

Reviewing 2014, Ready for 2015

Route 1 Transit Study, Jeff Todd Way, Wegmans among top events and developments.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

It may take the better part of 35 years, but the Route 1 corridor is in the process of receiving transit updates that include bus rapid transit and light rail. Fall 2014 saw the completion of a study by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) which was passed on to the Board of Supervisors by the Executive Steering Committee: "All the leaders agreed on a vision that affects everything, schools, housing, quality of life, environment, everything."

In the meantime, the widening of 3.7 miles of Route 1 is currently underway, with the anticipated completion date of Feb 19, 2016.

"I think the community is ready for change," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "Twenty years ago I'm not sure that it was. Today, people see we need to make major changes in the way we get around. They've seen the quality of life changes transit has brought to other areas of northern Virginia and want to see that kind of change here."

HANNAH GRAHAM

Graham was a second-year student at the University of Virginia and alumna of West Potomac High School where she played in band and on



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

The portrait of the late Jeff Todd looked over the formal opening of Jeff Todd Way on Monday, Aug. 25.

the varsity softball team, and excelled academically. She went missing from Charlottesville in September 2014, before a search team discovered human remains over a month later that were ultimately verified as hers.

SEE COMPLETION, PAGE 3

Judge Rules Against County

Prying free some details on Geer shooting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

It's been more than 16 months since John Geer of Springfield was shot and killed by a Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) officer. And since the Aug. 29, 2013 shooting, scant information on the incident has been provided by the FCPD or the county Board of Supervisors, such as an explanation of what transpired up to and following the shooting, and the identities of the officers involved. They've kept this information from the media, the public and the Geer family, citing an ongoing federal investigation into the death.

That was until Jan 5, when Fairfax County released a 304-word statement regarding the events surrounding Geer's death. For the first time, the officer who shot Geer was named: PFC Adam Torres, who the statement said, "fired a single shot that struck Geer."

"We've had policies in place re-

garding when a police officer's name and information is released," Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said Monday night. "Usually it's a matter of weeks. In this particular case it turned out to be an unusual situation that took longer."

Police had been called to Geer's house by his partner and mother of his two daughters Maura Harrington, over a domestic dispute. The statement says officers, "including a trained negotiator," talked with Geer for over half an hour while he stood in the doorway of his house, arms raised above his head and resting on the doorframe.

"Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home," the statement says, "displaying a firearm that he threat-



John Geer

SEE GEER SHOOTING, PAGE 5

Farewell to Herb Harris

Former district supervisor, U.S. representative.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Former Mount Vernon Supervisor and U.S. Rep. Herbert Harris died at his home in Mount Vernon on Dec. 24, 2014. He was 88 years old.

Harris was born in Kansas City, Mo. He attended Missouri Valley College and Notre Dame University. He then served in the U.S. Navy before earning his B.A. degree from Rockhurst University in 1948. He went on to earn his J.D. from Georgetown University Law School in 1951. Following graduation he worked as a Washington, D.C. consultant in international trade and agriculture, and founded the consulting firm, Warner & Harris. From 1955-1970 he represented the American Farm Bureau Federation before federal agencies and Congress. He also became involved in civic affairs and local politics and was first elected as Mount Vernon district supervisor in 1968. After twice being elected supervisor, he then



Herb Harris

Harris' energy, breadth of interests, and dedicated approach to his political responsibilities that earned him repeat electoral victories as Mount Vernon supervisor and as a three-term U.S. representative. At the local level among his accomplishments he played a major role in bringing the Mount Vernon Hospital to the area, and extending the metro rail system to serve the Lee and Mount Vernon districts.

At the Congressional level among his many legislative projects he co-authored the Stark-Harris legislation to provide \$1.9 billion to assure the completion of the 100-mile metro rail system, initiated the

SEE COMMUNITY MOURNS, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova speaks to reporters about the shooting death of John Geer on Jan. 5 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

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Completion of Multimodal Transit Study and Route 1 Widening

FROM PAGE 1

“That tragedy really affected a lot of folks in our community,” said Paul Schray, president of the Mount Vernon Civic Association. “A lot of our children play organized sports; the teammates with her, kids now of college age, it hit them hard. She was one of their own. It’s been a difficult time.”



Paul Schray, president of the Mount Vernon Civic Association.

RE-IMAGINING OF WOODLAWN PLANTATION

The Mount Vernon-based non-profit Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture is partnering with National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Neighborhood Restaurant Group to re-imagine Woodlawn Plantation as a multi-acre farm offering summer camp classes, programs for veterans and other food-centered events.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland

“It’s one of the jewels as we move forward,” said Katherine Ward, the Mount Vernon district representative to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. “The re-imagining is just coalescing and we’re very enheartened about the fact this could be a possibility at



Katherine Ward

Woodlawn.”

“It’s been sort of moribund in terms of activities there,” said Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon). “This should bring more people to the site, with a confluence of major historical activities in the area.”

WEGMANS AT HILLTOP VILLAGE CENTER

The grocery heavy-weight should be opening its doors in March or April of 2015, according to Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), though no official date has been announced. A 350,000-square-foot facility will anchor the developing Hilltop Village Center at the corner of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street looks near-completion, but McKay said more complex permits and inspections are required because of the store’s included sit-down restaurant.



Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay

“It will change the nature of the district, as people come across Jeff Todd Way,” said Del. Mark Sickles (R-43). “Wegmans tends to draw from a larger radius than typical grocery stores do. Businesses that surround it in that shopping center are in a good position to also benefit.”



Del. Mark Sickles (R-43)

OPENING JEFF TODD WAY

After a closure dating back to Sept. 11, 2001, the three-mile, four-lane stretch Jeff

Todd Way opened in August 2014, re-connecting Mount Vernon and Lee Districts via Route 1 and Telegraph Road. Named for the late businessman and civic leader, the passage was a collaborative effort among government officials, the Department of Defense the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“It’s been so hard to get from the Route 1 corridor over to Springfield and vice versa,” said McKay. “That really hampered our development.”

“For anyone that lives south of the Costco, trying to escape Route 1 traffic was virtually impossible,” said Surovell. “The cross-connectivity brought by Jeff Todd Way has been a huge relief to anyone who lives in 22309, and was a long time coming.”



Scott Surovell (D-44)

OTHER TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

With money finally coming in from the 2013 transportation bill delegates Tom Rust (R-86) and Dave Albo (R-42) helped bring about, as well as the county’s passage of a transportation bond referendum in 2014, roads like the Fairfax County Parkway and Old Keene Mill Road are being repaved. “The state was so broke, there wasn’t not enough money to put in one stoplight,” said Albo. “This bill, Bob McDonnell’s big achievement, basically cut the gas tax, raised sales tax and created billions of dollars for roads.” Other developments going



Del. Dave Albo (R-42)

forward in 2015 include extending Shirley Gate Road to the Fairfax County Parkway and updating the connecting Popes Head Road interchange, and improving the intersection at Kings Highway, Van Dorn Street and Telegraph Road. “In terms of mileage, we don’t talk that way,” said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). “We talk about time: How long does it take? Our congestion is such it’s immaterial how far it is. We haven’t passed a long term transportation and infrastructure bill; we’ve only been doing it year by year and need immediate reform.”



U.S. Gerry Connolly

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

❖ “We need to make sure that West Potomac and Mount Vernon and the other five elementary schools that are accredited with warning get their accreditation back,” said Surovell. “And make major changes to how accreditation is done in Richmond.”

❖ “Obviously it’s an election year,” said McKay. “The entire Board of Supervisors, School Board, delegates, among others. That’s exciting. It gives us an opportunity to get a good exchange of ideas out there, get the public more civically involved.”

❖ “Our \$168 million budget shortfall,” said Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield). “Our poor economic growth, dealing with that is going to be a big thing in 2015. Our region ranks below Detroit, and has for the last three years. We have to open Fairfax for business again.”

❖ Phase I construction of the Silver Line Metro and securing financing for Phase 2.

❖ New 95 Express Lanes opened in 2014.

❖ New turf fields installed at Mount Vernon and West Potomac High Schools in 2014.

Adults Find Homes Through Grants to New Hope Housing

Thanks to a pair of federal grants, the Mount Vernon-based nonprofit New Hope Housing (NHH) can do one better than providing temporary shelter to chronically homeless adults. The grants, from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, give NHH the opportunity to lease several Fairfax County and City of Alexandria apartments for up to 15 individuals.

“When each of these individuals is safely in an apartment, instead of street or shelter, we’ll be able to help them heal much faster,” NHH executive director Pam Michell said in a statement.

The accommodations will be “permanent supportive housing,” which NNH said is a combination of case management services as well as a living space to call their own. Candidates who are chosen for the apartments will contribute up to 30 percent of their earned income to paying the rent.

To be eligible, NHH considers only the “chronically homeless:” individuals or families with adults who have been without a home a year or more, or homeless at least four times in the last three years, and are disabled.

NHH works with the homeless populations in the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, and Arlington and Fairfax counties. In addition to temporary shelter and permanent housing, they offer other outreach services including alcohol and drug treatment, mental health assistance and job skill training placement.

