessions that go all day. To register, visit www.mvccct.org.

Alexandria Summer Recreation. Summer of Smiles, the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures are available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries located throughout the City. Registration for 2014 Summer Camps opens Wednesday, March 19 for City of Alexandria residents and Friday, March 21 for nonresidents. Interested participants may register online at www.alexandriava.gov/58232 or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. For more information about summer camps, contact Recreation Services at 703-746-5430 or the Camps and Classes Office at 703-746-5414.

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SUMMER DRAMA CAMP 2014

One Week Session
July 21-25 - 9-5 Drama Camp


Two-Week Sessions
June 30 - July 11 (No Camp July 4th)
July 28 - August 8
August 11 - 22

Morning Drama Camp 9:30-12:30
Afternoon Musical Theatre Camp 1:00-4:00
All Day (Both AM and PM Options Above)
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Ideas for Summer

Avoid those dreaded words: 'I'm bored.'

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Molly McAlister enjoys the freedom of summer, but there are three words she dreads hearing: "Mom, I'm bored." Creating activities to keep her three children busy during the summer is a task she enjoys, but it isn't always easy.

"I love taking the kids swimming or on bike rides, but sometimes I run out of ideas," said McAlister who lives in Centreville.

Many parents allow "screen time" to keep children happy, but it's important to interact with them as well.

"Some parents will give their child an iPhone or an iPad to entertain them," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Interacting with children and being involved with them rather than giving them electronic activities is important. It is important for kids to figure out how to interact with their parents and friends."

"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way," said Garofalo, who lives in McLean.

One way that families can spend quality time together is by creating art, said Dabney Cortina of the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. In addition to summer camps, McLean Project for the Arts offers family workshops where parents and children create art together.

"The whole process of creating is so important to a child's development and it's so important to be with your children and create something together," said Cortina. "I see the smiles as the children and adults put their heads together to create things. I think it's also a wonderful release for adults."

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS are a great

way to spend time and help children learn during the summer.

"Let them spearhead a yard sale," Garofalo said. "Kids gather the items, make flyers and put the flyers in everyone's mailbox. They can donate the money to charity so you can tie in a service project."

Spend time in the kitchen. "You and your children can do a lot of baking and donate the items to a homeless shelter," said Garofalo. "With parental approval and guidance, kids can also do dog walking or water flowers for neighbors who are away."

For families who want to spend time in nature, Len Annetta, Ph.D. Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University suggests the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The park, which is home to more than 160 species of birds, has been recognized National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

"Our area has so much history," said Annetta. "Most of these place don't cost money but can immerse students in something educational, which is really critical."

"Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way."

— Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D

FOR PARENTS who plan a summer of varied activities, specialty camps as well as parent-child activities are worthy options. Even one or two sessions of week-long specialty camps can add to a child's summer.

Deb Burger of the Potomac Horse Center in North Potomac, Md., said they offer camps where children learn equestrian skills and are given information about the history of horses, breeds, colors, markings, anatomy, horse care and grooming. "Campers also do horse-related arts and crafts," said Burger. "They have a good time, make friends, increase their love of horses and improve their ability to ride. Kids come from Maryland, Virginia and even overseas."

Tony Castrilli, Director of Public Affairs for Fairfax County says the county is offering nature camps during the summer.

In Alexandria, Morgan Maloney runs the Arcadia



PHOTO COURTESY OF SSSAS

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's Physics is Fun! Camp



PHOTO COURTESY OF SSSAS

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School's Lower School Academic Enrichment Camp



MADEIRA SCHOOLS PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

Hidden Pond Nature Center campers use nets to catch and identify critters living in Pohick Creek.



Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center marvel at a crayfish they netted.