

# Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 23, 2015



**Jeff Stewart, a friend of John Geer who witnessed him being shot, plans to push the ad hoc commission reviewing Fairfax County Police Department policies to discuss creation of an independent citizen's oversight board to look at police incidents.**



**Sal Culosi, father of Dr. Salvatore Culosi who was shot by a Fairfax County Police officer, addressed Don Geer at the April 21 meeting of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability.**

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

## 'Another Step in a Long Ladder'

**Fairfax County pays \$2.95 million to settle John Geer wrongful death case.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ore than seven months after the Geer family lawyer Michael Lieberman filed a \$12 million wrongful death civil suit in Circuit Court against Fairfax County Police, the two sides reached a \$2.95 million settlement, announced Tuesday, April 21.

The suit sought damages from Fairfax County Chief of Police Edwin Roessler, Jr. and other officers and supervisors related to the killing of John Geer on Aug. 29, 2013. Police had come to Geer's Springfield home after receiving a domestic dispute call. After a 40-minute conversation with officers, Geer, who was standing in his doorway with arms raised and resting on the frame, was shot and killed by PFC Adam Torres, according to police.

Fairfax County, citing ongoing investigations of the incident, released little information to the public or the family until an order from Fairfax Circuit Court judge Randy Bellows finally prompted action, including divulging the name of the officer who fired the shot, on Jan. 21, 2015.

**FILES RELEASED** from the Police Department's own investigation into the incident include an account from Torres that he saw Geer's hands lower suddenly towards his waist when he shot him.

Investigators learned on the same day Geer died, Aug. 29, 2013, that at least five witnesses including the police officer talking to Geer at the instant he was shot, disputed Torres's version of events. None of the other

witnesses saw Geer's hands move below his head. "Now that the family knows who killed John and knows the facts and the unjustifiable decisions that led to this tragedy, the family wants to put this legal battle behind them so they can attempt to move on," said Geer family attorney Michael Lieberman following the settlement.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova said in Tuesday's release: "I am pleased that a fair settlement has been reached and I hope this may bring some measure of closure to the family of John Geer."

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) echoed the sentiment in an interview, saying "Although nothing can replace the loss of John Geer, the big thing is this brings closure to the family that's been through a very difficult ordeal. Based on what we had in front of us, this is the right decision."

John's father Don Geer responded that while the settlement will provide some financial stability to Geer's two daughters, it doesn't go far enough.

"This is another step in a long ladder of steps to get things accomplished," Don Geer said in an interview. "It's just one of many. As far as I'm concerned, until charges are pressed with Torres, it won't be a closure. ... Fairfax has still done nothing as far as he's concerned. He's still on the daggone payroll. I'm paying his salary. That's really quite disgusting."

"I understand Mr. Geer's frustration," said Bulova in an email. "A criminal charge would have to come from either the Commonwealth Attorney who is an elected official, independent of the Board of Supervisors, or the Justice Department. I am not happy with how long it is taking for a decision, one way or another."

One step Bulova and the supervisors have taken is the creation of an ad hoc commission to review police policies for release of information and use of force, comprising lawyers, academics, members of the media, citizens and police repre

SEE ANOTHER, PAGE 5



**John Geer's father Don spoke at a meeting of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability held in the Martha Washington Library in Alexandria.**

## Budget Gets Marked Up

**Supervisors scheduled to adopt budget next Tuesday, April 28.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Board of Supervisors marked up the proposed budget Tuesday, April 21, by increasing school funding, adding key economic growth positions and restoring money to suggested cuts to "critical" human service programs Tuesday morning, April 21, according to its Chairman Sharon Bulova.

The board is scheduled to formally adopt the FY 2016 Budget next Tuesday, April 28.

See the Mark-up Package at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/)

"This is a responsible budget that responds to the needs of our community and takes into account the feedback we received during public hearings, town hall meet-

ings, letters, emails and phone calls from our constituents," Bulova said.

More than 200 people testified and the board listened to more than 14 hours of testimony from the public between April 7-9.

"Speakers during our three days of public hearings adopted as their theme a call to invest in Fairfax and that is what this mark-up package seeks to do," said Bulova. The marked-up budget maintains the current tax rate at \$1.09, implements a new compensation plan for county employees with an average increase of approximately 3.6 percent (including a "market rate adjustment of 1.1 percent), comes close to fully funding the School Board's transfer request, and restores a number of Human

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 7

## Community Rallies Behind Fire Victims

**A**fter a Mount Vernon High School student and family lost their home in a fire on April 14, principal Nardos King sent an email the following Friday morning to school staff and the Mount Vernon "Keep In Touch" contact list asking for donations to help the family start over.

"It's going to be a long road for them," King said, "they literally lost all of their belongings."

On Monday April 20, King was able to present the student with over \$2,000 in gift cards and over \$300 in cash.

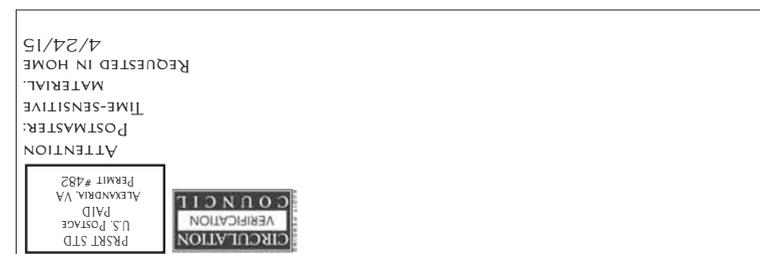
"It was a very overwhelming moment for me," said King. "The student and I were overcome with emotion, around the generosity of

people. We're very grateful to the school and community, even people who don't have kids at school, that the whole Mount Vernon community was moved enough to support strangers."

King said the school is still collecting donations to help the family get re-established. Until they find another place to live, King prefers the donations to be gift cards for easily accessible businesses along Richmond Highway such as Walmart, Target or any local grocery store.

Donations can be dropped off in the Mount Vernon High School main office, located at 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria.

— TIM PETERSON





**Seminary Ridge \$1,035,000**

Gracious 4-bedroom, 3.5-bath colonial. Updated kitchen with stainless & granite. Spacious rooms & finished lower level for comfortable entertaining. 2-car garage & great location in quiet community near 395/495 & schools. 1007saintstephens.mceneaney.com

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TheGoodhartGroup.com



**Alexandria \$1,649,000**

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**Alexandria \$699,900**

Tremendous Value in Hollin Hills! Spacious 2-level Goodman contemporary has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths and includes a beautiful master bath addition, renovated kitchen, updated bathrooms, great storage. Sited on a half acre private yard. 7204 Rebecca Drive

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JodieBurns.com



**Alexandria \$674,000**

Stellar location! Gleaming wood floors and built-ins provide classic charm, and the bath and kitchen are updated. The sunroom would make a great office or playroom. Light-filled family room is the heart of this home. Deck and fenced yard. 1210 W Braddock Rd.