To help furnish the new apartments for the incoming residents, members of the public can donate used furniture and home goods through NHH’s “New Home” basket project. More information on donating is available from Nicole Allen, 703-799-2293 ext. 22.

— TIM PETERSON



Sherry Edelkamp of Alexandria rolls out sleeping bags at Rising Hope Mission Church, a shelter site for New Hope Housing.

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

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Geer Shooting Statement Released

FROM PAGE 1

ened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them."

Torres then shot Geer in the chest when he began lowering his hands.

ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT a SWAT team entered Geer's house, after Geer died, and found a loaded, holstered handgun on the stairs by where he had been standing.

"A large amount of citizens have guns in their home. Does that give them the right to come and shoot you?" said Jeff Stewart of Chantilly, a friend of Geer's for over 25 years who witnessed the shooting.

"At the time he was shot he wasn't bearing any arms. He owned them. Why is it relevant to the release? Does a loaded gun show intent? The burden fell on the police to defuse the situation, let the guy go inside, chill out."

Geer's father Don didn't hear about the county's release until someone called to say it was happening on television.

"The press release I felt was very tainted towards the police department," he said. "It depicted John as being a terrorist or something, had all these guns in the house. He was a hunter. It didn't sound like that."

THOUGH THE COUNTY'S STATEMENT refers to a Circuit Court ruling that they "may release some information pertaining to the Aug. 29, 2013, officer-involved shooting of John Geer," the Dec. 22 opinion from judge Randy Bellows was a court order.

After a Dec. 19 hearing in Fairfax, Bellows quickly turned around a response forcing the county to produce more than 100 documents being sought by lawyer Michael Lieberman in a \$12 million civil suit over Geer's death. According to Lieberman, the county had previously objected to all but six of 127 requests for documents.

"That's pretty amazing to have a judge turn around and give you a 12-page opinion over a weekend," said Lieberman. "He obviously worked on it all weekend, he listened carefully."

The documents include everything from 911 calls and witness statements to the medical treatment of Geer and blood pattern examination. Bellows is holding off granting or denying production of several documents as they relate to the county's internal investigation or the federal investigation. He gave the county 30 days to produce all the others.

The FCPD has defended their silence so far through the criminal investigative privilege afforded by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The department declined to comment for this story and the Fairfax County Attorney's office didn't respond to an interview request.

In his opinion piece, Bellows wrote: "The entity seeking to assert the criminal investigative file privilege is no longer responsible for any aspect of the criminal investigation and the entity that is now solely responsible for the criminal investigation has made it clear that it has taken no step to discourage the custodian of the criminal investigative files from disclosure of most of the files at issue."

Bellows referred to correspondence between U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa and Assistant Attorney General Peter Kadzik, acknowledging that the case currently sits with the U.S. Department of Justice, not the state's attorney or the FCPD. Grassley, ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent formal inquiries to FCPD Chief Edwin Roessler



John Geer standing in his doorway in Springfield, minutes before he was shot by a Fairfax County Police officer.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LIEBERMAN

and U.S. Attorney Dana Boente about the case in November 2014. He sent another letter to Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh in December.

Kadzik answered Grassley that the FCPD wasn't instructed to withhold information about the shooting, only the federal investigation.

Lieberman has continued to criticize the Board of Supervisors, who have authority over the FCPD and allowed the silence from that department to continue.

For Stewart and the Geer family, the continued silence, even with this recent disclosure, has been frustrating and painful.

"It's surreal enough to watch your friend get shot," said Stewart. "It goes to a whole different level when no one's held accountable."

"I can't figure out why I've had to go through this miserable 16 months in order to hear anything being done at all," said Don Geer. "Closure would be why someone pulled the trigger and killed my son, that's as much as I can expect at this point in time. A better idea of why did it happen."

SUPERVISOR Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) agrees transparency has been a problem.

"We need to be transparent and we haven't been," he said in a recent interview. "The county attorney is supposed to provide advice, we make decisions. I think we've been following overly protective legal advice instead of making the right decision in this case, is really what it boils down to."

Lieberman said he sees this action by the county as "preemptive damage control." He continued, "The only positive thing I take out of it is some claim they're finally going to change the policies."

Bulova admitted the Board of Supervisors, FCPD and County Attorney's policies on information sharing all need to be examined. "In retrospect," she said, "our policies need to be changed to provide information sooner if there is a delay like this."

She also addressed the possibility of revisiting creating a citizen's police advisory council.

"At least it's getting their attention," Geer said. "The idea of the police investigating the police just doesn't work. That's all there is to it."

Lieberman is optimistic that future hearings will help produce more documents, and for now at least some answers to 16-month-old questions are coming forward.

"The nightmare of John's shooting isn't ever going to end," he said, "but the nightmare of what the county's done, at least we can see the light at the end of the tunnel for getting over that part."



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Brazen illegal dumping in the resource protection area along Quander Brook in the vicinity of Fort Hunt Road and U.S. Route 1. This area is the first impression of a ruined landscape visitors to the Mount Vernon area have when coming from Alexandria or the beltway. Who is responsible and pays for the cleanup required to fix this outrageous behavior?



Play area for children in the penn Daw Mobile Home Park adjacent to the 8.5 acres donated to Fairfax County by Elizabeth Fairchild for the expressed purpose of becoming a community park. When will the Park Authority engage with the community over issues they say keep them from taking this free land donation?

Origin of Mount Vernon Watersheds

Future of watersheds remains unresolved.

BY MARTIN TILLET

In a watershed, it is the tremendous diversity of life that makes it work. There is a trade-off when human intervention changes the way nature works. We have disconnected the water systems, the patterns of water in the landscape to which plant and animal life communities have adapted over millennia. Headwater streams are eliminated altogether and buried in drainage pipes or flow through concrete channels. On the banks of Quander Brook, even when we see trees

PART 7 all around us, the forest that once characterized the area is mostly gone because the fragmentation of the original forest has altered species composition allowing alien species to invade and expand at the expense of native species. The Quander Brook watershed is on the verge of dying. Why is there not an audible, concerted, powerful outcry against the ugliness and destruction of this once graceful natural landscape?

It has been the urge of the people inhabiting this watershed to build, to make nature produce money, to manipulate natural forces to our presumed advantage claiming that we are improving the land. We have evidence that doing so has left us a ruined landscape by failing to acknowledge that we owe our being to the interaction of those natural forces we cannot entirely control. Have we realized too late that nature's complexity, its diversity operates to our benefit?

Competing visions of the future have given us this dilemma. One path continues the status quo by projecting the same patterns of development accommodating the march of low-density, auto dependent, sprawling growth, perpetuating our irresponsible patterns of waste and consumption; and witnessing the decline in the bonds of community and the quality of our

living conditions.

The alternative vision is a future in which land is consumed sparingly, landscapes are cherished, even restored and communities are compact, vibrant and green. These are places that have much to offer in social, cultural and recreational activity, where there is a feeling of community, an active civic life and a concern for social justice. In these communities, many transportation options including public transit, bicycles and walking exist with the automobile thus enhancing fundamental human mobility and freedom. The economic base in these communities is viable as well as environmentally and socially restorative. The vision of place focuses on both the ecological and the social, where quantity of consumption is replaced with a quality of relationships. It is about creating places of enduring value that citizens can be proud of and not ashamed to leave their descendants.

In the Sept. 28, 1995 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette, Andrew Macdonald wrote a weekly column called Earth Watch Alexandria. This article was the first written about Quander Brook after joining me for a walk along the banks of the then unnamed stream in the Spring Bank neighborhood and observing the plight of this watershed. We were of a like mind agreeing that the remaining remnants of natural beauty in this part of Mount Vernon ought to be saved.

In the Sept. 10, 1998 Mount Vernon Gazette, staff writer Steve Hunt wrote an article about how residents in the neighborhoods around the Lamond property aren't the only ones in Mount Vernon who are hoping to prevent development of green space which they would rather see turned into a park. The Spring Bank Community Association formed by reaching out to residents to draw their attention to the unnamed stream in their neighbor-

hood and its potential as a community asset by becoming parkland. The Spring Bank Community Association named the stream Quander Brook and was supported by a resolution passed by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

In April 2006, residents of the Spring Bank Community formed Friends of Quander Brook and sponsored the first cleanup effort that resulted in the removal of 2.62 tons of trash from Quander Brook.

In the June 26, 2006 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette writer Chuck Hagee wrote in an article that a consensus was reached on June 12 when the Spring Bank Community Association voted overwhelmingly to support the latest plans for the Kings Crossing Development that included a community park surrounding Quander Brook.

In 2008 The Mount Vernon Council of

Citizens Associations passed a resolution for developing a passive public nature park in the Spring Bank Community to protect and conserve Quander Brook.

