



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRACEY KOHLER

Fort Hunt Elementary School's Thomas Fitzpatrick (center) leads the "Parade of Nations" at the conclusion of the Dance Around the World event held on Feb. 6.

Dance of a Thousand Lands

Fort Hunt Elementary School celebrates its diverse student body.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Fort Hunt sixth grader Elizabeth Hutchison was looking forward to principal Thomas Fitzpatrick's soda bread. With her family also representing Ireland, she planned to bring some herself, as well

as some shamrock decorations, to the elementary school's second annual Dance Around the World winter festival.

"I think it's really fun and very interesting if people have friends from different cultures," said Hutchison.

For years, said organizer and Fort Hunt parent Karin Kulinski, the school has hosted a winter dance of sorts. The event has taken different forms, from jump-rope contests and various fundraisers to chili cookoff and barn dances.

"But not every family makes a pot of chili," she said.

SEE DANCE AROUND, PAGE 3



Andrea Morales of Mount Vernon, representing her Mexican heritage at Dance Around the World, is the younger sister of Fort Hunt students Monica (first grade) and Cecy (sixth grade).



Sammi Wassihun (center) represents his Ethiopian heritage with mother Hibret Wassihun (rear left) and Msale Alebachew (rear right) of Alexandria, all in traditional dress.



Fort Hunt kindergartener Jacqueline (left) and third grader Mercedes Henwood (right), represent Laotian heritage at the Feb. 6 Dance Around the World event.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KARIN KULINSKI

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRACEY KOHLER

Matthew Charged In Graham Murder

Suspect faces life in prison.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Nearly five months after the disappearance of University of Virginia sophomore and West Potomac High School alumna Hannah Graham, the primary suspect in her death investigation has been indicted by a grand jury in Albemarle County.

"Following an extensive investigation and a successful multi-jurisdictional partnership, the Albemarle County Police Department has completed the investigation into the disappearance and death of Hannah Graham," said Col. Steve Sellers of the Albemarle County Police Department at a Feb. 10 press conference. "The case now transitions over to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for prosecution."

A statement from Commonwealth's Attorney and Albemarle County prosecutor Denise Lunsford explained that Jesse Leroy Matthew Jr. was charged Feb. 2 with first degree murder of Graham, as well as abduction with the intent to defile her. Each offense could bring a penalty of life in prison for Matthew.

Graham first went missing on Sept. 13, 2014. After nearly a month of searching, human remains found on an abandoned property in southern Albemarle County were determined by the Virginia Medical Examiner's Office and Albemarle County Police Department to be hers.

"Additionally," Lunsford statement said, "Mr. Matthew was indicted on two charges of reckless driving arising from an incident occurring on Sept. 20, 2014." Those misdemeanor charges each have a potential for up to a year in prison.

— TIM PETERSON

Judge Orders More Geer Materials Released

Family's lawyer's motions supported.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Though extensive, the thousands of pages of documents, dozens of audio files and handful of videos released last month by Fairfax County, documenting the shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer, aren't exhaustive.

On Feb. 6, Michael Lieberman,

the lawyer representing Geer's family and partner Maura Harrington, brought several motions to Fairfax County Circuit Court, compelling the county to produce additional materials.

Geer was shot by Fairfax County Police Officer PFC Adam Torres Aug. 29, 2013, while he stood in the doorway of his home with hands raised. The county's Jan. 30 public release includes documentation of the initial internal criminal investigation of the incident by the Fairfax County Police Department.

Judge Randy I. Bellows granted

SEE GEER CASE, PAGE 3

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Pre-kindergarteners Natalia Langdon (left) and Lincoln Jetton work on a Kente cloth placemat craft with Fort Hunt second grade Spanish immersion teacher Isabel Gonzalez of Alexandria. Fort Hunt parent Audrey June researched, designed and prepared all the crafts.



Fort Hunt kindergartener Mina Moore, representing Turkish heritage, staples a craft Chinese drum together at the Dance Around the World event.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF IZLEM TANIK-MOORE

Dance Around the World at Fort Hunt

FROM PAGE 1

Last year when Kulinski took over organizing the winter dance, she decided to put more of an international spin on it and engage more of the school's population by celebrating everyone's ethnic heritage.

"I love the diversity of Fort Hunt; it's the main reason my family chooses to go to this school," said Kulinski. "That's what I want my children exposed to, what I want people to be aware of. We have people from all over the world and we want to make sure everyone feels a part of the school."

According to Fitzpatrick, Fort Hunt is about half Caucasian, one-quarter Hispanic and one-quarter African-American. Within the non-Caucasian populations, there's a wide spectrum from El Salvador, Mexico and Spain to Liberia, Ghana and Ethiopia.

"Being a Spanish immersion school," he said, "We get to see it from all different angles." In all, Fitzpatrick estimates over 50 countries are represented.

Last year, Dance Around the World featured a potluck international food buffet, scavenger hunt where students fill fake passports with signatures from students and parents of different countries and heritages, crafting, dance lessons, an interactive interna-

tional DJ and large continent maps on the wall for families to mark where they're from.

With more than 350 in attendance in 2014, Kulinski planned to bring everything back for 2015.

"This event is different because we're not just having a DJ playing the latest songs," said Kulinski's sixth grade daughter Katrina,

"but having cultural music and foods. It's not a normal school day but still a learning experience."

"The DJ would play different music, and we have to guess where singer was from," said sixth grader Ryan Coneway. "One time he played Justin Bieber: Is he from Canada, Europe, North America, England or Ireland?"

To bring more of the Fort Hunt community into the building, Kulinski, Fitzpatrick and PTA president and Spanish teacher Allison Verich went out two weeks before the dance and personally invited families with Fort Hunt students living at the Creekside Village apartments complex.

"You can't just put a flyer in a folder," said Kulinski. "We wanted to let them know this event exists, it's fun and we'd love to have you there. The reception was great."

At this year's Dance Around the World, held Feb. 6, more than 450 students and parents attended.

"Sometimes in our area diversity is seen as a challenge, not a reward," said Fitzpatrick. "This year, we've really done a good job of showing how we do all learn to be compassionate, appreciate, understand different people. It isn't seen as a negative, but a positive."



From left: Msale Alebachew, mother of Eyob (Fort Hunt second grade); Nekdis Wassihun and Seble Negussie, mother of Kalkidan (fifth grade) and Robell (third grade), represent their Ethiopian heritage through dance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRACEY KOHLER

Which WPHS Teacher Is on Jeopardy!?

Colin O'Grady competes in Teachers Tournament.

BY SENITRA T. MCCOMBS
THE GAZETTE

West Potomac English teacher Colin O'Grady competed his way to the 2015 Jeopardy! Teachers Tournament semifinals Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The Teachers Tournament began on Feb. 2. The two-week event highlights 15 of the nation's "best and brightest K-12 educators." The winner will take home \$100,000 and an automatic berth in the next Jeopardy! Tournament of Champions; the second-place finisher wins \$50,000 and third place claims

\$25,000.

In October, O'Grady received a phone call stating he was chosen to appear in the Teachers Tournament.

"I was really shocked when they said that they wanted to book me for the Teachers Tournament. I was excited about representing West Potomac — it is the only school I've ever taught at, and my wife teaches history there as well — and it was an honor to represent the profession in general," he said.

The episodes were taped in December.

In preparation for the show, O'Grady stated that he practiced his "buzzer timing a lot" and kept up with his regular viewing of the show in between teaching at West Potomac and caring for his 2-year-old daughter.

"I started watching (by) standing up with a clicky

SEE JEOPARDY!, PAGE 18



Colin O'Grady with Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Geer Case

FROM PAGE 1

some of Lieberman's requests and deferred the one for Torres' closed Internal Affairs personnel file.

"What did county know, when did they know it and what did they do about it?" said Lieberman, who first filed a \$12 million civil suit in December 2014 against FCPD Police Chief Edwin C Roessler and unknown officers who were involved with the incident. Lieberman is seeking "factual and evaluative" information regarding another incident, when Torres reportedly had an outburst with Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Charles Peters in a courtroom, in March 2013. The county has a Feb. 20 deadline to produce that investigation file.

Since Lieberman's suit was filed before Fairfax County released the name of Geer's shooter, he is also planning to amend the initial complaint, adding Torres' name and names of the FCPD supervisors.

Bellows' ruling favors Lieberman's request for release of those other officers' information, and gives Lieberman until March 6 to file an amendment to the complaint.

In an interview, Lieberman said this case has "very similar attributes" to the 2006 death of Salvatore J Culosi, with which he was also involved. Culosi was killed by another FCPD officer in front of his Fair Lakes area townhouse. Lieberman said "through expert testimony and through a test of the police department officer who shot Dr. Culosi," it was clear the officers were violating rules of weapon control, including pointing at people without imminent danger.

In addition to his other discovery requests, the lawyer wants to know if Fairfax County has made an effort to retrain officers since the Culosi killing. "From our mind, the county should've been on notice," Lieberman said. "You have a problem: No one's doing it. That's called a custom. It was a problem in 2006 and surely was a problem in 2013. Maybe it was all avoidable if they had just done something different. Maybe Mr. Geer would be alive today."