**Elizabeth Lucchesi**  
703.868.5676  
LizLuke.com



**Alexandria \$749,000**

Gorgeous two level home sited on a large private lot. Classic in design with sweeping views and wonderful natural light. Three bedrooms plus a den and fabulous storage under the one of a kind carport in Hollin Hills. 2110 Whiteoaks Drive

**Robin Arnold**  
703.966.5457  
RobinArnoldSells.com



**Waywood \$874,900**

This gorgeous renovated home features a beautiful addition & sits on an over-sized lot. Great entertaining spaces, spectacular master suite, a lovely kitchen, a fabulous screened porch, finished rec room & a sparkling pool that beckons. 1127 Priscilla Lane

**Julian Burke**  
703.867.4219  
JulianBurke.com



**Alexandria \$420,000**

3-bedroom, 3.5-bath townhouse features functionality with class. Updated appliances & spacious master suite. Walk-out basement with wood-burning fireplace & full bath. Huge upper deck; lower-level platform deck; fully fenced backyard. 6616 Briarleigh Way

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Kristieismyagent.com



**Wilton Woods \$835,000**

Spectacular layered gardens surround this custom-built 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath, all-brick home - 4,200 square feet on 3 levels, cherry cabinets, stainless and granite, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors, walk-out basement and 2-car side-load garage! 4010 Pine Brook Road.

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sean-jane.com



**Accokeek, MD \$779,000**

Welcome to Bellevue! Charming, historic 10+ acre estate! The main house, built in 1800, has 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 5 fireplaces, and an all-weather sunroom, 1-bedroom/1-bath guest house, gorgeous outdoor patios! Minutes to DC, and Old Town!

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703.402.0629  
MikeMakris.com



**Alexandria \$848,000**

Spectacular Rebuild! Wide-plank hardwood floors, high ceilings, vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, chef's kitchen with breakfast bar adjoining great room, separate dining room. Huge screened porch overlooking rear yard & parkland, 1204 Cedar Dale Lane

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BettyMallon.com



**Rosemont \$549,700**

Just walk through the park to King Street Metro and restaurants. 3-level, 2-bedroom, 2-bath townhouse has been freshly painted throughout with refinished floors, updated windows, granite kitchen counters & upstairs bath updated in 2009. 38 Rosemont Ave.

**Sally Z. Harper**  
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SallyZHarper.com



**Alexandria \$665,000**

Country charm close to the city in this spacious rambler on a half acre wooded lot in Tauxemont. Flexible open floor plan includes lovely sunroom/family room off kitchen; large master bedroom, second sunroom & deck! Walk to the river. Waywood School.

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# Best and Brightest?

Some say unbalanced admissions demographics at Northern Virginia's top high school speaks to system-wide equity problems.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE GAZETTE

**C**onsider: 70.2 percent Asian, 20.7 percent White, 5.1 percent Multiracial/Other, 2.4 percent Hispanic, 1.6 percent Black: This is the ethnic breakdown of the 493 students admitted to the 2019 class of the Fairfax County Public Schools magnet institution Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

The Fairfax County released the school's admissions information on March 31. Of the 2,841 students who applied, 51 percent were Asian, 29.7 percent White, 7.3 percent Hispanic, 7.1 percent Black and 5.1 percent Multiracial/Other.

Approximately 78 percent of admitted students are from Fairfax County and 22.3 percent are from Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the City of Falls Church.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Thomas Jefferson teacher Dr. John Dell explains a rare, powerful X-ray machine and desktop electron microscope in the new quantum physics and optics lab.



From left: Justin Yum of Woodbridge, Jacob Benheim of Fairfax, Nihar Gudiseva of Herndon study after school last fall in the new wing's quantum physics and optics lab.

**"To me, it's the canary in the coal mine about how Fairfax County educates its children. If you're low income, you don't get the same education."**

— Del. Scott Surovell (D-44)



The disparity drew criticism from Mount Vernon School Board representative Dan Storck.

"Admissions to Thomas Jefferson are not representative of the Fairfax County Public Schools population," Storck said, "and certainly not of the Mount Vernon District population. We have some serious issues about equity and how do we address that?"

Data on which feeder middle schools supplied which percentage of students to the new freshman class speaks more to the inequity. Mount Vernon-area Alexandria middle schools Whitman, Carl Sandburg and Hayfield were among 17 of a list of 26 feeder schools released by Fairfax County with the total number of ad-

mitted students to Jefferson redacted.

Spokesperson for Fairfax County Public Schools John Torre explained the redactions are because the numbers are low enough (fewer than 10 admitted) that individual students could potentially be identified.

"**MAYBE WE OUGHT** to rename the school 'Herndon-Falls Church Alternative School for the Gifted and Wealthy,'" said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), referring to the feeder middle schools supplying the top quantities of students.

"To me, it's the canary in the coal mine about how Fairfax County educates its children," Surovell added. "If you're low income, you don't get the same education."

The release from Fairfax County Public Schools said 8 percent of applicants and 1.2 percent of those admitted qualify for free and reduced meals. Of all students in Fairfax County, by comparison, more than 28 percent receive free and reduced meals.

"Why is this such a significantly skewed distribution?" asked Fairfax Station resident Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, a candidate for School Board in 2011 and co-founder of the school children advocacy group Coalition of the Silence.

"If I go under the assumption we're a top-rated school system, everyone is receiving the same caliber and rigor of education at the advanced academic program centers and there's a fair and equitable process of identification of young people to be admitted into these centers."

Fairfax County's advanced academic program, or "AAP" includes numerous elemen-

tary schools and 12 middle schools where selected students take part in a more challenging curriculum with emphasis on higher intellectual performance. All nine of the schools with 10 or more students admitted to Thomas Jefferson are advanced placement program sites.

**CARRIE HEILBRUN**, Jefferson Class of 2015, first attended Silverbrook Elementary School in Fairfax Station then tested into the advanced academic program at Lorton Station Elementary School in third grade. She continued into the advanced academic program at Lake Braddock Secondary School, where teachers first told her and her parents Mark and Amy that they should look into applying to Jefferson.