In the Oct. 8, 2009 issue of the Mount Vernon Gazette writer Gerald A. Fill wrote about Elizabeth Fairchild donating 8.5 acres of land to Fairfax County in the Spring Bank neighborhood for the expressed purpose of becoming a park. Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said, "Mrs. Fairchild's generous donation contributes greatly to the quality of the environment." Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland said, "This land will provide a place for children to play and families to gather and it will also provide the county staff and the board an opportunity to use it as a neighborhood improvement model to hopefully be replicated elsewhere in the county."

During 2010, Spring Bank residents served for a year on the Belle Haven Watershed Management Plan and on Jan. 11, 2011 the management plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The plan included projects on the donated Fairchild land that would improve conditions in the Quander Brook watershed.

On the Fairfax County website on storm water improvement projects are the 21 identified county watersheds at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/projects/project_list.htm Not a single project has been completed in the Belle Haven watershed with only one minor project in the planning process that does not involve Quander Brook. Many listed watersheds on this site have numerous completed projects including stream restorations and many other projects in planning stages. Spring Bank residents think it is time for planning some real projects benefitting Quander Brook.

When seeking the transfer of the
SEE FUTURE, PAGE 14



Perennial homeless camps along Quander Brook create unsanitary conditions contaminating the stream with trash and wastes. Such camps are not permitted on Fairfax County Parkland where enforcement keeps such activity in check.

Community Mourns Death of Herb Harris

FROM PAGE 1

construction of the bike path on the Mount Vernon Parkway along the Potomac River that extends from Alexandria city to the Mount Vernon estate, and as chairman of the District of Columbia Congressional subcommittee on Human Resources was a strong advocate for federal worker pay and benefits comparable to the private sector.

In their U.S. Congressional floor remarks in 2001 dedicating a new U.S. Post Office on U.S. Route 1 at 8588 Richmond Highway as the Herb Harris Post Office Building, U.S. Rep. Tom Davis and U.S. Rep. Jim Moran discussed what Harris meant to the region.

Davis said: "Prior to being elected to Congress, Herb served as a member of the Board of Supervisors and vice chair of the Washington, D.C. Metro Transit Authority. When he entered Congress he was instrumental in securing the needed funding for construction of metro. The metro system as it exists today would not be there but for Herb Harris."

Moran said: "He did more things for Fairfax County and, in many ways, for the nation than we will ever know. He was instrumental in getting funding for a new hospital and expanding the libraries in the Mount Vernon area and in Fairfax county.

The metro transit system is critical to the entire metro Washington area. In the early days it was a very controversial, very political issue, to bring metro out to the suburbs and to pay the costs. You had to have a vision, and Herb had that vision."

In addition to commenting on Harris' numerous accomplishments in transportation, working to save Mount Vernon Hospital, and efforts to improve wages and benefits for federal civilian and military employees, Supervisor Gerry Hyland added: "His Irish charm and wit, his infectious and almost devilish smile made him a delight to be with and enhanced his ability to represent his Mount Vernon constituents so well as supervisor and congressman. Herb Harris was an extraordinary public servant who changed people's lives for the better."

Harris' drive and ambition to get things done was coupled with a view toward the future needs of his community and the region. One example of his vision was demonstrated back in 1975 when he met with Groveton (now West Potomac) high school students who asked him about his thoughts for the future of the area. As recorded in the book, "Snake Hill to Spring Bank: An Oral History, Volume 1," Harris said: "I stood at the head of the Harrelson tract and said that some time in the future you could have a community center here. When I say com-

munity center I just mean a sort of focus of activity, a place that says, 'hey, this is ours, the center of town.' I think we have moved quite a ways along on that. The regional library is now there, the hospital is three fourths there, the mental health center is there. We have our new rescue station there. Between that and the hospital there should be a government center. This can start giving some focus, a place where people can go for government things, where they can meet and so forth."

Forty years later the facilities and services Harris spoke about are now all in place in the Mount Vernon community. His vision for a community is still evolving and being debated; most recently to establish a Mount Vernon Town Center recommended by local citizens in the Supervisor Gerald Hyland Visioning Task Force report.

Harris' daughter, Susan Hept, was asked what she thought he would like to be remembered for. She responded "that he made a difference." Furthermore, she said that he would like to be remembered as "a great family man, and loved having his family around him." Hept characterized her father's no nonsense, full-steam ahead approach to his public responsibilities, and who he was as a father and person: "He was always trying to do what needed to be done to make life better. He taught us all

Details

Herbert E. Harris, II, 88

Born: Kansas City, Mo. April 14, 1926

Married: 50 years, Nancy Fodell Harris; deceased, 2001

Children: Five: one son, Sean, died November 2014. He is survived by four other children: Bert Harris of Alexandria, Va.; Frank Harris of Manassas, Va.; Susan Hept of Poolesville, Md.; Kevin Harris, Leesburg, Va.; 8 grandchildren; six great grandchildren.

Education: B.A. Rockhurst University, 1948; J.D. Georgetown University Law School, 1951

Business: Co-founder, President, General Counsel: International Trade Consultants firm of Warner & Harris, Inc. 1955-1970 represented the American Farm Bureau Federation in Washington. Partner, Harris, Ellsworth, and Levin. A law firm specializing in international trade.

Elected Offices: Mount Vernon District Supervisor of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1968-1974. U.S. Representative (D-8) 1975-1981

Member: Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, 1968-74; Vice Chair, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, 1970-74

that, if you see something that needs to be changed for the better, get out there and do something about it."

Services were held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church on Jan. 5. Interment was followed at Quantico National Veterans Cemetery, with military honors. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Alzheimers Association.



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OPINION

Happy New Year Focused on community.

Happy New Year. We need your help in 2015.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission — the Mount Vernon Gazette is a Connection newspaper — is to deliver news readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know. We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or so to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) at least two weeks ahead of time. Email to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Events generally must be open to the public and either free or at nominal cost to be included in calendars.

After your events, email us a photo and a

note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

EDITORIAL

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company. The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon.

The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

The operation of these community-serving publications is entirely funded by advertising. The papers are delivered free to homes and businesses throughout Northern Virginia, and through free digital subscriptions, with more than 200,000 readers across the region. If you or your organization appreciate the Connection publications, please support them by patronizing our advertisers and by spending a

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— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

COMMENTARY

Looking at School Facility Improvements

BY DAN STORCK

MT. VERNON DISTRICT MEMBER
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD



This past Wednesday the Fairfax County School Board held a public hearing on the 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP, which is annually updated, identifies Fairfax County Public Schools' five-year facility and capital needs and the request to the county for funding.

The public hearing was the School Board's first opportunity to hear from the community about the CIP and its impact on your school, although I have personally met and communicated with hundreds of you over the past two weeks. Due to substantial community concern about the CIP and the upcoming boundary study process that will start by early March, I will be devoting the Sherwood Hall Library portion of my regular community office hours this Saturday, Jan. 10, beginning at 1 pm, to addressing any questions or concerns constituents may have.

I have reserved the larger meeting room on the first floor of the Sherwood Hall Library for

this purpose. The board will formally be considering the CIP and public comments received at our Jan. 12 work session and is scheduled to vote on the capital program at the Jan. 22 board meeting. You are also encouraged to share your comments about the CIP with me at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or all

School Board members by emailing those comments to fairfaxcountyschoolboard@fcps.edu.

Included in this CIP — to meet the Richmond Highway Corridor student growth and facility improvement needs — is funding for a new area elementary school, a new Ft. Belvoir ES (80 percent federally funded), and additions, renovations and/or planning funding for Woodlawn ES, Bucknell ES, Waynewood ES, Stratford Landing ES, Hollin Meadows ES, Mt. Vernon Woods ES, and Belle View ES. With over a billion dollar shortfall in FCPS's capital funding needs, these substantial county financial commitments to Richmond Highway Corridor schools will enable our community to meet its new classroom and school renovation commitments, while providing our students with some of the best school facilities in the county. These

investments are critical to relieving school overcrowding and providing the additional pre-school development, advanced academic and innovative program spaces crucial to developing each of our students to their full potential.

For the first time this year, the staff recommended CIP "include potential capacity and capital solutions to schools which are currently or projected to be over-capacity." While I have been a fierce advocate in getting the capital funding which this CIP provides to address our schools' overcrowding, I have many concerns about the specifics of the proposed school enrollment changes and would not support any changes prior to public meetings and engagement with community stakeholders. As I have consistently committed to the community, staff and board members, a deep, transparent community engagement process that includes many meetings, many school enrollment options, over many months of time is essential. I look forward to that process so that I can best represent you. Your views are always welcomed by me and crucial to exceeding the needs of our students. As always, it is an honor to represent you.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper



LETTER

Curb Federal Spending

To the Editor:

Virginia has initiated action, as other states have, asking Congress to call a convention of states as specified in Article V of the U.S. Constitution limiting its purpose to amending the U.S. Constitution to impose fiscal restraint on the Federal government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the Federal Government and limiting the terms of office for the officials and for members of Congress.