POLITICS

Two More Candidates

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

Two additional candidates are interested in running for the Mount Vernon district supervisor seat as a result of Supervisor Gerry Hyland's retirement announcement. This brings the total of announced candidates, all from the Democratic party, to four. Earlier, community activist Jack Dobbyn and School Board member Daniel Storck announced for intent.

The two latest announced Democratic candidates are Tim Sargeant and Candice Bennett.

Tim Sargeant, manager, state and local affairs for Dominion Virginia Power, is currently a Board of Supervisors appointee as an at-large member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

"For more than 20 years I have devoted myself to providing community leadership to the Mount Vernon District and Fairfax County. Now I want to continue my service as the next Mount Vernon district supervisor. I am ready and eager to take on the challenges that face our district," Sargeant said. "I believe that economic development and revitalization, with an expanded emphasis on transit and environmental awareness, go hand in hand with increase support for schools and a better quality of life

for all Mount Vernon residents."

Sargeant was appointed to three consecutive terms on the Planning Commission. In that capacity he was appointed co-chair of the county task force to redevelop the former D.C. prison. As a result he had a major role in redeveloping the Laurel Hill community, and provided three sites for new schools, and set aside approximately 1200 acres of park and recreation lands. Recently, he voted to oppose the expansion of the construction debris landfill in south county. In 2014 he received the northern Virginia leadership award from Leadership Fairfax. He and his wife Nancy have lived in the Mount Vernon community for 20 years, raising two children who attended Fairfax County public schools. His work with Dominion Virginia Power is as a community relations advocate focusing on customer service.

Visit www.timsargeant.com.

Bennett is a small business owner of Candice Bennett, Inc., a marketing research company. She is married to William Hewitt, a former U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq. Bennett has lived in Lorton for the past seven years. Prior to that she lived in Kingtowne and Huntington. She earned a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, and a master's degree in security policy from George Washington University. She also completed specialized training in leadership

Hyland's announced retirement yields more supervisor candidates.



Bennett



Sargeant

and the Tuck Executive education program at Dartmouth College.

"I am running for Mount Vernon district supervisor because I am passionate about improving our community. Over the past several years I have served in a business and volunteer capacity and I believe now is the time to take the next step to really make a difference for our district," Bennett said.

She has owned and operated her own marketing research firm for 10 years, and assisted clients in the fields of consumer electronics, financial services, academia, hospitality, etc.

Prior to starting her own firm she was a Democratic pollster with the firm of Penn, Schoen, and Berland; among her clients there, she worked for the Democratic National Committee, and Tim Kaine for Lt. Governor. Her volunteer involvement in Northern Virginia included raising money for the Junior League of Northern Virginia, the Women's President's Educational organization, and Leadership Fairfax. She also serves on the Smithsonian Institution's Na-

tional Museum of American History national committee.

"As supervisor my priorities would include education, affordable housing, especially for seniors; ensuring the Lorton landfill fulfills its promise to open a 250-acre park; economic development; jobs, and transportation."

Visit www.electCandiceBennett.com.

According to party spokesman Bruce Neilson, former chair of the Mount Vernon Democratic Committee, Mark Cannady is still considering whether to run for supervisor.

As for the two open state legislative seats, the 44th delegate seat, and the 36th State Senate seat, they are both open because Senate incumbent Linda T. Puller recently announced her retirement plans, and the 44th District incumbent, Scott Surovell announced that he would vacate his delegate seat to run for Puller's seat.

Christian Relief Services attorney and community activist Paul Krizek announced that he would run for the Democratic nomination for the 44th Delegate seat being vacated by Surovell.

Republican candidate Jerry Foreman, Mayor of Dumfries, announced he is seeking the Republican nomination for the State Senate seat. No other candidates have announced for the 36th Senate seat.

No Republican or independent candidate has announced for either the open delegate seat or the open Mount Vernon district supervisor seat.



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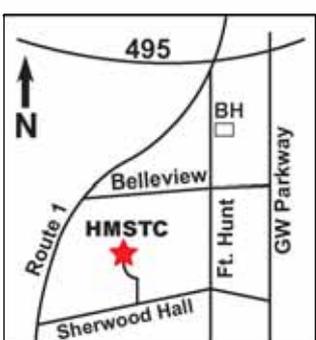
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PHOTO BY MICHAEL L. WHITE

From left: West Potomac High School junior Taamson Joshua, WPHS senior Kelly O'Meara, Mount Vernon High School Senior Catherine Ming, WPHS junior Emma Kelly, WPHS senior Margaret O'Meara and WPHS senior Jayne Orleans meet with Gov. Terry McAuliffe (center) at the Amundson Institute.

Students Attend Amundson Institute

Earlier this month, six students from West Potomac and Mount Vernon High Schools traveled to Richmond to experience state government first-hand.

WPHS seniors Jayne Orleans, Kelly O'Meara, Margaret O'Meara, juniors Taamson Joshua and Emma Kelly, and MVHS senior Catherine Ming were selected to participate in Del. Scott Surovell's (D-44) Amundson Institute, created by former 44th district Del. Kristen "Kris" Amundson.

The students were chosen based on their high

grade point average and demonstrated leadership potential as members of student government, the National Honor Society and sports teams.

Between Feb. 1 to 2, students at the institute met with former delegate Kris Amundson and Chris Saxman, state Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), Secretary of Education Ann Holton and Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D), as well as attend committee hearings and the House of Delegates floor session.

— TIM PETERSON



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OPINION

Not the First or Only Time

Secrecy around police shootings has been a problem for at least a decade.

The official position of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the need for changes in policy after the shooting of John Geer by police in Springfield in August of 2013 appears to be that this is the first time police policies have been a problem:

"Policies for handling police-involved incidents, which served us well for decades, were inadequate in this complicated situation."

Police-involved shootings have resulted in excruciating obfuscation and delay by Fairfax County Police dating back more than a decade. In this editorial, we refer to two high-profile cases, but these are not the only cases where police secrecy had caused incalculable pain to families while damaging the credibility of the police and other county officials. And this issue is not limited to Fairfax County. Alexandria and Arlington use similar approaches to limit public access to information.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

We'll quote the father of David Masters who wrote a letter to the Mount Vernon Gazette (a Connection Newspaper) in June, 2013, two months before John Geer was shot:

"I am the father of David Masters. David was shot to death by a Fairfax County police officer on Nov. 13, 2009 while sitting in his truck at a stop at the intersection of Route 1 and Fort Hunt Road. I don't know any more about the circumstances of this grim fatality now than I did then and now, as then, the records of this tragedy are not available to anyone outside the police department. The officer who shot my son was ultimately and I must say secretly fired by the then police chief, David Rohrer. But even that was done without any admission of culpability by anyone in the county. ... I don't understand why the Virginia Freedom of In-

formation Act gives blanket exemption to police matters. ... As it is now, the police department can, and seemingly does, operate in a culture of complete autonomy without fear that its actions will be held up to any kind of scrutiny."

The Connection reported in 2006 about the accidental shooting of an unarmed Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr. during his arrest on gambling charges:

"With red-rimmed eyes and her voice cracking, Anita Culosi expressed outrage Thursday evening [March 30, 2006] that a Fairfax County police officer will not be charged with a crime for accidentally killing her 37-year-old son. 'My son is laying in a cemetery,' she said, surrounded by family members holding framed pictures of her son. 'That man pulled a trigger and shot my son dead.'"

Anita Culosi's son, Salvatore J. "Sal" Culosi Jr., was accidentally shot to death by a Fairfax County SWAT team officer on Jan. 24 outside his Fair Oaks townhouse. He had been under investigation for illegal sports gambling for the previous three months, accepting at least \$28,000 in bets from an undercover Fairfax County detective.

In July, 2012, more than a year before John Geer was shot and killed, a group of citizens identified four cases, including Masters and Culosi, where police secrecy continued to block questions about shooting deaths. Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability characterized "questionable circumstances" around the shootings, noted that no one, including the families of the deceased victims, had been able to obtain a police incident report despite the fact that the four cases are closed.

CCPA Executive Director Nicholas Beltrante sent letters asking for the release of documents, "to find out what happened in the shooting deaths, why deadly force was used instead of a taser gun or beanbag gun, and to find out if police misconduct took place."

Beltrante said: "Our letters will highlight to the public the importance of amending the Virginia FOIA to require the release of police incident reports, and the value of improving police accountability by creating an independent police citizen oversight panel made up of

Fairfax county citizens Unnecessary use of deadly force by the police, if it is occurring, will undermine the integrity and confidence of the public in our police and our elected officials."

The revelations about the shooting of John Geer as a result of a civil lawsuit seriously undermine the credibility of the investigation process.