Carrie said "fantastic" teachers at Lorton Station sparked her passion for science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

Her mother Amy agreed that her "amazing" experience in elementary and middle school was crucial to preparing her to both enter and succeed at Jefferson. In the fall, Carrie will attend Yale University and participate on the women's swim team.

Amy Heilburn and Carrie acknowledge observing there is less ethnic diversity at Jefferson. After looking at the demographics release from Fairfax County Public Schools, "I was really shocked. absolutely floored," said Heilburn. "It just doesn't seem like it's possible, there's no way, this doesn't add up, is it our county?"

"I go back to it's what's leading up to it," Heilburn added. "What are those kids getting in elementary school?"

For Carrie, less balance in demographic numbers isn't as significant as the quality of appreciation for for the cultures and

ethnicities present at her school, particularly through a plethora of "culture clubs" like Persian, Black student union and Chinese honor society.

"I'm proud of how each culture is represented so strongly," Carrie said, "even if the numbers aren't as large for some. You definitely won't feel alone if you apply to TJ from one of those underrepresented cultures."

The question then is whether as public school students across the county, all who are objectively intelligent enough have the same chance as Carrie to propel themselves towards the school that consistently ranks at or near the top of high schools nationwide.

"There's no guarantee of getting into Thomas Jefferson," said Storck, "but we have to ensure students have equitable opportunity to get in, and I don't believe we're doing that satisfactorily."

It's not that there have been no efforts by the county to help underrepresented populations, Storck conceded. The "Young Scholars" program in 82 schools is aimed at identifying "potential



Storck

SEE TJ, PAGE 6

## FCPS Demographic Breakdown

Total Fairfax County Public Schools Demographic Breakdown, out of 2014-2015 school year projected student population of 186,785.

- ❖ African American: 10.2 percent
- ❖ American Indian: .3 percent
- ❖ Asian American: 19.4 percent
- ❖ Hispanic: 24.6 percent
- ❖ Multiracial: 5.0 percent
- ❖ White: 40.4 percent
- ❖ Students receiving free and reduced meals: 28.2 percent
- ❖ English for Speakers of Other languages students: 15.5 percent
- ❖ Students receiving special education services: 13.77 percent

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Asian	White	Multiracial/Other	Hispanic	Black	Free-Reduced Lunch	ESOL	TOTAL
<b>Applied</b>	1,448 (51%)	843 (29.7%)	143 (5.1%)	206 (7.3%)	201 (7.1%)	227 (8%)	71	2,841 (100%)
<b>Admitted</b>	346 (70.2%)	102 (20.7%)	25 (5.1%)	12 (2.4%)	8 (1.6%)	6 (1.2%)	5	493 (100%)
<b>Fairfax County</b>	36,236 (19.4%)	75,461 (40.4%)	9,339 (5%)	45,949 (24.6%)	19,052 (10.2%)	52,638 (28.2%)	28,870 (15.5%)	186,785 (100%)

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**For the Class of 2019, 2,841 students applied to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and 493 were accepted.**

## ALEXANDRIA/MT. IDA ~ NORTH RIDGE



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Architectural changes over the years have incorporated the classical tradition including plaster over masonry interior walls, antique chandeliers, arched doorways, Beaux Arts paneling and moldings, plaster friezes and a spectacular entryway, all the while including such modern amenities as a gourmet, eat-in kitchen

with semi-precious granite counter tops and top-of-the-line appliances.

These features with ample off-street parking and elegant, spacious rooms provide an ideal setting for entertaining while maintaining the warmth and comfort of a home that is perfect for daily living.

Located only 7 miles from The Capitol and minutes from Reagan National Airport. A rare offering, for a home of this quality and size in such a prime location, offered at \$2,995,000. 305 Charles Alexander Court, Alexandria, VA 22301.

Inspection by appointment only. All inquiries should be directed to Maria Smith (owner/agent) at 703-987-0954, for a private showing.

Presented by Maria Smith  
703-987-0954  
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## OBITUARIES

### Sam Hinson

Samuel Laing Hinson, Jr., Colonel, USAF (ret), died April 11, 2015. Born Sept. 1, 1919, he was raised in Albany, Ga., the youngest of seven children. He attended North Georgia College, where he met Bernice (Happy) Griffin, his beloved wife of 67 years. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1942 and remained a life-long Bulldog fan.

After graduation, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army Air Corps, embarking on an Air Force career that spanned 27 years. Sam and Happy were married in 1944 and moved through 13 duty stations, including Newfoundland, Alaska, Scotland and Germany. His last assignment was at the Pentagon and they settled in the Mt. Vernon community.

Sam was fascinated with the intricacies of real estate development, and upon retirement from the Air Force in 1969, he founded S. L. Hinson Associates. Initially developing projects in up-state N.Y. and Alexandria, Va., Sam was thrilled when both of his children were able to join him in his new career.

The firm that bears his name

remains active in commercial real estate development throughout northern Virginia, while retaining its roots with the ownership Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehab Center and the Mt. Vernon Professional Center.

Sam was predeceased by his wife Happy in 2011. He is survived by his children Linda Holliman (Chuck) and S. Laing Hinson (Enid); his grandchildren Gray Adams of Colo.; Mandy Adams Melby (Dirk) of Colo.; Matt Hinson (Sarah) of N.C.; S. Bond Hinson of Tenn.; Claire Hinson Rodriguez (Joey) of Texas; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held April 17 at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Alexandria. Burial will be at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22309.



### Boyakin Old Bird

Boyakin Old Bird died at his home at Westminster Canterbury of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, Va., on April 17, 2015.

Mr. Bird was born in Selma, La. and lived his adult life in Virginia (Alexandria, Tappahannock, and Winchester). He was a graduate of Selma High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering from Louisiana Tech University. He was then employed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at their Research and Development Laboratories, Fort Belvoir, for 33 years. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. On his retirement he was awarded a Superior Performance Award.

Mr. Bird was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester and had been very active at Episcopal churches in Alexandria and Tappahannock serving on the church vestries in many capacities including Senior Warden and head of the Every Member Canvas several times. He was the first Licensed Lay Reader and Diocesan Congregational Keyman at Emmanuel Church, Alexandria.

He is survived by his wife Helen M. Bird (they had just celebrated their 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month). He is also survived by two daughters: Sara Bird Bicking and husband David of Winchester, Va., and

Catherine Bird of Fredericksburg, Va. There are four grandchildren: Jennifer Wright Hodge and husband John of Virginia Beach, Va.; Cristen Mason Spencer and husband Keith of Roanoke, Va.; Matthew Wright of Hickory, N.C.; and Sara Rebecca Mason Starkey and husband Jason of Fredericksburg, Va. There are also two step grandchildren: Alice Kathryn Schain and husband Jeremy of Winchester, Va.; and Nathan Bicking and wife Misty of Martinsburg, W.Va. There are also seven great grandchildren and five step great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, Winchester, Va., at 1 p.m. on Saturday April 25, with the Rev. Webster Gibson and the Rev. Bridget Coffey celebrating. Interment will be at the Christ Church Columbarium immediately following the service. There will be a reception in the Tilford Room of Christ Church.