House Joint Resolution No. 497, Chief Patroned by Delegate Lingamfelter of the 31st District (part of Fauquier and Prince William), has been introduced for consideration by the 2015 Virginia General Assembly. Fiscal restraint by the Federal Government should help to reduce spending that has increased the U.S. national debt by \$7 trillion in the last six years and now exceeds \$17 trillion and climbing, placing a huge financial burden on us, our children

and grandchildren. Also, the U.S. government credit rating has been reduced for the first time in the US history. Reckless spending cannot continue to the detriment of all of us.

A balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution should help control skyrocketing Federal spending.

States and other local governmental entities are required by law to balance their budgets, so why should the Federal government be exempt? Also, hardworking taxpayers don't have access to unlimited funds so why should the Federal government?

Limiting the power of the Federal government to continue mandating unfunded programs and services for states should help reduce the financial burden on taxpayers and the overreach of the Federal government to dictate a one shoe fits all approach while increasing the already huge financial burden.

And finally, limiting terms of congressional members should go a long way to help make congress more accountable to the people. Currently, career politicians in Congress are somewhat beholden to special interest groups that include large financial contributors for reelection purposes.

Thus, career politicians seem to do what they believe is necessary to help ensure that their careers will continue instead of doing what is right for all Americans. That must end. Term limits would greatly help make congress more accountable to the folks.

You can go to www.conventionofstates.com and sign the petition calling for the convention of states as described above. You can also go to lis.virginia.gov and click on members, click on Lingamfelter and click on Chief Patron legislation to read the details of House Joint Resolution No 497 that asks congress to call a convention of states according to Article V of the US Constitution. Or, you can go the lis web page and search for HJ 497.

We must have effective checks and balances between the Federal government and states for the protection of all of us as proposed by Amendment X of the U.S. Constitution that reads "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, not prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people." You can make a real difference for all Americans by getting involved and signing the petition.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon



497

days since a Fairfax County police officer shot unarmed John Geer standing in the doorway of Geer's home in Springfield, then let him bleed to death on Aug. 29, 2013. It took 495 days for the police to name the officer involved, PFC Adam Torres. No other information has been released about the incident, no explanation, no grand jury, no charges. (as of Jan. 7, 2015)

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FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts I
2/4/2015 Wellbeing - National Children's Dental Health Month
2/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle
2/11/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16
2/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
2/25/2015 Pet Connection Pullout

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Brad Kintz 703.629.0103
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ONGOING

Mount Vernon Virtual Tour.

Website users can now transport themselves to George Washington's Mount Vernon through a new virtual tour. Featuring twenty-nine 360-degree panoramic images, more than 200 points of interest, and dozens of in-depth videos highlighting architectural details, objects and anecdotes, the tour recreates the experience of being at the estate. www.mountvernon.org/virtualltour

Tavern Toddlers.

Weekly open playtime continues every Monday throughout holiday season. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, North Royal Street, Alexandria. Caregivers, toddlers (walkers through 3 years) and visiting relatives are welcome to play, read, dance and color in the historic ballroom. No reservations required. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are \$3. A three-visit pass costs \$18. On Monday, Feb. 16 Tavern Toddlers will be closed due to President's Day. www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-746-4242.

"The Space Between."

Through Feb. 22 at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Photographer Janet Matthews presents a portfolio of new work in this solo exhibit at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, looking beyond the literal representation of objects to explore their edges and the space that surrounds them. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205 for more.

"Beyond the Board" Art Exhibit.

Through Feb. 22. Prudential PenFed Realty, 4900 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans' presents "Beyond the Board." A portion of artists' sales go to the PenFed Foundation, supporting active military families, veterans and their families. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org/shows/gww/ for more.

New Exhibit.

Mount Vernon invites visitors to explore George Washington's design for the grounds of his estate, through a new exhibition, "Gardens & Groves: George Washington's Landscape" at Mount Vernon through Jan. 12, 2016. Gardens & Groves is the first museum exhibition to focus specifically on Washington's landmark achievements as a landscape designer combining rarely-seen original documents, artwork, and books with period garden tools, landscape photography, and a scale model of the Mount Vernon estate. Included in admission \$18/adult; \$17/senior citizen; \$9/child age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Alexandria Cars & Coffee

invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of 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.

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



PHOTO BY ERIC ZITZ

Michael Cartwright, Katie Courlander and Justus Hammond will appear in "Smellin' Up the Den" at Port City Playhouse.

'Smellin' Up the Den'

The classiest potty humor in the DMV. "Smellin' Up the Den," by Scott Courlander and David Juliano, was originally produced at Amy Poehler's Upright Citizens Brigade Theater in New York, and was a favorite of crowds and critics at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival. Audiences will be treated to an hour-long whirlwind of hysterical vignettes. \$18-\$24. At Port City Playhouse, 1819 Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Visit www.redknightproductions.com or www.portcityplayhouse.com.

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. Visit www.PresPassport.Monticello.org.

Fifty Years of Collecting.

Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.forward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons.

Noon at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Second Thursday Music.

Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

has been a weekly event at Huntley Meadows since 1985. It takes place every week, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free of charge, requires no reservation, and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Tavern Toddlers. Every Monday (except Federal Holidays) 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal Street, Alexandria. Join other families with toddlers (walkers through 36 months) to have

fun in Gadsby's historic ballroom. Playtime features a craft table, book corner, toys and group dancing. \$7 for a group of three. Visit www.alexandria.gov/gadsbystavern or call 703-746-4242.

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.

Life Drawing.

Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring 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.

THURSDAY/JAN. 8

Second Thursday Live: Cynthia Marie Concert.

7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Cynthia Marie returns with her soulful voice and piano playing. Special guests join her this evening. Admission \$15. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org.

JAN. 8-FEB. 22

Exhibition "Unearthed | Unleashed." In the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Gessner's mixed media sculptures reference a variety of natural forms. Kent's minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 10

Family Fun: "Desert Dreams." 1-2

p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Green Spring Gardens invites visitors to investigate the deserts of the Southwest in the park's glasshouse. Participants will hear a story, sample a tasty cactus treat, and take home a plant to remind them that warmer days lie ahead. Desert Dreams is a family-friendly program suited for children ages five and older with a registered adult. The cost is \$6 per person and registration is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/ed-children.htm or by calling 703-222-4664.

Chords of Courage Benefit Concert.

7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Chords of Courage, founded by Caron Dale, tells the stories of people who have performed an act of courage and suffered in the process or performed an act of inspiration born of tragedy. She will be joined by fellow folk musicians Kevin Dudley, Laura Baron, Bain Ennis and Matt Kohut, and members of the band R.S.V.P. With special guest Allison Silberberg. \$18/\$15 in advance. Call 703-380-3151 or visit www.focusmusic.org/venue_alexandria.php or chordsofcourage.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 11

Artist Reception: "The Space Between."

2-4 p.m. at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Studio 312. Photographer Janet Matthews presents a portfolio of new work in this solo exhibit at the Multiple Exposures Gallery, looking beyond the literal representation of objects to explore their edges and the space that surrounds them. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com or call 703-683-2205 for more.

Winter Warmer Tea with Dolley Madison.

3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sip a special blend of

tea from Gadsby's Tavern Museum, "take" a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, and eat period-inspired delicacies, both sweet and savory, with your 21st-century friends. A historic guest who will be visit during each tea. \$35 per person all inclusive. Reservations are required. To make reservations and purchase tickets, call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov. Ticket also includes a tour at 2:15 or 2:45 prior to the tea.

Opening Reception of exhibition "Unearthed | Unleashed."

4-6 p.m., in the Athenaeum Gallery 201 Prince St., Alexandria. An exhibition of the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 9-10

Concert. 8 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder will perform. Tickets \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

MONDAY/JAN. 12

55+ Singers Welcome. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Encore invites novice and experienced singers who are 55 and older to join the winter/spring season of Encore Chorale. There are no auditions, new singers are welcome, and singers may be seated for rehearsals and performances. Visit www.encorecreativity.org or call 301-261-5747 for registration information and fees.

TUESDAY/JAN. 13

NOVA Community Chorus

Rehearsal. 7:30 p.m. at the NVCC Alexandria campus, 3001 N. Beauregard. All interested singers invited. No audition is required. Join by registering for this one-credit class at Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus. The college waives tuition for seniors. Contact Mark Whitmire at 703-845-6097 or mwhitmire@nvcc.edu.

Local Musician.

9 p.m. at Liv Nightclub, 2001 11th St. Northwest, Washington, D.C. Alexandria's Vizualye is a rap artist who wants nothing more than to share his music with the world. Visit <https://tatemusicgroup.com/epk/artist/19628> for more.