Aside from the officer who shot Geer, four other officers on the scene told investigators that same day that they were shocked by the shot that killed Geer and thought the shooting was unnecessary. (One officer described his first reaction: "WTF.") There was no weapon in view, although Geer was a gun owner and had a holstered gun nearby. Geer made great effort to be predictable in his actions, asking permission to scratch his nose, otherwise keeping his hands up on the doorframe.

But a day after the shooting, police released the following update:

"The preliminary investigation indicates that when officers arrived on the scene, they were met by an individual who displayed what appeared to be a weapon in a threatening manner and was subsequently shot."

And last month, before the statements of the other officers were released, the police released this update with the name of the officer:

"Geer was reported as having multiple firearms inside the home, displaying a firearm that he threatened to use against the police, and refused the officers' requests that he remain outside and speak to them. Officers, including a trained negotiator, attempted to peacefully resolve the situation. They spoke with Geer for more than 30 minutes as he stood in the doorway of his home. When Geer began lowering his hands at one point during the negotiations, PFC Adam Torres fired a single shot that struck Geer."

But investigators knew that the negotiator had not seen Geer holding a weapon.

We don't agree with this statement by Bulova: "The Board of Supervisors has taken the steps needed to ensure its policies allow for justice to be fairly and swiftly served."

This is not an isolated case. The Board of Supervisors must demand transparency from the police.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reward This Performance?

To the Editor:

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has delayed action on raising their current annual salary of \$75,000 until March 3, leaving the record open for comments. According to the County Executive, the fiscal impact of \$205,000, if approved, the annual Board of Supervisors salary will total \$95,500 or a 27.33 percent increase. Only supervisors Herry (R) and Symth (D) opposed considering a Board of Supervisors pay raise.

According to a 2014 Virginia Association of

Counties salary survey of 55 Virginia counties, Fairfax County supervisors' salary top all by a substantial amount. For the four top surrounding counties, the supervisors salaries are: Arlington \$50,127, Prince William \$49,826, Loudoun \$41,200 and Henrico \$49,826. The chairmen of the boards receive a little more except Fairfax County that receives the same annual salary as supervisors.

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SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Tim Peterson
Community Reporter
703-314-0789
tpeterson@connectionnewspapers.com

Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

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Publisher
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
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Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
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OLD TOWN \$2,300,000
 6041 Edgewood Terrace
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McLEAN, VA \$2,200,000
 1151 Crest Lane
 Spectacular Crest Lane. Stunning custom contemporary home on treed, level lot with partial winter water views. Enjoy the seasons from one of several decks or patios and unwind to the sounds of the Potomac River. Exactingly maintained home with soaring ceilings, walls of windows, open floor plan and custom spa-like master bath. 6 Bedrooms, 6 full and 1 half bath on 1 acre on spectacular Crest Lane.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 989 1183



ALEXANDRIA \$1,975,000
 1904 Mallinson Way
 Exceptional designer-inspired home, majestically sited above George Washington's Parkland overlooking The Potomac River. Elegant and luxurious, soaring 10' ceilings with an open plan, cook's kitchen, 4+ bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms, oversized 3-bay garage, 4 fireplaces, level yard, perfect for entertaining and 15 minutes to DC.
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ALEXANDRIA \$1,750,000
 309 West Alexandria Ave
 Stunning 5BR house on private lot with a stream and woods. Open floor plan, an abundance of light, cathedral and vaulted ceilings throughout. Wideplank hardwood floors, 1 fireplace, built-ins, superb trimwork. Gourmet kitchen with island and marble counters. Master suite has 16' ceilings and luxurious spa-like bath. Fantastic lower level with large recreation room, fireplace, wet bar, guest bedroom, and an exercise room/bedroom. Oversized 2-car garage.
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Bills on Protecting Child Support, SOL Flexibility Pass

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



The third week of the “short” session of the General Assembly brings us to “Crossover.” “Crossover” is the midpoint of the session when both houses must complete work on their own bills and begin work on bills from the other chambers.

Several of my bills have moved forward. First, last year, one of my Amundson Fellows from West Potomac High School, Colleen O’Grady, suggested that I introduce legislation allowing school systems to waive Standards of Learning (SOL) testing for students who achieved a certain score on an Advanced Placement test in the same subject. My bill was rolled into legislation proposed by another member granting local systems more flexibility to waive SOL tests and passed the House of Delegates unanimously.

Second, several attorney’s advised me that U.S. Bankruptcy Trustees were seizing child support and spousal support arrearages along with refunds of low income families’ tax refunds attributable to

the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. None of these assets should be available to creditors so I introduced legislation adding them to the list of assets that could be exempt from creditor

collections. Frequently, a child support or spousal support payor’s failure to meet their court-ordered obligations puts people into bankruptcy. My legislation passed unanimously.

Third, I partnered with a Republican senator to carry legislation simplifying the process for appointing a person to represent the interests of an individual who dies during or before litigation is commenced in their name. This legislation passed both houses unanimously.

Fourth, for the last three years, I have been pressing legislation to enhance consumer remedies with data providers who sell or publish information relating to a criminal charge that has been expunged. Today, consumers only have remedies if incorrect information is put out in connection with an employment application or

landlord-tenant application. The industry is pushing back very hard and I will continue to fight to push this bill through.

Unfortunately, my legislation to remove the requirement that a voter provide a social security number during voter registration from the Constitution of Virginia died by one vote in committee. If it had made it to the floor, it would have passed. Requiring all nine digits of a social security number is no longer necessary.

My legislation to prohibit predatory lenders from evading consumer protections by lending money through unregulated “subsidiaries” in the same storefront died in committee. However, one Republican member offered to help me push the bill through next year. In the meantime, low income Virginians will continue to be victimized by 200 percent loans.

We have also passed some other major legislation. We passed legislation allowing companies like Uber to operate. While Uber does provide a very attractive product and is an innovative company, I voted against the legislation for several reasons. First, the company is providing insurance for vehicles that is 50 percent of what Fairfax County currently mandates for taxicabs. Also, if an

Uber driver takes cash for a ride, then their driver is not covered at all so if they collide with a completely innocent vehicle or pedestrian, there is no insurance.

Additionally, Uber does not provide wheelchair lift vehicles which is required of most taxicab companies. If Uber puts taxicab companies out of business, this service will become a taxpayer function. The filing fee for new companies is also \$100,000. This effectively bars new startup companies from entering the market, especially in smaller jurisdictions.

In response to the Hannah Graham case, we passed legislation expanding DNA collections for several misdemeanors associated with a higher incidence of sexual violence. We have also passed legislation attempting to increase responsiveness to sexual assault on college campuses. It will continue to change as it goes through the system.

This coming week will bring debate over the budget and some very controversial bills involving utility regulation and the death penalty. Please continue to provide me with your feedback at scott@scottsurovell.org.

It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

COMMENTARY

Legislating Against Discrimination

BY ADAM P. EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)



I passed several bills last week that would advance equality for women, gay and lesbian married couples, and LGBT state employees.

My resolution to ratify the federal Equal Rights Amendment (the ERA, SJ216), was approved 20-18 by the Senate on Feb. 5.

The passage of the ERA would bring the U.S. Constitution into conformity with Virginia’s values. We are one of five states that prohibit gender discrimination in our

state Constitution but have not yet approved the ratification of the federal amendment.

SJ216 would add Virginia to the majority of states supporting the addition of the ERA to the U.S. Constitution. The language would explicitly guarantee that women and men are citizens of equal standing under federal and state law. This is an important distinction to make when it comes to protecting the legal advances that have been made in the area of women’s rights over the last 50 years. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia clearly articulated his opinion about gender equality when he stated “the Constitution does not require discrimination on the basis of sex. The only issue is whether it prohibits it. It doesn’t.”

The ERA would guarantee equal pay for equal work. This is an economic issue impacting many Virginia families. The money that comes into a household helps the whole family, and when women are being discriminated against in the workplace, it affects everyone.

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision last fall to let stand the 4th Circuit Court’s decision allowing same-sex marriage in Virginia, there are 65 sections in our code that need to be changed in order to accommodate married gay and lesbian couples. On Feb. 3, my bill (SB1211) passed the full Senate with bipartisan support.

This legislation clarifies that all lawfully married spouses are included under Virginia law. This is important when dealing with legal issues involving child custody, inheritance, power of attorney, and taxes because lawyers and accountants must be able to properly advise and serve their clients.

My bill prohibiting discrimination against LGBT public employees (SB1181) was combined with legislation sponsored by Sen. Don McEachin (D-Henrico) and passed the Senate on Feb. 3.

A recent study by the UCLA Williams Institute found that 21 percent of LGBT respondents reported unfair treatment by an employer in hiring, pay or promotions. When transgender people were asked the same question separately, an astounding 80 percent of workers reported having experienced harassment or other mistreatment at work.

Nondiscrimination also makes economic sense. Currently 21 state governments have nondiscrimination policies including neighboring D.C. and Maryland. Without nondiscrimination protections, Virginia’s state and local agencies as well as our colleges and universities are at a competitive disadvantage to effectively recruit and retain top talent.