Memorials may be made to Christ Church 114 West Boscawen St., Winchester, VA 22601, or to The Westminster Canterbury Fellowship Fund, 300 Westminster Canterbury Dr., Winchester, VA 22603.



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\*Zip codes outside of Alexandria may be subject to an additional delivery charge.

Order it now!

# 'Another Step in a Long Ladder'

FROM PAGE 1

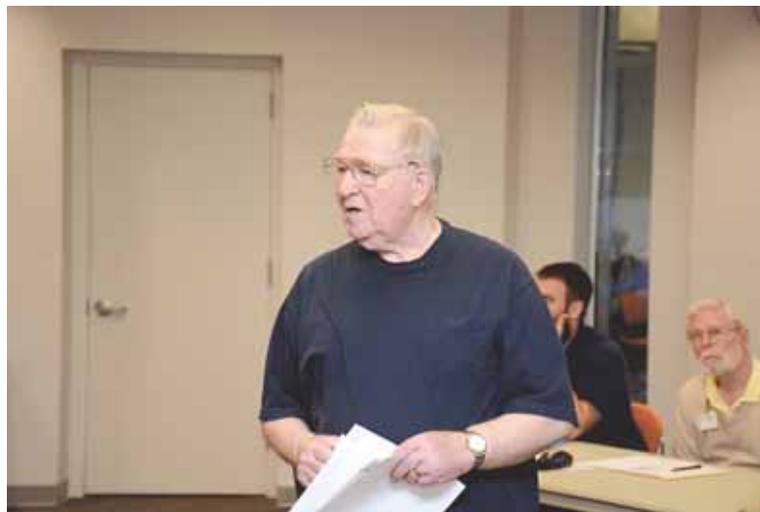
representatives. Its first, largely introductory meeting was held at the Fairfax County Government Center March 23. Its second meeting is scheduled for the same location on April 27.

"While the family is hopeful that the recently created public commission will result in meaningful changes," Lieberman said, "it remains important that the residents of Fairfax County continue to demand actual change from county officials as to the police department's use of force, its lack of transparency and accountability, as well as many other issues that have come to light through this tragedy."

Jeff Stewart, a close friend of John and Don Geer, who witnessed Geer being shot and now sits on the ad hoc commission, believes the case "is half over" with the settlement.

"We still have an officer that hasn't been held accountable for his actions," Stewart said. "I hope that people don't forget about it."

"Money doesn't solve the problem," he continued. "It helps the girls out long term, but money doesn't hold anyone accountable. For me it doesn't bring a lot of closure. John would still be dead, no officer would still be accountable, we're right back where



**Nick Beltrante, executive director of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability and member of the Fairfax County ad hoc commission to review police policies for disclosure of information and use of force, speaks at a Coalition meeting held April 21 at the Martha Washington Library in Alexandria.**

we were when Culosi was shot and [David] Masters was shot." Both died in Fairfax County police-related shootings.

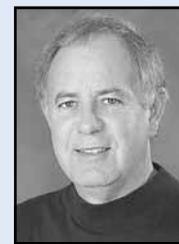
**THE COMMISSION** is scheduled to make recommendations for Fairfax County Police policy changes to the Board of Supervisors in October. For more information on the commission and its schedule, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission).

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**AQUINAS**  
**MONTESSORI SCHOOL**  
 Thursday, April 30 — 7-8pm  
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[www.aquinasmontessorischool.com](http://www.aquinasmontessorischool.com) 703.780.8484  
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**PHOTO GALLERY!**  
**"Me and My Mom"**  
 To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)  
 Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Mount Vernon Gazette, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.



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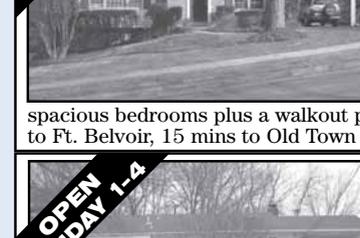
**Alex./Olive Park • \$514,900**  
**8732 Lea Lane**  
 Lovely 3,000+ sq ft Colonial w/5 BRs/4 BAs on a beautiful .5 acre lot. A 2005 upper level addition offers a true master bedroom/master bath suite, both w/vaulted ceilings along w/2 other bedrooms & a bath. The main level has 2 BRs, 2 BAs plus a large kitchen which opens to a great room, both w/vaulted ceilings. A wood-burning FPL in the living room & wood stove in the great room add to the charm. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 25 mins to NTL Airport.



**Alex./Bucknell Manor • \$314,900**  
**6839 Kenyon Drive**  
 Why rent, when you can buy this lovely 3-level duplex townhome conveniently located near G.W. Parkway & Potomac River and just a few minutes from Old Town and Huntington Metro? 2 BR, 1 BA. Stunning main level with new hardwoods, gorgeous kitchen w/all-new SS appliances, granite counters and recessed lighting. Beautiful bathroom. Replacement windows, newer HVAC. Large backyard w/shed. A 10!



**Alex./Riverside Estates • \$529,000**  
**8405 Bound Brook Lane**  
 Stunning version of Riverside's most popular Colonial model – Freshly painted interior, beautifully refinished hardwood floors on main and upper levels. Gorgeous bump-out expanding the kitchen eating area and looks out to a spectacular back yard. Large spacious bedrooms plus a walkout partially finished basement. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town & Metro. Priced to sell!



**Alex./Riverside Estates • \$519,900**  
**8508 Wagon Wheel Road**  
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**S. Alex./Mount Vernon • \$769,900**  
**3225 Woodland Lane**  
 Beautiful WATER VIEWS overlooking Little Hunting Creek. Wonderful .84 acre lot provides fabulous nature setting & abundant windows provide stunning water & wildlife views. 4 BR, 3 BA contemporary home w/2-car garage on very special Woodland Lane w/million dollar plus homes. Renovated kitchen & master bath. Enjoy serenity & nature's beauty from huge deck & yard. 1 mile G.W. Pkwy.