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS/JAN. 16-30

"Smellin' Up the Den." At Port City Playhouse, 1819 Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The classiest potty humor in the DMV. "Smellin' Up the Den," by Scott Courlander and David Juliano, was originally produced at Amy Poehler's Upright Citizens Brigade Theater in New York, and was a favorite of crowds and critics at the 2013 Capital Fringe Festival. Audiences will be treated to an hour-long whirlwind of hysterical vignettes. \$18-\$24. Visit www.redknightproductions.com or www.portcityplayhouse.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 22

The Nocturnal Concert. 8 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Contemporary a cappella music performed by recent graduates from the University of Virginia, Virginia Tech, and Wheaton College. \$15 admission. Call 703-548-0035 or visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

Junior Brown. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$25. Visit birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

ENTERTAINMENT



“Construct #13,” by Joanne Kent, plywood, oil paint and wax medium, 2013

“Amphibious,” by Michael Gessner, paper and wood, 2013

‘Unearthed | Unleashed’

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association presents the works of Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent in “Unearthed | Unleashed” in the Athenaeum gallery, 201 Prince St., Jan. 8-Feb. 22. A opening reception will be held Sunday, Jan. 11, 4-6 p.m. The artists will present a gallery talk, “Symbiosis and Tension” on Sunday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. The reception and gallery talk are both free. Gessner’s mixed media sculptures are lyrical and reference a wide variety of natural forms. Kent’s minimal works with thickly applied paint and wax appear to be a subtle, meditative reflection on organic elements and artifacts. Both artists’ works are evocative of primal and organic elements, and the works in the show represent the unearthing and unleashing of these forces. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Presidential Salon. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 North Royal St. Join President James Madison, as presented by John Douglas Hall, to discuss the recent Battle of New Orleans and the arrival of the Treaty of Ghent in the context of his own time, and be a witness to the events of the year of 1815. Reservations are recommended and tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Madeira, Port and other libations will be available for purchase. To purchase tickets, visit shop.alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-4242.

Jeffrey Osborne. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

TUESDAY/JAN. 27

New Exhibit. 12:35 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Meet the curator of The Lyceum’s new exhibit, Explore the Attic, and learn how an exhibit goes from concept to script to objects on display. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

“Elements” Art Exhibit Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. John Bordner, Kathryn Brown, Michele Reday Cook, Linda Elliff, Kim S. Joy, Marlin Lord and Tamara Wilkerson present artworks which incorporate elements of earth, water, air and fire in materials, media and subject matter. Gallery hours are Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 7

The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 7-8

Alice’s Restaurant 50th Anniversary Tour. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Arlo Guthrie celebrates the event that inspired the song “Alice’s Restaurant Massacre.” Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.Birchmere.com for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

The Beverly Hillbillies. 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the whole Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

Winter Warmer Tea with Martha Washington.

3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Restaurant, 138 North Royal St., Alexandria. Sip a special blend of tea from Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, “take” a cup of American Heritage Chocolate, and eat period-inspired delicacies, both sweet and savory, with your 21st-century friends. A historic guest who will be visit during each tea. \$35 per person all inclusive. Reservations are required. To make reservations and purchase tickets, call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov. Ticket also includes a tour at 2:15 or 2:45 prior to the tea.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Eric Benet. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets \$59.50. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.birchmere.com.

The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

The Beverly Hillbillies. 7:30 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

The Beverly Hillbillies. 3 p.m. at MVCCT, Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. After accidentally striking it rich with oil, watch the Clampett family find their way in this new land inhabited by movie stars and the fabulously wealthy. \$12. Purchase tickets at www.mvcct.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 17

History to Life. 12:45 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In honor of George Washington’s birthday, learn how the citizens of Alexandria would celebrate his birthday in the late 1790s. Includes opportunity to wear reproduction clothing and a period dance lesson. Call 703-746-4242 or visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

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Education, Gun Violence Prevention on Legislature's Agenda

SCOTT A. SUROVELL
DELEGATE (D-44)



The Virginia General Assembly will convene on Jan. 15 in Richmond for a 45-day “short” session. This article is an overview of the session and my article next week will cover my legislative agenda.

First, be sure to complete my 2015 constituent survey at www.scottsurovell.org/survey. You can also share your suggestions to the entire 25-member Fairfax County delegation on Saturday, Jan. 10, 9 a.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax 22035).

COMMENTARY

Since we adopt a budget on a two-year cycle, the legislature will only make adjustments to the existing budget this session. Because of a flat economy, the revenue projections used last year were off by \$2.4 billion. Last September, the General Assembly reached an agreement with Gov. Terry McAuliffe to address a significant portion of those reductions, but we still need to cut \$300 million to balance the budget.

On education, Governor McAuliffe has proposed revisions to school assessments

and Standards of Learning (SOLs) tests. His goal is to create a fairer process for evaluating school performance.

Also, the 2014 launch of Governor McDonnell’s “A-F” school grading system was postponed for consideration to this session and both changes and repeal have been proposed. Although I initially supported the idea, I now favor repealing this system because it creates an unfair stigma for some schools, especially schools in the U.S. 1 Corridor that have many hard-working teachers and students.

Virginia’s elementary and secondary school funding crisis is festering. Although the amount of money that Virginia sends to Fairfax County for public schools has risen substantially over the last seven years, so has our student population and the amount Virginia spends per child statewide is less today than it was in 2007. Given our budget shortfall, a change in this trend soon is unlikely.

When this article is in print, Gov. Bob McDonnell’s sentence will likely be known. His case has highlighted the need for more ethics reforms. There are already bills pend-

ing to limit employment and pensions of former legislators, cap gifts and enhance reporting. Ethics are going to be a major focus.

The Governor has announced several gun violence prevention proposals including reinstating the “one-gun-a-month” purchase law, revoking concealed weapons permits for people delinquent in child support payments, requiring universal background checks and closing the gun show-background checks purchasing loophole. He has also proposed prohibiting firearm possession for anyone convicted of stalking, sexual battery, brandishing or multiple assault and battery convictions.

Gun rights advocates are expected to push for lifetime concealed weapons permits and reciprocity among states for concealed weapons permits so that if people are denied a Virginia concealed weapons permit, they can get one in another state to use here.

Governor McAuliffe has also proposed several initiatives to encourage investments in green energy such as solar and energy efficiency. As he works to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency’s new regulations requiring Virginia to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 30 percent, several legislators have proposed bills to obstruct these plans.

Immigration is also likely to be a hot topic. President Obama recently acted to grant provisional legal status to individuals who register, submit biometric data, pass criminal background and national security checks and pay fees and penalties. He also proposed creating a path to citizenship for children brought to the U.S. by their parents.

In light of these changes, Attorney General Mark Herring advised our universities that children who are granted legal status by the federal government will be eligible for in-state tuition if they otherwise meet requirements. Legislation to put this policy into law failed last year, but legislation has already been introduced to prohibit these children from getting in-state tuition. More legislation directed at new residents of our country is likely coming.

Finally, the General Assembly is under court order to redraw all 11 congressional districts before April 15, 2015. This rewrite is likely to be contentious. I continue to believe non-partisan redistricting is more appropriate than politicians picking their voters, but that approach is not likely to pass.

It is an honor to represent you in the House of Delegates. Please contact me any time at scott@scottsurovell.org with your views and suggestions.

Preventing Infestation of Fall Cankerworm

BY PAUL B. PHELPS

The fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pomataria*, FCW) is a small, undistinguished moth native to eastern North America. Its females lay eggs in late fall and winter in the tops of deciduous trees, where the eggs winter over and hatch about the time of bud break in the spring. The caterpillars feed like mad for four or five weeks and then rappel to the ground like little green inchworms on silken threads. After a sum-

mer pupating underground, the adults emerge in late fall to mate, and the wingless females climb back up the trees to lay another brood.

COMMENTARY

In sufficient numbers, FCW caterpillars are capable of defoliating their hosts, and repeated defoliation is enough to damage or kill even the biggest oak, maple or elm. Urban forests, which are already stressed by fragmentation, soils disturbance, high temperatures, and invasive pests (e.g., ivy and deer), are particularly vulnerable to FCW.

The county’s Urban Forest Management Division monitors for “hot spots” by capturing the climbing females on sticky strips wrapped around the trees in fall. Anything over 90 females per tree constitutes an infestation, and in some cases they’ve recorded up to 300 females per tree. Their response is to spray the “hot spots” from helicopters with a biological control called *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (Btk), a naturally occurring soil bacterium that’s safe enough for organic gardens. Sprayed in the treetops in early spring, Btk introduces a toxic protein into the caterpillar’s gut and kills the FCW before it can kill the tree.

The problem with Btk is that it can kill other kinds of caterpillars, but only if they too are up and eating the first baby leaves of spring. And the county is judicious in its use of Btk — they’ve sprayed for FCW only four times in the past 15 years, usually on small spray blocks (less than 100 acres), and the low-flying helicopters use GPS targeting to reduce drift. Property-owners receive written notices if they’re anywhere near a spray area, and they can easily opt out of the program. Target areas for 2014 included a small block near White Oak Park and a larger area at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek, near Mount Vernon. Neither area was within 200 meters of a Hollin Hills property.

There’s little reason to opt out, however. The program sprays only once and with a low dose of Btk, just one-fourth of the amount they were spraying for gypsy moth. In addition, there’s none of the sticker-

spreader that gummed up the finish on our cars; in fact, the frass (bug poop) from the FCW caterpillars is more of a threat to our cars and lawn furniture. Btk persists for only two weeks before being broken down by rain and ultraviolet light, so any species that hatches later will survive.