Governor McAuliffe has called for Virginia to be open and welcoming to all businesses and workers, a sentiment shared by overwhelming majorities of Virginia citizens and businesses. According to recent polling, 87 percent of Virginians support public nondiscrimination protections. In the private sector, 88 percent of Fortune 500 Companies already have nondiscrimination policies in place. Adopting such a policy for public employees would put the state in line with America’s leading companies.

For decades Virginia’s Governors have issued executive orders forbidding discrimination for state employees. However, only Governors Warner, Kaine and McAuliffe have included sexual orientation and gender identity in those orders. We need to codify this policy into law once and for all so that it will not be at the whim of each future Governor whether state employees are afforded these protections.

Discrimination is wrong regardless of what form it takes. It is a fundamental American value that individuals should be judged on their talents, not on their gender or who they love.

I will be holding two Town Hall Meetings this Saturday, Feb. 14. The first will be from 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Mount Vernon Government Center with Sen. Toddy Puller and Del. Scott Surovell; the second will be from 2:30-4 p.m. at the Charles Houston Recreation Center in Old Town Alexandria with Del. Rob Krupicka.

Please take my online survey at www.AdamEbbin.com/Survey. You can also email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

In 2014, the Board of Supervisors bailed out a bank for a \$30 million unsecured loan to a Lorton Arts Fonation.

If you believe that kind of spending of your tax dollars is OK don’t do anything. But, if you have problems with raising supervisors salary by \$20,500 for a total of \$95,000 annually to continue questionable spending, then make your views known before March 3, when the Board of Supervisors is to consider the pay raise.

Call the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151 or email the clerk at clerktoBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov or write to: Board of Supervisors, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Va. 22035. If you also want to contact your supervisor email by typing in your district@FairfaxCounty.gov. For example, mason@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Make your views known and make a difference.

Frank Medico
Mount Vernon

Votes Need Explaining

To the Editor:

Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has announced his intention to run for election to replace the retiring Sen. Linda “Toddy” Puller (D-36) in the Virginia Senate. I hope that during this election cycle, Delegate Surovell will explain to those he hopes will become his constituents his positions on certain issues of interest and importance. By his po

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 10

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Alexandria 211 Longview Drive, Alexandria, VA
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Donnan C. Wintermute CBmove.com/AX8548090

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Bob and Nicole Hamilton

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Karen Leonard CBmove.com/FX8546765



OPEN SUN 2-4 PM Mason Hill 1607 Mason Hill Dr., Alexandria, VA
Beautiful Custom Contemporary in Mason Hill. Five Bedrooms on Upper Level, Hardwood Floors, Large Light-Filled Rooms, 2-Car Garage, Landscaped Lot. \$824,900
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McLean/Great Falls 816 Towlston Road, McLean, VA
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Bonnie Rivkin CBmove.com/FX8417497



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

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Entrance Feature Updated October 2014



Before



Before

**WOLVERINE
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Reflective Banners

Enjoy Annual Valentine's Day Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction

* Belle Haven Country Club * Saturday, Feb 14 * 6:30PM

Register at www.turfwestpotomac.com

West Potomac High School and the Wolverine Athletic Boosters would like to thank the community for supporting our Christmas Tree Fundraiser and all of the improvements we have made at WPHS. We invite the community to join us on Feb. 14 at Belle Haven Country Club to celebrate WPHS's 30 years of excellence and the Fort Hunt Sportsmen's Assoc.'s support of youth athletics since 1963.

Special thanks to *Mount Vernon Gazette*

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

sitions, I don't mean what he says, I mean how he has voted.

I reviewed some of Delegate Surovell's votes as displayed on the Project Vote Smart website. Several of his votes require explanation. He voted against a bill that would authorize the House of Delegates or the Virginia Senate to intervene as a party representing the Commonwealth if the Governor and Attorney General choose not to defend an enacted Virginia law or Virginia Constitutional provision. He consistently votes against allowing home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools, even though the parents of those home-schooled students are paying taxes supporting those public schools like anyone else. He consistently opposes legislation to require photo identification of voters. He opposed a bill prohibiting disclosure by Virginia Courts of concealed firearm permit information. He opposed a bill requiring law enforcement officers to ask about immigration status during an arrest.

He voted against a bill providing civil immunity for use of force against intruders. He voted against a bill authorizing physical force against intruders.

The House of Delegates is populated by about 2/3 Republicans and 1/3 Democrats. Thus, without detailed analysis, where a bill is opposed by fewer than 1/3 of the delegates, one may conclude it passed with bipartisan support. Several of Delegate Surovell's nay votes formed a part of a decided minority.

For example, the bill that passed the House of Delegates prohibiting disclosure of concealed firearm permit information had only 23 nay votes including his. The bill that passed the House of Delegates requiring law enforcement to ask

about immigration status during an arrest had only 25 nay votes including his. The bill that passed the House of Delegates providing civil immunity for use of force against intruders had only 22 nay votes including his, and the bill authorizing physical force against intruders had only 28 nay votes including his.

Hopefully, Delegate Surovell will explain to the voters the votes he takes that appear to be well out of the mainstream of political thought in Virginia, sometimes even mainstream Democratic thought. As he departs the House of Delegates hoping to become a state senator, voters must keep in mind that the House of Delegates will remain 2/3 Republican. The Senate, on the other hand, is virtually evenly split, 21 Republican to 19 Democratic. Thus, Delegate Surovell's extreme positions on a number of issues can never become law in Virginia since they would never pass the House of Delegates.

Voters should consider whether electing a more moderate Democrat or even a Republican would better serve the interests of Northern Virginians. One example of an issue of relevance is that of the desire to extend the Yellow Line toward Fort Belvoir. I agree with this proposal but note that so long as the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly is overwhelmingly Democratic politically, it is unlikely our transportation desires will sit in the front seat for a super majority Republican House of Delegates.

This is an election year. The voters can decide who should represent our interests in Richmond and who are the representatives most likely to achieve our goals in Richmond.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

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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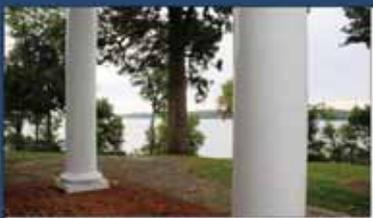
4720 Dolphin Lane \$829,900
Southern Charm Abounds!

Stately Virginia Colonial in gorgeous setting near river and Yacht Club. Distinctive two level Columned Veranda. Fabulous floor plan and exceptionally large room sizes. Features include 3 finished levels, 4BR, 3.5BA, 2 FP, custom master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors on two levels and side load 2 car garage. Home is in exceptionally pristine condition — a uniquely attractive property!



9223 Craig Ave \$615,000
Unique 6 BR Home-Prime Location!

Updated throughout in fabulous neighborhood, near Mt. Vernon Estate. Minutes to Belvoir, short drive to Old Town, Nat'l Airport & DC via scenic GW Pkwy. Finished lower level with full bath ideal for in-law suite. Gorgeous hardwood floors, family room with FP & French doors, gourmet kitchen, two tiered deck overlooks level yard. Oversize 2 car garage. Property offers unique combination of size, condition and location at amazingly reasonable price! **OPEN SUN. 2/15, 1-4!** GW Pky S, L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Robertson; L-Craig Ave.



9409 Ludgate Drive \$1,890,000
Dramatic Water Views!

Stately Colonial Estate in the Virginia plantation tradition. Magnificent setting overlooking Potomac at its widest point. Truly spectacular home with area's best river views. Stunning river view master suite, 3 additional bedrooms each with a private bath; gourmet kitchen any chef would envy opens to family room. Formal dining room and cozy library. Lower level great room, wine cellar and full bath. Three car garage. Gorgeous setting. House and location cannot be duplicated!



8826 Black Alder Dr \$588,000
Stunning Value- Seems Too Good To Be True!

Stunning Value-seems too good to be true! Spacious three level Colonial in beautiful neighborhood for under \$600,000! Features inc: 3 fin levels, 5 bedrooms including main level master suite, 3.5 baths, 2 fireplaces. Open kitchen to family room and oversize 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks gorgeous yard. Thousands below comps--move quickly!



1804 Rampart Drive \$599,000
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Exceptional opportunity—true custom home with many recent updates at remarkably reasonable price! Special features include dramatic open floor plan, stunning entry foyer, refinished hwd flrs, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, spacious kitchen with brand new granite counters and stainless appliances, large storage area and garage. Sunroom and large deck overlook gorgeous lot. Walk to nearby Stratford Landing Elem & Sandburg Middle. Truly astounding value!



8720 Plymouth Road \$1,719,000
Spectacular Wakefield Home!

Brand new home in fabulous Plymouth Haven—buy now & be in by end of year! Spectacular Wakefield home loaded with virtually every custom upgrade & amenity. 3 levels of luxury! Fabulous features include striking open floor plan, high ceilings, designer kitchen, luxury baths, hardwood floors, sumptuous master suite, fabulous screen porch and 3 car gar. Prime location on large lot—walk to Wayneswood School!