**Alex./Yacht Haven • \$875,000**  
**4505 Dolphin Lane**  
 4,000 sq. ft. of renovated luxury in this 5 BR/4 BA Split – Updates: Kitchen, all 4 baths, spectacular cherry hwdw floors – Great room opens to beautiful sun-room addition that opens to spectacular 35K deck overlooking an unbelievable custom landscaped bkyd. House designed for independent living on either level. Two updated HVAC systems plus tankless HWH – the list goes on & on. Walk to marina, clubhouse & pool. Nothing better in all of Mt. Vernon.



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# TJ Reflects Economic Divide

FROM PAGE 3

high achievers” from these groups, according to Torre.

**JEFFERSON ADMISSIONS** Director Jeremy Shughart said in a statement that last fall the school’s admissions office created an advisory committee tasked with “looking at a variety of admissions components and making recommendations for possible adjustments to future admissions cycles.”

This is a continuation of ongoing debating of modifying the school’s admissions policy, the most recent updates to which Torre said were in 2013.

“The policy now states that students (semi-finalists) will undergo a comprehensive, holistic process that assesses their ability to meet the rigors of the TJ curriculum and the potential to be effective contributors to the school’s learning experience,” he said in an email.

Before that, he said, all the admission components were scored independently of each other and then added together for a final numerical score by which the top students were chosen to be offered admission.

The class of 2013 was comprised of:

Ethnicity—Applied—Accepted
White—1296 (44.2%)—175 (36.5%)
Black—173 (5.9%)—8 (1.7%)
Hispanic—188 (6.4%)—6 (1.3%)
Alaskan/American Indian—9 (0.3%)—1 (0.2%)
Asian/Pacific Islander—1097 (37.5%)—260 (54.3%)
Multiracial—163 (5.6%)—28 (5.8%)
Other—3 (0.1%)—1 (0.2%)
Total—2929 (100.0%)—479 (100.0%)

**A DECADE EARLIER**, near the end of 2003, the School Board appointed a “Blue Ribbon Commission” group of experts to review Jefferson’s admissions practices. The commission’s recommendations led to a revised admissions process that affected the 2004-2005 class of applicants.

The class of 2003 was comprised of:

Ethnicity—Applied—Accepted
White—1590 (61.9%)—297 (69.1%)
Black—146 (5.7%)—7 (1.6%)
Hispanic—105 (4.1%)—10 (2.3%)
Alaskan/American Indian—3 (0.1%)—1 (0.2%)
Asian/Pacific Islander—583 (22.7%)—93 (21.7%)
Multiracial—94 (3.6%)—16 (3.7%)
Other—49 (1.9%)—6 (1.4%)
Total—2570 (100.0%)—430 (100.0%)

Elizabeth Schultz, who represents the Springfield District on the School Board, thinks the revisions haven’t measured up to their intended effects.

“I think we have fiddled and tweaked consistently the admissions practice to the detriment of the quality of students headed to TJ,” she said. “In the end, we have contorted the process so far as to water down what it means to achieve at an academic rigor level necessary to be a successful stu-



**Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology added a Monticello-esque dome in the first phase of its renovation project.**

dent for all four years at TJ.”

Furthermore, she doesn’t know if leveling the playing field for potential applicants is necessarily the right answer.

“Should we be increasing the rigor of the K-12 math curriculum?” Schultz said. “Absolutely. Rigor and tracking of sustained rigor in math curriculum beginning in elementary schools needs to be improved.”

School Board members other than Storck and Schultz didn’t respond to requests for interviews.

“Could we broaden student participation in higher level math courses earlier?” Schultz added. “I think we could. Does there need to be a systemic delivery of the curriculum across the division? Without a shadow of a doubt.” Schultz referenced a recent School Board work session where a math component audit was discussed.

For Jefferson admissions, Schultz favors a simpler, merit-based evaluation separated from name, school (and advanced academic program) gender and demographics. The viewpoint of bringing in the most objectively qualified applicants is one shared by

Liz Bradsher of Clifton, who represented the Springfield District on the School Board from 2008 to 2012.

“It’s about the best and brightest in Fairfax County, students who are innately bright,” Bradsher said of the image of Jefferson.

Admissions director Shughart was not available to comment for this story; however, his statement continued: “FCPS will continue to work on increasing diversity at TJHSST and will continue to pursue outreach efforts to ensure talented underrepresented populations of students with a passion for math and science consider, apply to and attend TJHSST as their high school option.”

According to Torre, some efforts already being implemented include information sessions about the Jefferson for rising eighth grade students and their families, explaining some of the programs, admissions process and extracurricular activities. These sessions should engage the other participating school districts as well as all Fairfax County middle, secondary and elementary schools, Torre said.

## Admissions by Middle School

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Class of 2019 admission by Fairfax County Public Schools middle school:

School, location	Admitted Students
❖ Rachel Carson, Herndon	88
❖ Longfellow, Falls Church	66
❖ Rocky Run, Chantilly	45
❖ Joyce Kilmer, Vienna	36
❖ Frost, Braddock	21
❖ Lake Braddock, Burke	20
❖ Hughes, Reston	18
❖ Luther Jackson, Falls Church	13
❖ Mark Twain, Alexandria	12
❖ Cooper, McLean	REDACTED
❖ Franklin, Chantilly	REDACTED
❖ Glasgow, Lincolnia	REDACTED
❖ Hayfield, Alexandria	REDACTED
❖ Herndon, Herndon	REDACTED
❖ Holmes, Lincolnia	REDACTED
❖ Washington Irving, Springfield	REDACTED
❖ Key, Springfield	REDACTED
❖ Lanier, Fairfax	REDACTED
❖ Liberty, Clifton	REDACTED
❖ Poe, Annandale	REDACTED
❖ Robinson, Fairfax	REDACTED
❖ Carl Sandburg, Alexandria	REDACTED
❖ South County, Lorton	REDACTED
❖ Ormond Stone, Centreville	REDACTED
❖ Thoreau, Vienna	REDACTED
❖ Whitman, Alexandria	REDACTED

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Protecting Student Privacy

Protecting student privacy under Virginia Code § 2.2-3705.4(1) as well as the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, Fairfax County Public Schools spokesman John Torre said, is the goal with withholding the data. “Without permission of the student, families, it’s not a place we’re going to go,” he said.

“When FCPS publishes reports on student achievement or shares student data,” Torre added in an email, “FCPS must apply disclosure avoidance strategies to prevent unauthorized release of information about individual students.”

Dr. Priscilla M Regan, acting senior associate dean of the George Mason University School of Policy, Government and International Affairs, said this cautious practice is “definitely typical” of what many institutions are doing.

“Health care, education, anything where you’re dealing with anything that could be considered sort of sensitive and personally identifiable — it’s really likely there will be more of this as it’s becoming easier to identify people,” she said.