In fact, research has shown that spraying to control one species of *Lepidoptera* may actually increase the diversity of the remaining population of butterflies and moths. And the birds can safely eat the dead caterpillars, since Btk doesn’t affect the guts of higher animals (including bees, fish, birds, pets, and humans).

The Urban Forest Management Division is investigating alternatives to spraying, and several environmental groups have offered to help them develop non-spray FCW control strategies. There are several things that property owners can do to protect their own trees. The simplest and most effective control is to band your own trees in the fall to prevent the females from climbing into the treetops. This involves wrapping a layer of burlap or batting around the tree, a few feet off the ground, then a layer of tarpaper or roofing felt, and then a two-inch strip of Tanglefoot or some other sticky agent to catch the climbers. Keep the band in place from mid-November through January, and refresh the sticky agent as needed.

Every female that doesn’t get to the treetop means a hundred caterpillars that won’t be eating the leaves come spring. Search the county’s website for “fall cankerworm” to find more ideas and information.

Future of Watersheds

FROM PAGE 6

donated Fairchild property to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) the community is told no because there are issues over public access, usability, financial liabilities, and the FCPA focus is on active use like playing fields and passive use is not a high priority.

The Spring Bank Community believes that none of the issues listed by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) are insurmountable and feels that the FCPA should engage directly with community representatives and stakeholders to seek out solutions and involve the viewpoints of everyone in public debate which has long been the Mount Vernon way to solve problems.

How did this happen to us? Are we allowing agencies that claim impotence towards resolving these issues to unempower us and just let the streams die of this dis-

ease? Do we let this happen, imagining that it is inevitable, failing to question, failing to find the resources for action, failing to join others who seek exemplary change — toward a more participatory democracy, seeking more green infrastructure planning? Will we content ourselves instead with piddling efforts that do not really count and only prolong the disease instead of curing it? Do we let this happen — though we have the power to redeem ourselves as one of a myriad extraordinary species of life with which we share this amazing planet Earth?

The author is a Mount Vernon resident since 1981. A retired science educator from Prince George’s County Public Schools, he taught K-12 science at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Greenbelt, Md., as well as community college, university and adult education classes in natural history, physical geology, ecology and environmental science.

Top Fitness Trends for 2015

Here are some low-cost, mobile routines.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

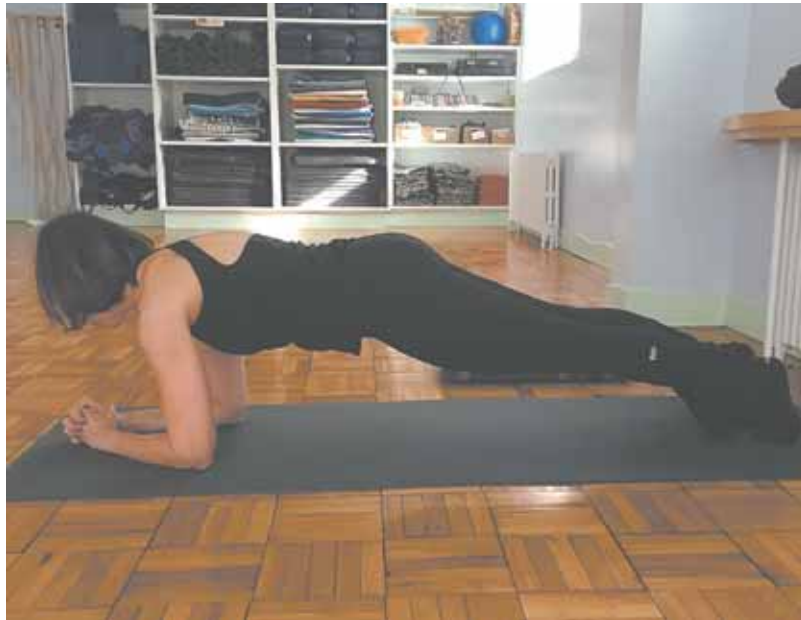


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Bodyweight training, which includes exercises such as plank, is the top fitness trend for 2015 according to the American College of Sports Medicine.

The beginning of a new year is often a time when many resolve to begin a fitness plan or to ramp up their current routine. Officials at the American College of Sports Medicine rang in the New Year by releasing the organization's annual survey of the top fitness trends for 2015.

From push-ups to plank, bodyweight training tops ACSM's list of fitness trends. Low cost and mobile, this routine takes exercise back to the basics: think pull-ups and squats. "You really don't need equipment or a gym membership, and there's almost no cost involved," said Katrina Salum, a personal trainer based in Arlington. "It's effective because you can build muscle and burn fat simply by using your own body weight for resistance."

The popularity of bodyweight moves are due to the ease in which they can be incorporated into your daily routine, said Salum. "You can do three sets of eight squats while you're brushing your teeth and 10 pushups while you're waiting for your coffee to brew."

THE PRACTICE of alternating intense periods of aerobic activity with low intensity exercises, known as high-intensity interval training (HIIT), is number two on the list of trends. Varying exercises can stave off boredom, a factor that leads many people to abandon their fitness practice," said Scott Goldberg, a personal trainer in Potomac, Md. "Most HIIT routines can be done in 30 minutes," he said. "One simple routine is warming up by walking on a treadmill, then doing 10 squats, 10 push ups and 10 planks followed by a 30-second fast-paced sprint. Then walk slowly in place for four minutes to rest then repeat the entire routine five times."

Taking classes or training sessions from licensed, certified and educated fitness professionals is number three on the list. Traditional weight training is number four, followed by enlisting the help of a personal trainer and combining exercise and nutrition into a fitness plan, which are numbers five and six respectively.

"To be healthy you need to exercise, but also eat foods that are good for you," said Gretchen Juliano, a dietitian in Old Town Alexandria. "Eating foods that are low in carbs and high in protein before working out forces your body to burn fat and gives you energy."

Fitness industry pros say yoga is number seven.

"The practice of yoga gives you muscular flexibility through the stretching involved in the yoga poses," said Dawn Curtis, East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna. "Yoga also provides immune strengthening. A regular yoga practice will also help with your healthy tissue maintenance and healthy growth of new muscles, bones, tendons, and ligaments, which are essential body components for fighting disease."

Curtis points to the detoxifying effects of yoga.

"A regular yoga practice will increase your blood circulation, which in turn helps flush out toxins from your body," she said. "As your body flushes out these toxins, to be released by the stretches of the muscle movement, they are replaced with new nourishing nutrients for a healthier body and mind...Students with a regular practice...report [having] long lasting results both physically and mentally, especially with reducing stress."

A commitment of practicing two to three times each week is necessary for noticeable results.

"Consistency is the key in yoga," said Sara VanderGoot of Mind the Mat Yoga and Pilates in Arlington and Alexandria. "It is like vitamins. The real effect is doing it over time, and incorporating it into your life rather than just doing it once. Yoga is not a quick fix, but a very powerful transformative practice if done regularly over time."

Fitness programs for seniors make the list at number eight.

"Even 30-minutes of strength training and 20 minutes of aerobics 2 or 4 times a week can help us fight diseases like diabetes and heart disease as we age," said Goldberg.

FUNCTIONAL FITNESS EXERCISES, those that make your body stronger for everyday activities like doing laundry, lifting small children or simply using good posture when sitting at a desk, come in at number nine on the ACSM list while group personal training sessions are number ten.

"One of the benefits of working out with a group is accountability," said Salum. "It's also less expensive than hiring a personal training and can be more fun."

"It is like vitamins. The real effect is doing it over time and incorporating it into your life rather than just doing it once."

— Sara VanderGoot

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Good Shepherd Catholic Church

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Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español)	(en Español); 6:30 pm
Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)	Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
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	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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

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Mount Vernon Gazette

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SPORTS

Top Moments in 2014 Mount Vernon Sports

Mount Vernon girls' basketball enters 2015 with winning record.

The following is a look at some of the top moments in Mount Vernon sports during 2014 and what lies ahead in 2015.

MOUNT VERNON GIRLS' BASKETBALL QUALIFIES FOR STATES

The Mount Vernon girls' basketball team, despite the graduation of multiple college-level athletes, reached the 2014 5A state playoffs.

The Majors finished runner-up to Edison in Conference 13 and the 5A North region before losing to perennial power Princess Anne in the state semifinals. Princess Anne went on to play in its sixth consecutive state final, beating Highland Springs to win the championship.

Mount Vernon finished the season with a 22-7 record.

MOUNT VERNON BOYS' BASKETBALL UPSETS EDISON

The Mount Vernon boys' basketball team closed the 2013-14 regular season with a 22-point loss to Wakefield and entered the Conference 13 tournament as the No. 7 seed in an eight-team conference.

Despite the lack of momentum, the Majors upset No. 2 seed Edison in the opening round, 81-74 in overtime, securing a berth in the region tournament while ending the talented Eagles' season.

"Everything came together tonight," Mount Vernon head coach John Wiley said after the game. "Now we take the same path as last year."