9413 Bramble Lane \$949,000
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Custom built by Wakefield Homes in 2010. Fabulous "new home" amenities including high ceilings, open floor plan and energy conserving package. Upgrades include: 4 luxury baths, 5 BR including two master suites, hardwood floors, chef's kitchen and finished walk-out lower level. Many features the builder is utilizing in \$1.5+ homes!



8704 Plymouth Road \$1,744,464
Another Luxury Home Sold!

Fabulous Wakefield custom home **SOLD** as a direct result of Chris and Peggy's uniquely intensive marketing program!



9200 Cherrytree Drive \$425,000
Mt Vernon Opportunity!

Incredible opportunity! Best price for 3 level Colonial in area! 4 BR, 2 full bath & 2 half bath home on wooded half acre corner lot in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Living room with FP; library with built-ins; eat in kitchen, 2 zone HVAC; garage parking; large deck; walk to nearby elem school. Must be able to close quickly



4416 Tarpon Lane \$549,900
Contemporary Rambler!

Walk to Yacht Club from this fabulous home. Glass window walls make for exceptionally bright, airy atmosphere & capture natural beauty of grounds. Spacious home with numerous special features include: bright, open floor plan, large glass walled great room with fireplace, bedrooms on main level, hardwood floors, 3 updated baths, finished walk-out LL with FP & large windows. Gorgeous setting on 1/2 acre lot near river!



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Mount Vernon REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY
VERONICA BRUNO/
THE GAZETTE

December, 2014 Top Sales



2 8704 Plymouth Road — \$1,744,464



1 8228 West Boulevard Drive — \$2,495,000

3 2203
Foresthill Road
— \$1,125,000



4 1907
Belfield Road
— \$975,000

5 8046 Washington Road
— \$950,000



7 6023
Woodmont Road
— \$905,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 8228 WEST BOULEVARD DR	5	5	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,495,000	Detached	1.28	22308	BOULEVARD ACRES	12/10/14
2 8704 PLYMOUTH RD	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,744,464	Detached	0.54	22308	PLYMOUTH HAVEN	12/30/14
3 2203 FORESTHILL RD	5	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.17	22307	BELLE HAVEN	12/29/14
4 1907 BELFIELD RD	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$975,000	Detached	0.17	22307	BELLE HAVEN	12/05/14
5 8046 WASHINGTON RD	6	5	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$950,000	Detached	0.30	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE	12/15/14
6 9308 LUDGATE DR	4	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$935,000	Detached	0.47	22309	WYCLIFFE ON THE POTOMAC	12/31/14
7 6023 WOODMONT RD	3	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$905,000	Detached	0.14	22307	BELLE HAVEN	12/29/14
8 4713 DOLPHIN LN	4	4	0	ALEXANDRIA	\$900,000	Detached	0.51	22309	YACHT HAVEN EST	12/08/14

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Home LifeStyle

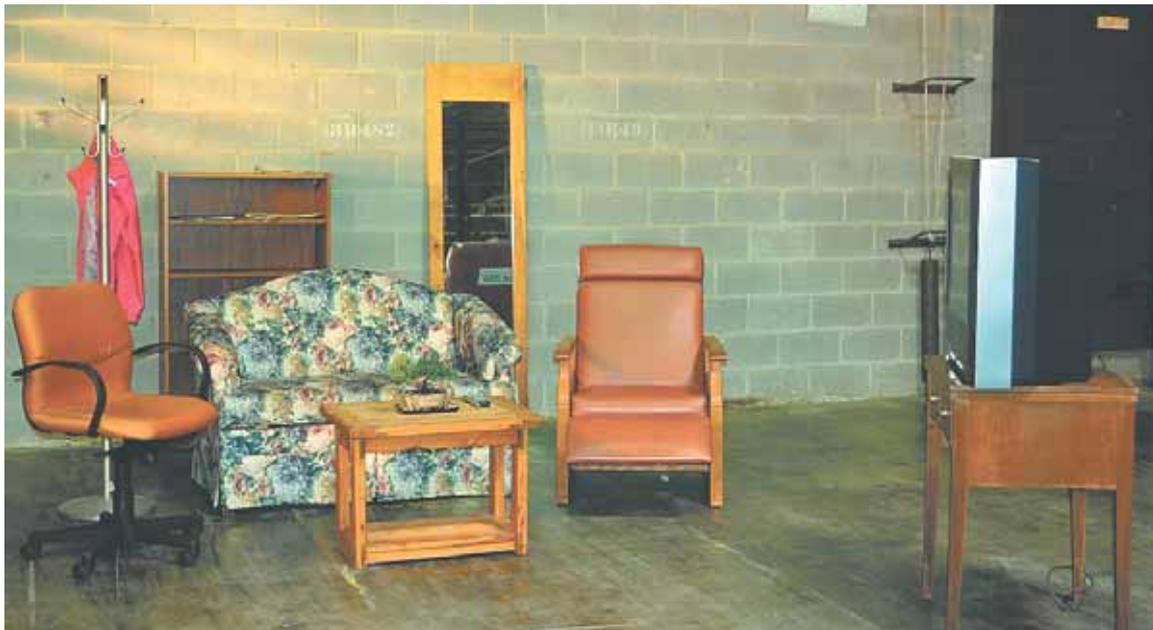


PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Surplus goods such as sofas, chairs, televisions and bookcases are auctioned by Fairfax County, Virginia, for low prices.

County Hosts Online Auction

Fairfax County sells variety of surplus goods for low prices.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Barbara Feder resolved to set up an office in the unfinished basement of her Del Ray home this year, a project that she has delayed for months. That's in part because while the whitewashed cinderblock walls and mechanical gray cement floor are functional, they're not aesthetically appealing. Feder wants to create a comfortable workspace with a minimal amount of money.

"All I need is a desk, chair and a lamp," said Feder. "I'll probably get a book case and a filing cabinet just so I don't have piles of paper and books everywhere."

Feder estimates that she can furnish the space for about \$20. And she's not dreaming. She's eyeing a \$5 desk as well as an office chair and filing cabinet, each priced at \$1.

Her merchant is the Fairfax County Surplus Property Auction. Fairfax County government generates a variety of surplus equipment, everything from former police cruisers (usually Ford Crown Victoria sedans), ambulances and luxury cars to tools, exercise equipment and office supplies like chairs, desks, filing cabinets, printers and fax machines. When the county no longer needs these items, officials put them up for auction on a rolling basis to generate revenue and minimize waste.

"It generates about \$2.3 million dollars," said Chris McGough, a Fairfax County management analyst who is responsible for overseeing the public auction surplus program. "We're like IKEA in pricing, but with better stuff. You can find a dresser for \$30 and a table for \$8. Add a filing cabinet and for \$60 you can fur-

nish a dorm room or at least have enough furniture to get you going."

The county contracts PublicSurplus.com to house a direct auction website listing all of the items that are up for auction, as well as instructions on bidding. Registration is free and required in order to bid.

"The challenge for us is that this is a hidden gem that residents might not be aware of," said Lisa Connors, Fairfax County public information officer. "The site can be overwhelming, but there are videos on the site that give people ideas of how to use the things that we have and help them see how it can be used."

Not all of the items are in great condition, however. It's not uncommon to see an elliptical machine with rust and duct tape or a former police cruiser with a bad transmission. "We try to put as much information [as possible] about the items on the auction website," said McGough. "We're as honest with the public as possible so they know what they're getting."

Examples of the most desirable items that have been up for auction are a hockey scoreboard as well as a Porsche Boxster, and a Ducati motorcycle which officials say had been stolen and recovered by police.

"We make every effort to find the owners of these items," said McGough.

Not all of the bidders are private residents. For example, a California-based tour company purchased a helicopter. In addition, "cab companies will buy our Crown Victorias, fix them up and put them into use," said Tyler Carey, surplus program administrator. "Companies will buy our buses, fix them up and turn them into party buses."

Not all of the surplus items are sold either. "We've made a few donations," said McGough. "We donated one of our ambulances that was in functional condition to one of the schools for the [Emergency Medical Technician] training program. Some of the trainees have become Fairfax County employees."

"We're like IKEA in pricing, but with better stuff."

— Chris McGough, Fairfax County management analyst

Details

For information on the Fairfax County auction, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/surplus.htm. All sales are final (no refunds and no returns) and are made on an "as is, where is" basis.

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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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

MARCH

3/4/2015 Wellbeing
3/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
3/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
3/25/2015 Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

4/1/2015 Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is April 5
4/8/2015 HomeLifeStyle
4/15/2015 A+ Camps & Schools
4/22/2015 Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
4/29/2015 A+ Camps & Schools Pullout
4/29/2015 ... Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
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- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

ENTERTAINMENT

Bringing the Nation's First President to Life

Historical actor Dean Malissa talks about the challenges in portraying the nation's most famous founding father.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE GAZETTE

George Washington was a confident man. And so is the man who portrays him at Mount Vernon Estate. And the similarities don't end there.