Regan’s take is Fairfax County has likely made a calculation as to the line at which they feel individual students become “re-identifiable” and privacy becomes a concern under Virginia Code and federal law.

She added in her interpretation of the threat to students: “An indication of their scholastic achievement, their sense of how they might see themselves, the risk they’ve taken in taking the Thomas Jefferson exam, whether you’re admitted or not admitted, that’s the parents of children in schools’ decision. It’s up to them to reveal that information.”

PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

# NEWS

## Supervisors Revise County Budget

FROM PAGE 1

Services reductions proposed in the original advertised budget, Bulova said.

Because of an increase in property assessments, the average homeowner will pay \$185 more in property taxes, even though the tax rate will not increase. Kimberly Adams, president of the Fairfax Education Association, responded immediately.

"FEA has rallied both in Fairfax and in Richmond to tell elected officials that the community wants greater investment in our community and our schools," said Adams. "Here in Fairfax, the Board of Supervisors has tied their own hands, apologized for this being an election year, and then said they 'wish they could do more.' Our schools are not funded by wishes; they are funded by a dedication to actually invest in Fairfax before more damage is done to our community." Three supervisors voted against the marked-up package, including Pat Herrity (R), Michael Frey (R), and Linda Smyth (D).

"I am disappointed that not only did the board raise our citizens' taxes yet again, but the board majority failed to even make the easy decisions to even discuss reducing spending to address the \$100 million shortfall we are facing in FY 2017," said Herrity. "Under this board's watch our homeowners have seen their tax bills go up by 16 percent in three years, our commercial vacancy rate has spiked to over 16 percent, ... but

**"The Advertised Budget as amended ... results in some changes that will make some folks happy, some relieved, and some disappointed."**

**— Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors**

the board thought they deserved a pay raise for themselves," said Herrity.

The revised budget restores the most critical Human Services reductions in the Advertised Budget, including Healthy Families, Parenting Education "Good Touch, Bad Touch" programs, mental health services in jail, and detox diversion positions. It also restores the Enforcement of the Grass Ordinance, Bulova said.

"The Advertised Budget as amended by these actions results in some changes that will make some folks happy, some relieved, and some disappointed," said Bulova. "It is, however, a responsible package that: maintains our current tax rate at \$1.09."

The marked up budget comes close to fully funding the School Board's request with an increase of over \$66 million (including funding for School Debt Service) over last year, Bulova said.

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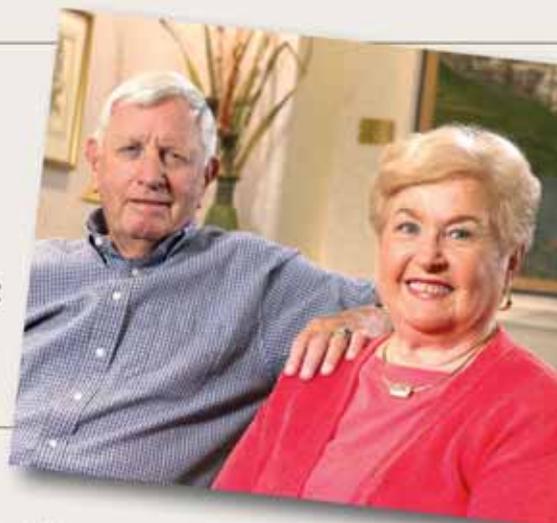


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# OPINION

## The Gazette, Connection Win Awards

Variety of coverage honored at annual Virginia Press Association conference.

On Saturday, April 18, a group of journalists from the Connection Newspapers traveled to Roanoke for the annual Virginia Press Association event to collect awards for business reporting, government writing, writing about health, science and the environment, feature writing, sports writing, column writing, obituaries, cartoons, entertainment pages and writing, public safety writing, editorial pages and writing, page design, informational graphics and more.

A look at the themes of some winning entries gives some insight into the mission at the Connection: to tell stories of significance, using reporting, data and analysis while getting to the heart of why the issues matter in local lives. In a time that we, like all newspapers, are functioning with reduced resources, it helps affirm that the effort can make a difference.

Bonnie Hobbs won for ongoing coverage of a family's efforts to provide the best life for a son they call "not special needs, but a special person," and a second award for coverage of issues related to affordable housing and homelessness.

Judges call Michael Pope's business reporting "first-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues." Stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable



**Veronica Bruno**



**Renee Ruggles**

Care Act are called "well-researched, clearly written and engaging."

The use of real-live people high up in stories to illustrate makes for very compelling material."

Vernon Miles won for breaking news coverage of Arlington's first same sex marriage, being "on the scene of a local event that has local, statewide and national significance. ... The story is multi-sourced; has a strong lead that gives readers a sense of the scene; places the event in historic context; and captures the celebratory feel of the event."

On Pope government reporting: "Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the consequences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting."

On Marilyn Campbell's reporting for Wellbeing: "These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term."

Even in recreation and entertainment, our mission is to provide our readers with the information they need to have fun, and our annual update to the "Insiders Guide to the Parks," brainchild of Jean Card, is designed to do that.

What are we missing? We rely on our readers to let us know. We invite your story ideas, your tips, your letters to the editor, calendar listings, photos of mothers for Mother's Day and fathers for Fathers Day, and more. Visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com) and click on "contact us," or email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM

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### Winners

Truncated list, for a complete list, see [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong**, Mount Vernon Gazette — Informational Graphics, Third Place. *Parks, an Insider's Guide*; Judge's comments: I liked the maps. They were easy to read, I quickly located where each park was and was able to learn more about it, not only through the text, but through the accompanying photos. The colors were also used well. As a whole the package was informative and easily digestible.

**Michael Lee Pope**, Mount Vernon Gazette — Business and Financial Writing, First Place. *A Debt to Society, Paycheck Gender Wars? Northern Virginia Stuck in Neutral*. Judge's comments: First-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues. Fine work.

**Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet — Column Writing, Entertainment, First Place. *'Curtain Up!' 'Gypsy,' Signature Theatre; 'Ella' Has*

*Scatitude, Metro Stage; It's All Relative "Three Sistahs" returns to MetroStage*. Judge's comments: Ms. Theismann's entertainment columns demonstrate a breadth of knowledge that gives her opinions a ring of authority and authenticity. Though I live nowhere near her area, I found it easy to be influenced by her writing and to wish that I had the opportunity to attend some of the events she talked about. All three examples are nicely written.

**Jean Card, Jeanne Theismann, Steve Hibbard, Louise Krafft and Kara Coleman**, First Place. Alexandria Gazette Packet — Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages.