It turned out the Majors would follow the same path two years in a row. Mount Vernon defeated

Stuart in the conference semifinals and met Wakefield in the championship game. The Majors finished runner-up for the second straight year.

WP BASEBALL, MV SOFTBALL REACH CONFERENCE FINALS

The West Potomac baseball team, led by the pitching of Billy Lescher and Michael Barnes, and the late-season slugging of Jamie Sara, reached the Conference 7 championship game, where the Wolverines lost to West Springfield.

The Wolverines responded with a win over Patriot in the opening round of regionals before losing a one-run game to Madison in the quarterfinals.

West Potomac finished the season with a 15-9 record.

The Mount Vernon softball team responded to a lopsided loss to West Potomac in the season opener by winning its next 10 games.

The Majors eventually finished with a 19-5 record, including a trip to the Conference 13 championship game, where Mount Vernon lost to Marshall.

Stormy Zyzyk was a standout for the Majors.

A LOOK TO 2015

❖ The Mount Vernon girls' basketball team entered 2015 with a 6-3 record. The Majors faced Oakton on Jan. 7 and will be tested again with a road game against Edison on Jan. 9.

❖ The West Potomac boys' basketball team concluded the 2014 portion of its schedule with a 5-6 record.

❖ The West Potomac baseball team looks to return to the conference championship game. Slugger Sara showed home run power at the end of his sophomore season. Will he improve?

❖ The Mount Vernon boys' soccer program, which won the state title in 2013, looks to improve on the 2014 season, when the Majors failed to qualify for the conference tournament.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Mount Vernon boys' basketball team reached the 2014 Conference 13 championship game.

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

THROUGH FEB. 14

National Skating Month Celebration.

At Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Alexandria. Enjoy savings on skate passes for public sessions. Passes can be purchased at the RECenter or online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/passses/. For more information about local skating programs, including lessons, ice hockey, figure skating or birthday parties, contact Mount Vernon RECenter at 703-768-3224, email carl.kirtley@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/mtvernon/#ice.

SATURDAY/JAN. 10

Office Hours. Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu

❖ 10 a.m.-noon at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, in the Conference Room.

❖ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

SUNDAY/JAN. 11

School Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

SATURDAY/JAN. 17

Winter Waterfowl Identification. 9 a.m.-noon at Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge and State Park. Join an introduction to winter waterfowl identification, in preparation for the annual ASNV Waterfowl Count. Dress for an outdoor field trip/bird walk. Bring binoculars and a scope if available; leader will have a scope and waterfowl identification guides. Meet at the Woodmarsh Trail parking lot on High Point Road. Directions: from Route 1 in Lorton, take Gunston Rd east. Turn right on High Point Road (toward Mason Neck State Park) to parking lot for the Woodmarsh Trail on the left. Free; advance registration required. Visit www.audubonva.org to register.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Office Hours. Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Members of the

community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu

❖ 10 a.m.-noon at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, in the Conference Room.

❖ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

Antiques Club. 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club will feature Joe Pallone speaking about his personal collection of old American trains, particularly the Lionel models, some of which he will bring to the meeting. Bring antique trains for "Show and Tell." Free, open to the public. Call Ann Connell at 703-360-4970 for more.

MONDAY/JAN. 26

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting. 6:30 p.m. dinner and 7:30 p.m. program, at Historic Mount Vernon Inn, Mount Vernon. Featuring Peter F. Murphy, Chair of the Fairfax

County Planning Commission has served on the Commission since 1982. Cost \$45. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or call 703-360-6925.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org to learn more. Visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, a Ballroom Dance Instructor and a volunteer with basic carpentry skills to build a "Little Free Library," for people to donate and borrow books from. Center will provide plans and materials. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

and click on Volunteer Solutions. The **Gum Springs Senior Center in Alexandria** needs a **Spanish teacher** for a one hour beginner's class on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions. **Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents** needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/, email or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

On-Call IT Specialists to help older adults and adults with disabilities with basic computer issues. Schedule is flexible. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Volunteers needed in Fairfax County to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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OBITUARY



WALTER BRYANT DORSEY III

Mr. Walter B. Dorsey III, was born February 16th, 1988 in Leonardtown, Maryland. He was shot and killed in an apparent robbery/homicide in Los Angeles, California on December 11th, 2014. Walter was born and raised in St. Mary's County, Maryland and attended college in Florida where he studied Alternative Health Sciences before heading out West. He resided in Venice and Mountain Center, California where he practiced organic farming licensed by the State of California for the last five years of his life.

He was particularly fond of the mountains and beaches of California and the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. He enjoyed boating, hiking, surfing and working on his California Ranch. He had a special gift and desire to heal which he utilized for the benefit of others. Walter touched many lives in his travels and will forever be remembered as the pirate. Aside from his extended family Walter left behind so many beautiful women, friends and people he considered family...

He was the son of Philip H. Dorsey III and Donna Dorsey of Leonardtown, Md. and Alexandria, Virginia. He is survived by his brother Robert Ernest Dorsey, 22 and his maternal grandparents Robert Swallow and Joanne Swallow of Sun City, Florida and Northwoods, New Hampshire and Deborah Swallow of The Villages, Florida and Moody Beach, Maine.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather Walter Bryant Dorsey of Leonardtown and Jeanne Blackstone Dorsey Mandel of Colton's Point, Maryland.

Walter is survived by his step-grandmother Brenda Dorsey of Leonardtown and Hon. Marvin Mandel of Annapolis.

Walter leaves behind a deeply devoted family including his Uncles and Aunts, Paul and Sandy Dorsey of Olney, Maryland, John and Tricia Dorsey of Mission Hills, Kansas, Helen Dorsey and John Windolph of Medley's Neck, Maryland, Dan and Diana Scannell of Falmouth, Maine, Lisa Swallow and Paul Willshire of Carlisle, Mass., Denise Swallow of Reading, Mass., Eric, Jason and Chrissy Swallow of Richmond, Virginia.

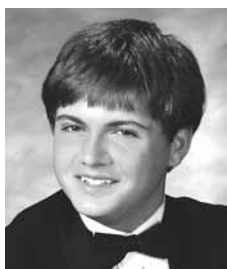
Walter also leaves behind his first cousins Bryant Dorsey, Austin Dorsey, Gabriella Dorsey, Eva Marie Dorsey, Kyle Bishop, Philip Bishop, Shauna Bishop, Sophia Hantzis, Grace Hantzis, Katie Scannell, Connor Scannell, Jack Dorsey and Catherine Dorsey.

A gathering of Walter's friends and family was held on Friday Dec. 19th in Santa Monica, California at the Woodlawn Cemetery, Mortuary and Mausoleum at 1847 14th Street, from 1-3p.m. followed by a life celebration on Venice Beach.

He will be remembered at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Leonardtown, MD. on January 9th at noon. Please direct any letters or condolences to P.O. Box 530, Leonardtown, Maryland 20650.

In lieu of flowers the family wishes donations be made to SMAWL of St. Mary's County (P.O. Box 1232 Leonardtown MD 20650).

OBITUARY



David James Cappelletti Beloved son, brother, uncle, godson, and friend.

David Cappelletti, 25, died at his childhood home on December 23, 2014, following a two-year battle against brain cancer. Born on July 8, 1989 in Washington D.C., David is survived by his mother, Susan Green, of Alexandria, Virginia; his sisters, Allison, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Juliet (Sky), of Largo, Florida; his brother, Mike, of Delray Beach, Florida; his niece, Sierra, of Largo, Florida; his godparents, Walt and Kathie Walvick, of McLean, Virginia; and many friends. His father, Michael, preceded him in death.

David attended Ft. Hunt elementary and Carl Sandburg middle school and graduated in 2007 from West Potomac High School where he was a member of the marching band, wind ensemble and jazz band, and the crew team. He attended George Mason University, majoring in government and international politics, and volunteered his time throughout the 2012 election cycle. During college, David worked at AutoDocs, LLC in computer software administration.

He joined Boy Scouts in 1996 and was a member of Troop 1509 where he attained the rank of Life Scout and was a Brotherhood member of the Order of the Arrow. With the troop's Falcon patrol, David trekked the back country of Virginia and New Mexico and spent hundreds of nights camping. David was a traveler who got as much joy from meeting people and learning about their lives as he did seeing the sights. Among his many adventures in the more than forty countries he visited, David rode a camel in the Sahara and descended into a pyramid, fished for piranha in the Amazon, traversed the Great Wall, snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef, walked the Inca trail at Machu Picchu, and traveled throughout Israel and the West Bank to meet with families, community groups and local officials.

David loved music. He played several instruments, was self-taught on the guitar and piano, and composed music on the keyboard and electronically. He enjoyed live concerts, both classical and modern, and was almost always listening to one of the thousands of musical selections on his iPhone.

Throughout his life, David valued time spent with his many friends. When he moved to Burke, VA in 2010 his door was always open. David's cat, Butters, adopted him there.