"It's a fairly graceless age," said Dean Malissa, the only sanctioned George Washington historical actor on-site, regarding the 21st century. In speaking with him, you can picture the original General Washington making just such an observation about our time.

In fact, Mount Vernon Estate has released a series of videos that feature Malissa in just such a scenario: the 21st century. We get to follow General Washington as he marvels at modern transportation without the benefit of a horse and as he orders coffee from Starbucks with a "fellow's" iPhone and is surprised that the beverage is not served in a glass.

If you haven't checked out the videos yet, do yourself a favor and go to Mount Vernon's website and watch them.

A particular highlight is seeing the man himself try to master the Segway and bellow "I say, charge!" as he leads

the way or notice a modern soldier's braces as "jewelry on your teeth." The episodes are a hilarious and delightful interpretation of

our times through the eyes of the founding father.

While watching the webisodes, it's clear that Malissa has done his homework, not only about the nation's first president, but also the times that he lived in. He speaks in a particular Tidewater Virginia accent and is well versed in the time period, dress and mannerisms of the general.

Malissa has a historical tailor, a military tailor outside of Boston and a historical seamstress in Philadelphia, where he lives. He relies on these resources to maintain the historical wear he employs for his characterization.

He is quick to point out that they are not costumes, "they are historical clothes," he emphasizes strongly. Dry cleaning bills are often around \$275.

"I own everything myself," he explained.

The clothing is incorporated in his many appearances, not just at Mount Vernon, but also at other historical sites, movies, and special appearances. It takes several garments to authenticate the first president of the United States. There are three different types of clothing: military in nature, presidential civilian clothing and farmer's garb.

Depending on the nature of the event, Malissa will dress in his meticulously maintained selection for the occasion.



PHOTO BY VERONICA BRUNO/THE GAZETTE

Dean Malissa addressing the many tourists and visitors with a rousing speech on July 4th of last year at Mount Vernon.

CONNECTING WITH THE PUBLIC is also the highlight of the job for him. Malissa enjoys the many moments when he can bring the general alive for a captive audience.

"People get to have discourse directly with Washington," said the internationally acclaimed actor. "I'm often surprised by how many foreigners know his story."

He also has high regard for the man he personifies and it shows. "There is a universal regard for Washington. In almost every country around the world, there is something named after the man."

In fact, if you google "George Washing-

ton Street" you will get over 12,000,000 hits, which also includes links to restaurants, housing, libraries, and many other public facilities.

But there is a difference in connecting him to a modern audience. Manners and speech were more formal, especially in public. "I have to make sure I'm not too standoffish, as the general would have been. But he was different in public as he was among his intimate, personal circle," said Malissa. It's a delicate balance portraying the man and being a storyteller to a modern audience. "I have to make sure there are 'wow' moments, I have to entertain them."

If you watch the second webisode of Washington trying to purchase an Amtrak ticket from Washington, D.C. to New York City, you will see him politely dispute with the gentleman next to him about the correct travel time between the two.

The gentleman tells him that the ticket machine is accurate in its estimate of under three hours. Malissa, as Washington, marvels at this and points out that it takes 36 hours to travel from New York to Albany by steamboat.

Malissa also enjoys conversing with an audience of children who have done their homework about the man. "I enjoy children having read about him.... when they ask for clarification." One of his favorite questions asked was "what was it liked to be a loyal British subject one day and then be a rebel?"

Least favorite part of the job?

"Posing for photographs." He doesn't mind some, but it can become tedious when having to pose for 1,500 in one day.

Having interpreted Washington for almost a decade, Malissa also has a warm rapport with the character actor who portrays Martha Washington at Mount Vernon, Mary Wiseman. "She's a consummate professional... she's a dear friend. We have the greatest fun. We give each other knowing looks, sometimes when we're sharing the same thought. We're aligned," he said.

Details

Dean Malissa will be on hand throughout the weekend for the President's Day activities at Mount Vernon Estates. Admission is free on the Monday holiday. Visit www.mountvernon.org or call 703-780-2000.

He will also be appearing at the George Washington Birthnight Banquet and Ball at Gadsby's Tavern, for the first time, along side Mary Wiseman's Martha.

Or you can watch him interact with the Madame Tussaud version of the other president being celebrated on the holiday, Lincoln, with hilarious results, in the online webisode series "George's Big Day Out," viewable on the www.mountvernon.org. They are simply not to be missed. Four parts of the series have been unveiled, with the fifth coming out on the presidential holiday.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"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.

Exhibition "Unearthed |

Unearthed." Through Feb. 22, 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 for more.

Mount Vernon Celebrates Black History Month.

Through February at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. In observance of Black History Month, George Washington's Mount Vernon highlights the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Throughout the month, a daily Slave Life at Mount Vernon Tour explores the lives and contributions of the slaves who lived at Mount Vernon at 11:30 a.m. The tour will conclude with a wreath laying at the Slave Memorial site. Black History Month activities are included in admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

"Bessie's Blues." Through March 15 at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal St., Alexandria. "Bessie's Blues," features

Bernardine Mitchell, Roz White, TC Carson and a cast of actors and musicians who will tell the story of Bessie Smith through a musical odyssey of the blues. William Knowles is music director. Performances are Wednesday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 3 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 3 and 7 p.m. \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org or call 800-494-8497.

"Front and Back." Through March 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. second Thursday of the month at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery in Studio 18 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center at 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Artists' imagination plays with Items that are different front vs back; right vs left; top vs bottom; inside vs outside; right side up vs up side down; positive space vs negative space. Anything that has two or more sides can be used to show two different visuals. Free admission. See www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com 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.

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays noon-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum 4301 West Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.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

Summer of Smiles. The Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities' Summer Fun Guide, is now available. Summer camps and activities are available for youth ages 2-17 and include sports, dance, creative arts, computer, chess, enrichment, nature, adventure, Out of School Time

ENTERTAINMENT

(residents only) and classic camps. The guide has an index listing camps by week offered and age group. Registration opens Wednesday, March 18 for City of Alexandria residents and Friday, March 20 for nonresidents. Interested participants may register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

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 for a schedule.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Reception & Gallery Talk. 6-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Gallery Talk with Juror Jeff Huntington at 7 p.m. Back by popular demand, "In the Flesh 5" is an examination of contemporary figurative art. This all-media exhibition features the work of 18 artists, all of whom express the human form in unique and thought-provoking ways. Visit torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Meet & Greet: Justin Raphael Roykovich. 6-8 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, Studio 12, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. The Torpedo Factory Post-Graduate Residency is a competitive program that provides meaningful support to recent, promising MFA graduates for three to four months in partnership with accredited MFA programs in the region and the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association. Stop by Studio 12 on Second Thursday to meet the first resident, Justin Raphael Roykovich. Visit torpedofactory.org or call 703-838-4565.

Second Thursday Live. 7 p.m. at the Athanaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. "The Course of True Love Ne'er Did Run Smooth" — Shakespeare's unhappy love scenes. Just in time for St. Valentine's Day: A reminder that dysfunctional love is eternal. DC-area theatre actors will read scenes of love and discord. Dessert reception follows the reading. \$15. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Andrew O'Day. 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Eric Benet. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave.

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Tickets \$59.50. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

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.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 13-16

George Washington's Masonic Apron on View. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. This Masonic apron was made in France and is believed to have been presented to George Washington at Mount Vernon in 1784 by the Marquis de Lafayette, a former general and close friend of Washington's, who was also a Freemason. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13-SUNDAY/MARCH 29

"In and of the Land." 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during performances at The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery at the Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land" is a two person exhibition of recent work in paintings by Clive Pates and ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery for more.

FEB. 13-MAY 25

Nine Paintings from John Chapman. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Donald W. Reynolds Museum and Education Center Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Nine unique paintings by the Virginia born artist John Gadsby Chapman (1808-1889) illustrating landscape scenes important to George Washington's biography are on view. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

21st Annual SOUPer Saturday. 9 a.m.-noon at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. For more than 20 years, the potters at the Torpedo Factory Art Center have pulled together to raise money for United Community Ministries in Hybla Valley. Purchase a handmade soup bowl for \$20, fill it with soup from Chart House, and enjoy at a table in our waterfront entry or second floor hall. Visit torpedofactory.org/event/21st-annual-souper-saturday/ for more.

Food & Wine Tasting. noon-5 p.m. at 600 Franklin St., Alexandria. Balducci's introduces shoppers to their own wines — Sauvignon Blanc from the Curico Valley in Chile; Chardonnay from California; and a reserve bottling of Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley. Food tastings begin at noon; wine tastings begin at 1 p.m. Call 703-549-6611 or visit www.balduccis.com for more.

"Blues Babies." 12:30-2 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of live music interwoven with multi-media and storytelling, exploring the modernization of the Blues and its influence upon Jazz, Gospel, Rhythm & Blues, Rock & Roll, Soul, Soul Blues, and other related music genre. Free. Call 703-746-4356.