**Joan Brady**, Great Falls Connection — Column Writing, Second Place. *No, I'm Not a Parent; I Just Act Like One; Small Acts of Kindness; Nurturing Happy Memories*. Judge's comments: Brady draws on her wealth of experience with the foster parent system to write empathetically but authoritatively on family ties. And she does so with humanity and

insight. Her writing combines depth and subtlety with eloquence of expression. In some senses, her subject matter is narrow. But viewed through a different filter, it is universal. She writes engagingly on a consistent basis.

**Veronica Bruno**, Mount Vernon Gazette — Feature Story Writing, Second Place. *Santa Remembers His Daughter*; Judge's comments: Great twist, interesting couple combined with new situation. Not sentimental. Very original.

**Michael Lee Pope**, Mount Vernon Gazette — Government Writing, Third Place. *Checking Out Library Funding; Ways To Battle Area Homelessness; Safety at a Crossroads in Poor Communities* Judge's comments: Government reporting is not known for its heart, but there is a lot of heart in these stories. Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the consequences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Police Oversight Board Needed

To the Editor:

As a lifetime resident of Mt. Vernon District, and a Mt. Vernon appointee to the Fairfax County Human Services Council (HSC), I have had the honor and pleasure of meeting and volunteering on behalf of Mt. Vernon and Fairfax

County residents. I do not take this honor lightly. While the HSC meets throughout the year to discuss the county's human services policies, one of our primary roles is to make budget recommendations to the Board of Supervisors each year as part of the budget process, a very difficult task as the county tries to remain fiscally prudent while trying to address growing service needs, many of which

are in Mt. Vernon District.

One of the residents I've been fortunate to meet is Nick Beltrante who, after a discussion on transparency, invited me to attend the March meeting of the Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability (VCCPA), a group of residents concerned about our county's lack of police accountability, fueled, in large part, over Fairfax County's lack of disclosure

surrounding the John Geer shooting in the doorway of his home at the hands of the Fairfax County Police Department.

What I learned by attending the meeting was that while some attendees have been deeply and personally affected by excessive or deadly use of force, like the Culosis who lost their son Sal, others are

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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A Connection Newspaper



# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

simply unhappy and frustrated at the county's continued stonewalling, non-disclosure, lack of transparency with getting to the facts surrounding how a man is shot in his home, and if there is any accountability that will be ever be levied in the matter.

As a response to this situation, the County Attorney will be taking an early retirement more than a year from now, and one of his top assistants is nowhere to be heard from on this matter. And, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova has formed the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, a group in excess of 30, including nine members of the police and former Police Chief turned Deputy County Executive for Public Safety David Rohrer. We've recently learned from FOIA'd emails between the Board of Supervisor's chair and the county executive, that my friend, Mr. Beltrante who is the executive director of the VCCPA, was almost excluded simply because he calls for a citizen oversight board.

This commission was intended to quiet the mounting fury the community has over Fairfax County's lack of disclosure surrounding the shooting of John Geer, it came far too late and appears to address far too little. Moreover, the outcome of this task force will not address the reason the group was convened, the shooting death of John Geer. The answer to the nearly 16 months of disclosing nothing about this police shooting, of which is not the first such police shooting in Fairfax County, is to seemingly create a committee, inclusive of some of the very individuals who did not inform the public previously. We are to believe that they will now recommend policies that will implicate those they manage, those who they have repeatedly protected. This all sounds like an

exercise in futility. Now, with the mounting incidents involving Fairfax County Police and the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, it is even more imperative that we see accountability and transparency.

From my time on the Human Services Council I have learned the importance of proper mental health training for our public safety employees, which makes Natasha McKenna's death inexcusable to me. By using a taser on an individual four times after she is already restrained by handcuffs and shackled at her feet shows a lack of training of our jail personnel and how they subsequently handle people with mental health issues.

We cannot afford to waste this time. Those who have volunteered their time deserve better. The families of the victims deserve better. Our process deserves better. Whether we are citizens giving our time trying to make a difference, trying to make our county better for all residents, or simply asking our elected leadership to be open and honest with its residents, we must demand that our elected officials, and those they employ, to be accountable to residents through clearly defined processes, complete with prescribed transparency and accountability. This must include the safety of our residents and those entrusted to defend it. In pursuit of these ends we must be proactive in ensuring that our county remains ahead of the curve in practices and policies that serve to increase the quality of life for its residents. With Mr. Beltrante's endorsement I will continue to fight to have Fairfax County create a Citizens Advisory Board to ensure proper management and transparency will occur between the county and its citizens.

**Jack Dobbyn**

*The writer is running in the Democratic primary for Mt. Vernon District supervisor.*



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# Veto Session: Ethics, Voter ID, Government Surveillance

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



Last week, we returned to Richmond for the annual Reconvened or Veto Session where we considered about 20 vetoes and 60 Governor's amendments to various bills.

First, Governor McAuliffe signed the state budget we passed so there were no budget amendments to consider for the first time in my six sessions. However, that did not speed things up.

Governor McAuliffe vetoed several bills relating to firearm violence prevention. These included bills that would enhance Virginians ability to purchase machine guns and carry loaded shotguns in vehicles. I voted to sustain these vetoes and they were ultimately sustained by the Senate.

Governor McAuliffe also vetoed legislation to require Virginians to provide a copy of a photo identification when submitting an absentee ballot application. I fought this bill on the floor and it was amended due to some of the issues I raised — e.g. unfairness to veterans deployed in combat — but it still unduly burdened people without ac-

cess to copy machines. His veto was sustained on that legislation as well.

The Governor also vetoed the "Tim Tebow" bill — or legislation that would allow homeschooled children to participate in public school sports upon approval of a policy by the Virginia High School League. I voted to sustain the Governor's veto. I do not see public school education as an a la carte service. I could easily see this policy spreading to band, art, or science competitions. Plus, homeschooled children do not live by the same grading or conduct policies as public school students and such a policy could not be fairly implemented. The Governor's veto was sustained.

We also had a lengthy debate about government surveillance. We passed legislation to limit the government's ability to passively gather personal information on Virginians outside of active criminal investigations or without search warrants.

The most famous examples of this are license plate readers — devices which capture the dates, times and places license plates are seen. They have been used in Virginia to track people entering and leaving Washington, D.C., but they could also be used to track attendance at political rallies, gun shows, churches, community meetings, or other activities.

There are other examples. The Fairfax County Police purchased a device called a "Stingray." These devices are the size of a suitcase and mimick cell phone towers. After tricking a cell phone into locking in to the device, law enforcement can determine the cell phone identifier or every person present at a location, in a building, or even in a room. They have been used without warrants in criminal investigations in other jurisdictions.