A celebration of David's life will be held at a later date. Ask to join the Facebook group, Remembering David Cappelletti, if you would like to stay informed as plans materialize. Contributions in David's memory may be made to David's Race for Hope team, Ironic Spades. The Race for Hope raises funds for innovative brain cancer research and to support brain tumor patients and their families. You can join his team or contribute to it at http://www.brainumorcommunity.org/site/TR?team_id=71874&pg=team&fr_id=2360&et=eUZE9IXMIFNgBIE-L7BeGA&s_tafld=71299. David, we miss your love of life, your generosity, your laughter, your reassurance, and those great hugs.

Public Meeting on the City of Alexandria's Combined Sewer System Long Term Control Plan Update

When: 7-9 p.m. on Thursday,
February 5, 2015
Where: City Hall, 301 King Street
Sister Cities Room 1101

Find out about the City's Combined Sewer System (CSS) and the City's upcoming plan to meet new water quality regulations and to reduce the impacts of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) on receiving waterways. Residents are invited to give written or oral comments at the public meeting.

For more information about the City's CSS, visit alexandriava.gov/Sewers.

For questions, contact Erin Bevis-Carver, P.E., Sanitary Section Lead, Transportation & Environmental Services at Erin.BevisCarver@alexandriava.gov.

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OBITUARY

Mrs. Corinne Swanson..On December 17, 2014 in Alexandria, VA. Born in Duluth, MN, she moved to the Washington DC area in 1961. Having served in the United States Marine Corps from 1951-1952, she married James Robert Swanson in 1952 and they were married for 33 years before he passed away in 1986. Together they had seven children. She was preceded in death by her husband and son, James Gregory Swanson. She is survived by her six daughters, Susan (Bill) Von Peters, Catherine Swanson, Corinne (Bill Roscoe) Swanson, Patricia (Frank) Jozsa, Theresa (Kevin) Wagner, Paula Swanson; 21 grandchildren; 26 great grandchildren; brothers, Edward, Kenneth, and Gregory Cullen; numerous nieces, nephews, and their families. Family and friends gathered on Sunday, December 28, 2014 from 2-5 p.m. at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 where funeral services were held on Monday, December 29 2014 at 10 a.m. Interment will follow at Quantic National Cemetery. A guest register may be found at www.everlywheatley.com

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LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed proposals for the City of Alexandria per specifications will be received in the office of the Purchasing Division until the date and time designated as follows:

Title: RFP No. 00000467, Software and Implementation Services for Land Management, Plan Review, Permitting, and Enforcement System

Closing Date and Time: February 17, 2015 4:00 p.m., prevailing local time

Pre-Proposal Conference: January 16, 2015, 11:00 a.m., prevailing local time

For general inquiries contact Jason Soltis, Acting Deputy Purchasing Agent at 703.746.4299.

The City of Alexandria reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, cancel this solicitation, and to waive any informalities or irregularities in procedure. THE CITY REQUIRES ITS CONTRACTORS TO BE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYERS.

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OBITUARY

Wilhelmina "Miep" Elisa Hermans Vroomen, 78, of Alexandria, passed away on December 17, 2014, with her family by her side. She was born to the late Hendrik and Christina Hermans on January 6, 1936, in Voerendaal, Limberg, The Netherlands. She married Hubert Vroomen in 1957, and they immigrated to the United States in 1961, where they lived in the towns of Hillsdale, NJ, and Dallas and Tunkhannock, PA. Widowed in 1988, Miep moved to Alexandria in 1996 to live near her son, Harry, and her granddaughter Monica. Miep enjoyed travelling, cooking, and time with family.

Miep is survived by her son, Harry Vroomen, of Alexandria; her granddaughter Monica; her companion, William Peck; sisters Christel (Bob) Osterhoudt and Annie (Ser) Senden; brother Wiel (Elly) Hermans, and many beloved nieces and nephews and their children.

She was preceded in death by her parents, siblings Ellie Hynekamp and Leo Hermans, and husband Hubert Vroomen. Memorial contributions can be made to "Music and Memory" at musicandmemory.org.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

OBITUARY



Margaret Sterling Slappey

On December 31st, 2014, Margaret Sterling Slappey, 67, native of Atlanta, passed away in her sleep from natural causes. Margaret will be remembered for her optimism, her selfless nature, her loving faith, and her over all kind heart.

She was the daughter of Margaret Sellers Slappey and the late Sterling Slappey. In addition to her mother, surviving are her brother and sister-in-law, Charles Slappey and Blanche Willoughby; and her niece, Louisa Slappey.

The family suggests any remembrances be made in her memory to St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please sign our online guestbook at www.foxandweeks.com

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Laura Ross Brown Age: 82

On December 17, 2014 in Washington, DC. Mother of Gary Joseph Brown, Sr., Pamela Lynn Walker, Lori Denise Brown Savage and Lynda Marie Brown. She is also survived by grandchildren, William Richard Hyde, III, William Wesley Walker, V and Gary Joseph Brown, Jr.; great granddaughter, Ariana Denise Davis-Hyde; sons-in-law, Brett Thomas Savage and William Wesley Walker, IV; daughter-in-law, Rosi Maria Brown and a host of other relatives and many friends. The Family will receive friends at St Joseph's Catholic Church, 711 N. Columbus St, Alexandria, VA 22314 on Thursday, January 8, 2014 from 10am until 11:30am. The Arlington Chapter of the Links, Inc. and the Northern Virginia Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Memorial Services will be held during the visitation. A Mass of Christian Burial begins at 11:30am. Rev. Donald Fest, Celebrant. The Family invites you to a reception in the Lyceum of St Mary's Catholic Church, 313 Duke St, Alexandria, VA 22314. Interment at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the Family suggests donations be made and mailed to St Joseph's Catholic Church. Arrangements by Greene Funeral Home, Alexandria, VA.

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21 Announcements



Ferdinand T. Day

Age: 96 On Friday, January 2, 2015 at INOVA Alexandria Hospital. Beloved father of Gwen Day-Fuller; grandfather of William Fuller and Shanna Ringer; great grandfather of Imani & Chloe Fuller and Brianna Ringer. He is also survived by a sister, Mary V. Stokes and a brother, Clarence J. Day and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. The Family will receive friends in the chapel of Greene Funeral Home, 814 Franklin St, Alexandria, VA 22314 on Sunday, January 11, 2015 from 5 until 7 pm. You are invited to pray the Rosary at 6 pm. There will be a visitation at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 711 N. Columbus St., Alexandria, VA 22314 from 10 am until time of Mass at 11:30 am. Rev. Donald Fest, Celebrant. Interment in Mount Comfort Cemetery.

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21 Announcements

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OBITUARY

Ruby Constant Kendrick Dawson left this earth for her heavenly home on December 28, 2014. She passed away at the home of her daughter, Connie Dawson Edenfield in Statesboro, GA.

Mrs. Dawson was born in Alexandria City, VA on May 13, 1928 to Jacob D. Kendrick and Mary Pearl Johnson Kendrick. She graduated from George Washington High School and was a member of Accotink United Methodist Church, Ft. Belvoir, VA.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, Wesley Clayton Dawson, brother J. D. Kendrick, Jr. and sister, Dorothy E Kendrick Spicer.

Mrs. Dawson is survived by daughter Connie Edenfield (Statesboro, GA), sons Clay (Mechanicsburg, PA) and Chris (Fairfax County, VA) and sister Deanna Kendrick Hoagland (Seffner, FL).

She deeply loved her children, five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild and many nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Dawson greatly enjoyed meeting and talking to new people. Chance encounters time and again turned into lasting friendships.

Her family and friends will miss her deeply.

A memorial service and interment will be held at Mount Comfort Cemetery, Alexandria, VA at a date to be determined

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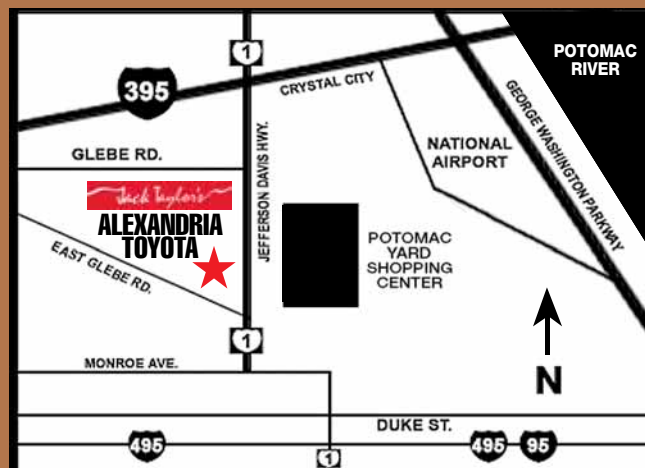
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<p>OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$5.00 OFF</p> <p><small>Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>WINTERIZATION SPECIAL \$59.95</p> <p><small>Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more. SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p>DETAIL SPECIALS \$39.95</p> <p>Wash & Vacuum \$139.95</p> <p>Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning \$295.95</p> <p>Full premium detail</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 1/31/15. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
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**Mount Vernon
Gazette**



- lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.
2. not appreciated or understood.
3. no longer owned or known



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