Opening Reception and Gallery Talk. 2-4 p.m. at Margaret W. and

Joseph L. Fisher Art Gallery in The Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. "In and of the Land," paintings by Clive Pates and Ceramics by Virginia Rood Pates, a two-person exhibition of recent work in painting and ceramics that relates on multiple levels — the relationship of the artists, the source material of a common landscape, and a harmony of color and abstract form. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/Gallery for more.

Burlesque-A-Pades in Loveland. 6 p.m. doors, 7:30 p.m. show, at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. In this Valentine's Day production, Burlesque-A-Pades is serving up an evening jam packed with entertainment, including among others, award winning Burlesque Queen Angie Pontani. Full dinner and cocktail service is offered at the show plus learn more about the rich history of burlesque in American Theater with a pop up museum exhibit that will be featured in the lobby. 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 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.

Andrew O'Day. 8-11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

Dare to Follow Your Heart. 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1" and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Visit www.alexsym.org/ or call 703-548-0885.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 14-15

Celebrate Washington's Birthday. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All weekend guests will be encouraged to create birthday greetings for George Washington which will be shared with "General Washington." Included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$18; children 6-11, \$9; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

❖ 9 a.m.-noon — Join "General Washington" for a sample of hoecakes prepared by Mount Vernon staff (while supplies last)

❖ 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. — A wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington

❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world

❖ 1:45 p.m. — Take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18th-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.

❖ 2 p.m. — After the dancing ends, re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Magic: The Gathering Tournament. 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of John Strongbow's Tavern, 710



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ENTERTAINMENT

King St., Alexandria. Registration starts at 1 p.m. The 1st-4th Prizes are gift certificates to John Strongbow's Tavern. The 5th-8th Prizes: Packs of Fate Reforged prizes will be based on attendance. This event will be unsanctioned. Entry fee is \$35. Participants should pre-register by calling John Strongbow's Tavern at 703-329-3075. Visit www.medievalmadness.com for more.

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King Street, Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. It lasts 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

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.

Dare to Follow Your Heart. 3:30 p.m. at the George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Soprano Elizabeth Overmann joins the orchestra to perform two arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" as well as a song from Patrick Doyle's score to the 1995 film "Sense and Sensibility." The ASO cello section is featured on Heitor Villa-Lobos "Bachianas Brasileiras No. 1" and the full orchestra is heard on the instrumental movements from Felix Mendelssohn's classic "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Visit www.alexsym.org/ or call 703-548-0885.

MONDAY/FEB. 16

George Washington's Birthday. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Free admission to George Washington's home and burial site. "General Washington" is on the grounds to greet visitors and receive birthday wishes all day. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

- ❖ 10 a.m. — Traditional wreathlaying ceremony at Washington's Tomb
- ❖ 11:15 a.m. — Patriotic music and military performances on the Bowling Green
- ❖ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. — Visitors can mingle with costumed characters from George Washington's world
- ❖ 1:45 p.m. — Visitors may take part in Mount Vernon's largest-ever 18th-century dancing demonstration with costumed characters on the Bowling Green.
- ❖ 2 p.m. — Re-enactors gather with visitors to share selected stories
- ❖ 3 p.m. — A second wreathlaying at the tomb of George Washington

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.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Bob Hume & Martha Capone. 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call

703-329-3075.

FRIDAY/FEB. 20

Andrew O'Day. 8 - 11 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-329-3075 or visit www.johnstrongbows.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Dinner and Silent and Live Auctions. 3 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Enjoy the afternoon and evening with a silent auction at 3 p.m., followed by a wine bar at 5 p.m., a potluck dinner at 5:30 and a live auction at 6:45. Bring a dish to share. All proceeds will benefit the church. Contact Kelly Campbell at moonbeam610@gmail.com. Visit mvcuc.org/.

Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. in the Meeting House at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. Emma's Revolution headlines a benefit concert for the Katie Tyson Fund for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Visit mvcuc.org/ for more.

The Hooligans. 9-11 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Call 703-329-3075 or visit www.johnstrongbows.com.

FEB. 21-MAY 31

"Paws 'N Claws for Art." Run through May 31 at Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria teamed up to present this animal-themed, fundraising exhibit. Both nonprofits receive a percentage of each sale. Also showing, but not for sale, will be UpCycle's Fur-Vor

project community-based student-recycled dog art. Reception: Friday, February 27, 7-9pm. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

Walk with Washington Tour. 2 p.m., at Alexandria Convention and Visitors Bureau, 221 King St., Alexandria. The walk focuses on important Old Towne sites associated with George Washington. 60-90 minutes. Free. Call 703-746-3301

Gallery Talk, Symbiosis and Tension, 3 p.m. in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Artists Michael Gessner and Joanne Kent explain their process, inspiration, and how their friendship played a role in the creation of the works in the show. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Lenten Evensong. 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Arlington's Tina Chancey will play early musical instruments, including the rebec, vielle, kamenj, viol, and lyra viol. Followed by a Lenten Choral Evensong service at St. Paul's Old Town, directed by Grant Hellmers, organist-choirmaster, and will feature music by English composer Henry Purcell. Free. Donations will go to St. Paul's Lazarus Ministry. Call 703-549-3312.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Agenda: Alexandria Dinner. 6:45 p.m. at The Hermitage, 5000 Fairbanks Ave., Alexandria. Agenda: Alexandria presents "Down the Hatch: Alexandria's Luscious Libations" with Steve Bashore, manager of Historic Trades at Mount Vernon; Bill Butcher, founder, Port City Brewery; and Todd Thrasher,

sommelier and liquid savant, Eat Good Food Group. Dinner catered by Bittersweet Catering at 6:45 (\$32-\$42); program only at 7:15 (members free; nonmembers \$5). Reservations required. Call Sherry Brown at 703-548-7089 or email agendaalexandria@aol.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

Bob Hume & Martha Capone. 7-9 p.m., at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St., Alexandria. Visit www.johnstrongbows.com or call 703-329-3075.

Mike + The Mechanics 30th Anniversary Tour. 7:30 p.m. The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Their first American tour in almost 25 years. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26-SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Robert Cwiok / Enveloping Time. 12-4 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Sunday; 1-4 p.m. Saturdays at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. Paintings, collage, and mixed media works representing all phases of Cwiok's 40-year career lead visitors on a tour through the development of an artist. Visit nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. "Paws 'N Claws for Art," Del Ray Artisans and Animal Welfare League of Alexandria show animal-themed art with UpCycle's Fur-Vor student-created dog art. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

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Coach Arthur Faces Challenges in Return to West Potomac

First-year head coach was standout guard at WPHS, 2005 graduate.

By JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Lauren Arthur would rather be on the court helping the Wolverines. Arthur, the soon-to-be 28-year-old first-year head coach of the West Potomac girls' basketball team, was a standout guard at the school prior to graduating in 2005. Her success as an AAU player earned her a spot in the Fairfax Stars Hall of Fame. She also played Division I college ball at Campbell University in North Carolina.

But on Tuesday, Arthur could only watch from near the West Potomac bench as the Wolverines fouled a Lake Braddock player 30 feet from the basket with 2.2 seconds remaining in overtime. The result: one made Lake Braddock free throw and a 41-40 loss to the Bruins at West Potomac High School.

"I think [tough losses are] definitely harder to take as a coach," Arthur said. "Coming from my playing background, I just want to jump out there and go out there and help them. It's kind of hard — especially as a first-year head coach having to sit on the sidelines and just give the advice



West Potomac girls' basketball coach Lauren Arthur was a standout guard for the Wolverines prior to her graduation in 2005.

and the pointers and the direction.

"It's definitely a little bit harder as a coach."

After gaining experience as an assistant coach with the Fairfax Stars and perennial power West Springfield, Arthur returned to her alma mater (she also played one season at St. John's) to start her head-coaching career. At West Potomac, Arthur takes on the challenge of leading a program that has been a revolving door for head coaches — Arthur is the Wolverines' fifth head coach in the last six seasons.

Arthur said she understands the challenge of adapting to a new coach — she played for two head coaches in her three seasons at West Potomac. Sophomore guard Grace Moery, who played for veteran coach Kenny Farmer as a freshman last season, is taking a positive approach to the transition.

"I've been very fortunate to play for two great coaches," Moery wrote in an email. "My freshman year, I obviously did not have the basketball experience some of the other girls had. Coach Farmer had been coaching for so long, so he really helped me become adjusted to the atmosphere, improved my confidence as a player, and helped me learn a ton just about the game in general because of how long he had been coaching. Similarly to Coach Farmer, Coach Lauren

has a passion for the game but also has experience as a player, not just a coach."

Arthur said she won't be one-and-done with the Wolverines.

"I always said if I was going to be a head coach I would want to do it at West Potomac because it's kind of dear and ... I played in the program," Arthur said. "We have a reputation that we're not really a good basketball program. If I couldn't change that as a player, I want to change it as a coach. I'm definitely committed for a couple years. I don't know where my life is going to take me, but it's definitely not to just get my feet wet and leave for another program."

"I would like to build this program."

Moery said she tries to learn from the experiences of her latest head coach.

"I think it's really cool how Coach Lauren has come back to coach at a school she once played at," Moery wrote. "Because of her experience at the DI level and all of her other credentials, I try to soak up as much information that I can because I know she has been in situations like me before."

Moery is part of a young West Potomac roster that includes three seniors, five juniors, four sophomores and a freshman. Junior guard Bre Elphage and sophomore center Haleigh Hopper each scored eight points against Lake Braddock. Freshman center



West Potomac sophomore Haleigh Hopper scored eight points in a loss to Lake Braddock on Tuesday.

Natalie Terwilliger finished with six points, and junior guard Tenesha Green and Moery each added five.

Tuesday's loss dropped the Wolverines' record to 7-14, including 3-8 in Conference 7.

"I think Coach Lauren will definitely get us where we have always wanted to be," Moery wrote. "For so long, West Potomac girls' basketball has been overlooked, and we all want to change that. She pushes us even when we think we have reached our limit, which shows us how much more we can really do. Her knowledge of the game has helped me become a smarter basketball player and make better decisions on the court."

Next up in the West Potomac rebuilding process: the team's regular season finale at home against Annandale. Tipoff is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12.

"I think it's just creating a relationship with the girls from the jump," Arthur said about dealing with the program's shuffling of head coaches. "I tell them all the time I care about them more as a person than I [care about] what they do on the court, and I don't think many of them have heard that. I think it's just generating relationships and letting them know I'm here to the end with them."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

At Championship Meet

The West Potomac gymnastics team competed at the Conference 7 championship meet on Feb. 4 at Lake Braddock, placing sixth with a score of 112.225. South County won the event with a score of 135.175, followed by Lake Braddock (134.95), T.C. Williams (132.15), Woodson (116.2), West Springfield (113.125), West Potomac and Annandale (11.225).

Defeating Washington-Lee



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left are Head Coach John Stamos, seniors: Claire Sedlak, Sebastien Richard (A), Peter Stamos (C) and Assistant Coach Mark Rayder.



West Potomac High School defeated #1 Washington-Lee in its final regular season, senior night game. Sophomore forward Andrew Fischer, had a career high five goals. The Wolverines were up 3-0 early on. They struggled with penalties, resulting in a 6-6 tie in the mid 3rd period. Fischer and junior forward Jack Yager combined for two quick goals. Fischer topped off the win to put the Generals away 9-6. An All Star Game will be held at the Mount Vernon Ice Rink Rec Center on Friday, Feb. 13, at 5:15 p.m. Playoffs start Friday, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m. at Prince William Ice Rink in Dale City.

Jeopardy!

FROM PAGE 3

pen in my hand to mimic the conditions of the game. I focused on getting used to the cadences of Alex's voice so that I could buzz in at the right time," he said.

Applicants go through a number of steps to be on Jeopardy! beginning with an initial 50 question online test the contest makes available every year. This was his fifth or sixth time taking the test. This time he did well enough to go through to the second stage: being invited for an audition.

O'Grady was among 2,000 others who auditioned in D.C. at the end of May. During the auditions, the applicants take another 50 questions test and they participate in a mock Jeopardy! game so that the judges can see how they might act on the show.

If the applicant passes this stage, they are interviewed by the judges to gauge their personality. O'Grady was among 400 applicants chosen for this final stage.

Growing up watching Jeopardy! as a child, this has been a dream come true for him.

"We still watch the show regularly, and like most people we call out answers at home while we watch. It's always been a dream of mine to be on the show and see how I could do as a contestant," he said.

According to O'Grady, part of the Jeopardy!'s excitement and challenge comes from the game's fast pace. Since each episode tapes in about the same amount of time it takes to air it, there are not any "significant breaks between rounds" so that "you don't really have time to think about the last clue or even what your score is because the next clue comes up immediately."

O'Grady believes that the amount of information covered and the fast pace sets Jeopardy! apart from other trivia shows. In addition, the show's iconic host Alex Trebek's "wit and steadiness" also adds to the show's appeal.

"Anything could show up, as evidenced by the category asking us to identify hard rock lyrics on my episode this past Monday night," he said.

The "Hard Rock" category was another highlight of being on the show for O'Grady. Being an avid listener of hard rock bands, he was excited and confident when the category popped up.

"It was hard not to laugh as he read them, and I'm not all that surprised that people are getting a kick out of it," he said.

He was also featured on the viral clip of Trebek reading the hard rock lyrics.

Being a part of the Teachers Tournament has also given O'Grady the opportunity to meet other educators from around the country who are all as passionate about their craft as he is.

O'Grady has taught at West Potomac High School since March 2005. He lives in Alexandria with his wife and daughter.

Originally from Southern California, O'Grady moved to the Alexandria area after graduating college. He has a master's degree in education from George Washington University and a bachelor's degree in English from Stanford University.

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-Werner
Heisenberg

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OBITUARY
F. Roberta Ballenger, 72
On February 6, 2015 in Alexandria, VA. She is survived by her devoted husband of 54 years Frank Lee Ballenger III of Alexandria, VA, her loving son Geoffrey Franklin Hunter Ballenger and his wife Melissa Jane Ballenger and her grandson's John Franklin Ballenger and James Hunter Ballenger, of Moorestown, NJ. She is also survived by her sister Evelyn Pierpoint Runaldue and her nephew Jeremy Michael Runaldue, of Alexandria, VA. Services are private and will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Roberta's name to the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-01-04**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for the replacement of the Generator at TCW Minnie Howard Campus. Sealed Proposals with the notation ITB # 15-01-04 Pizza will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, February 27, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals.
All questions must be submitted before 1:00 p.m., February 20, 2014. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.
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**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-02-01**
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Video Production Services. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-02-01 Environmental Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, February 16, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php> No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Max Cameron Johnson
December 24, 1926 - January 27, 2015
Max Cameron Johnson, formerly of Alexandria, Virginia passed away January 27, 2015 at Applewood Living Center, Longmont, CO. He was 88 years old.
He was born December 24, 1926 in Norfolk, Virginia. Max moved to Roanoke, VA where he was raised and attended school. He went on to graduate from Virginia Southern College. Max enlisted in the United States Army during WWII and was a member of an Airborne unit. He was honorably discharged from active duty on December 6, 1946. He then served with the Ready Reserves at Langley AFB until February 22, 1963.
He married Anna Johnston in 1954 and they made their home in Alexandria, VA. He moved to Longmont in 2011, following the death of Anna on December 22, 2010, to be close to his family.
Max was a Special Agent for the United States Department of the Treasury, retiring in 1984. He was a member of the Masonic Lodge. Max volunteered his time as a tax preparer and at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. He was a Civil War buff and enjoyed growing Bonsai trees, classical music, writing poetry, bird-watching and swimming.
He is survived by his sister Gayle Jeffreys of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, sister-in-law Sue Loper of Niwot, CO and several nieces and nephews.
A Celebration of Life will be held on from 12:30-2:30pm, Sunday, February 22, 2015 at The Chinquapin Rec Center, 3210 King Street, Alexandria, VA. Cremation entrusted to Ahlberg Funeral Chapel and Crematory, Longmont, CO. Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin County (Virginia) Historical Society, Rocky Mount, VA or the Men's Home, Alexandria, VA and sent in c/o Ahlberg Funeral Chapel, 326 Terry St., Longmont, CO 80501. Visit www.ahlbergfuneralchapel.com to share condolences.

21 Announcements

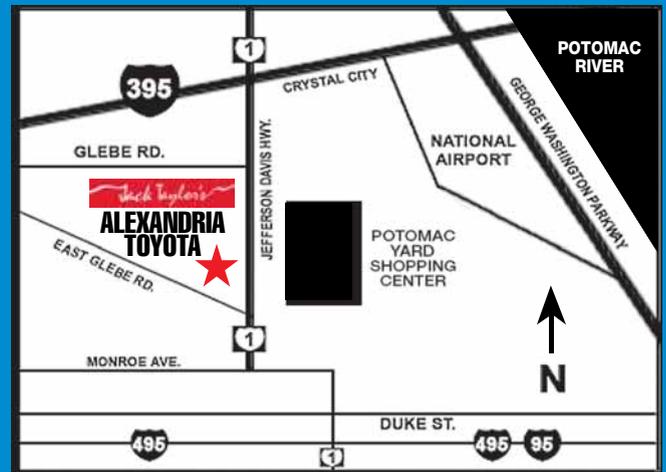
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Add Dealer Processing Fee of \$599. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or can apply to down payment. Excludes plug-in models. See dealer for details. ToyotaCare covers normal factory scheduled service. Plan is 2 years or 25k miles, whichever comes first. The new vehicle cannot be part of a rental or commercial fleet, or a livery/taxi vehicle. See participating Toyota dealer for plan details. Valid only in the continental U.S. and Alaska. Roadside assistance does not include parts and fluids. Prius plug-in hybrid comes with an extra year of roadside assistance, for a total of three (3) years from date of purchase. Lease, APR and Cash Back offers may not be combined. See dealer for details. Offers expire 2/16/2015.

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