The Governor proposed to amend this legislation to limit it to only restrict license plate readers and to allow the police to keep data up to 60 days. I did not support either amendment because I felt that they violated Virginian's privacy and that personal information should only be gathered by the government pursuant to warrants issued based

upon probable cause after having been reviewed by a judge or magistrate. The Governor's Amendment restricted the legislation to license plate readers passed. The 60-day limitation failed.

Finally, we also debated several Governor's amendments to ethics reform legislation. We previously passed legislation limiting gifts to \$100. However, the legislation lifted the aggregate cap on gifts allowing an elected official to accept multiple sub-\$100 gifts per year.

Governor McAuliffe proposed to create a \$100 per year cap, require annual random "inspections" of forms filed, and providing staffing resources for the new Ethics Advisory Commission.

The Governor's \$100 annual cap passed — which I supported — after some procedural gymnastics necessary to cure some drafting errors. But most of his other amendments unfortunately failed. We will continue to debate this next year. The reforms passed this year do not go far enough.

Please send me any feedback at [scott@scottsuovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsuovell.org). It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

## State Legislature Upholds Governor McAuliffe's Vetoes

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



Last week, members of the General Assembly returned to Richmond for the 2015 veto session — the annual wrap-up that concludes our legislative cycle. We voted on the governor's vetoes and amendments to bills that were passed in January and February. We made progress in many ways — but I believe we missed opportunities to strengthen our ethics laws, protect Virginians' privacy, and at long last close the health care coverage gap.

The legislature upheld all 17 of Governor McAuliffe's vetoes, stopping bills that would have undercut gun safety, limited ballot access, and restricted the ability of working people to earn a decent wage.

Back in February, the General Assembly approved a bill proposing broad changes to Virginia's ethics and transparency rules. As

I said at the time, that measure left "much work undone." Among its many problems, it would have loosened restrictions on the gifts public officials are able to

accept from lobbyists and other interested parties. Current law imposes a \$250 annual cap on gifts from any one giver; as originally passed, this year's ethics bill would have replaced that cumulative cap with a \$100 single-gift ceiling, opening the door to unlimited \$99 gifts.

Governor McAuliffe offered amendments to restore the cumulative cap at the new \$100 level; I was proud to support that change, and it will soon become law. Unfortunately, my colleagues rejected other important amendments — including one

that would have empowered our ethics council to randomly inspect officials' disclosure forms. In the wake of former Governor McDonnell's conviction, lawmakers need to take ethical responsibilities seriously. Virginians deserve to have confidence in their leaders' integrity, and I believe that our actions this year fall short of what is needed.

I am also concerned with the fates of several bills intended to protect Virginians' privacy. New technologies have made it easier than ever for government to monitor ordinary citizens, and the General Assembly worked to address that possibility. We passed bills that would limit warrantless use of drones and prevent long-term storage of unnecessary data from license plate readers. Law enforcement professionals can and should use new technologies in their efforts to serve and protect our Com-

monwealth, but we need clear and sensible ground rules to govern that use.

The General Assembly rejected amendments that would have weakened these bills by allowing greatly expanded use of warrantless drones and enabling license plate data to be kept for 60 days. While those amendments were well-intentioned, I felt that they conflicted with Virginians' fundamental right to privacy. Now that they have failed, both bills are back on the governor's desk, and he must decide whether to veto them or sign them without his amendments. I hope he will remember the virtues of a cautious approach. If we enact these safeguards now, they can always be loosened later on; if we do nothing, it may be difficult to pass similar protections in years to come — even if experience proves them necessary.

SEE UPHOLDING, PAGE 18

## SHOP LOCAL FIRST

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

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church**

**Mass Schedule**

<p><b>Monday</b> 6:30 pm Mass (Español)</p> <p><b>Saturday Evening</b> 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)</p> <p><b>Sunday</b> 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter &amp; Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm</p>	<p>(en Español); 6:30 pm</p> <p><b>Weekday &amp; Saturday Mornings:</b> 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday, Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)</p> <p><b>Thursday &amp; First Friday of the Month:</b> 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration</p>
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**Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Old Town**  
**411 Queen Street, Alexandria, VA** Stunning Renovation & Expansion in this Historic Property. Open Floor plan 3 BDRM/3.5 bath home! Sunny exposure w/original hardwood floors. Dual zone. Old made NEW! \$1,169,900  
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**Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Old Town SE Quadrant 600 Lee Street South, Alexandria, VA** Can't beat this location in the SE quadrant, next to the Park, overlooking the River, combined with charm, function and convenience. Includes gourmet kitchen, hw flrs, 4 br, 3.5 ba \$1,189,000  
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**Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Grist Mill 8900 Grist Mill Woods Ct Alexandria, VA** Elegant light-filled center hall colonial on large private lot. Four bedrooms, large eat-in kitchen w/granite and SS appliances. Fabulous two-story great room, huge basement! \$889,000  
**Melanie Trainer CBmove.com/FX8588978**



**Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Mason Hill 1607 Mason Hill Drive, Alexandria, VA** Beautiful Custom Center Hall Contemporary in Mason Hill. 5 Bedrooms All on One Level, White Kitchen with Quartz Countertops, Large Light-Filled Rooms, 2-Car Garage. \$799,900  
**Greg Doherty CBmove.com/FX8593413**



**Old Town 305 Gibbon Street, Alexandria, VA** Elegant home in the Southeast quadrant with many upgrades throughout. 2 BR, 1 BA w/separate DR that leads to outside patio & yard. Hardwoods, plantation shutters, and so much more. \$785,000  
**Cathy D'Antuono CBmove.com/AX8591253**



**Ivy Hill 505 Ivy Circle, Alexandria, VA** Just listed. Charming brick center hall colonial on a lovely cul-de-sac walking distance to King Street Metro & Old Town. Hardwood flrs two lvs, fireplace, glass enclosed porch. 3 BR, 1.5 BA \$719,000  
**Susan Gray Chambers CBmove.com/AX8591988**



**Too Late Olde Belhaven Towne 6317 Barrister Place, Alexandria, VA** All renovated and waiting for you! This has location, charm and function. 3 level townhome w/3 br, 3.5 baths, gourmet kitchen, hw flrs, baths redone, roof, a/c and more! \$639,900  
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**Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Waynewood 1025 Croton Drive, Alexandria, VA** Wonderful Waynewood! Updated Salem model - 4 br/2.5 baths, gleaming hardwoods, granite, stainless appliances, new paint, carpets, huge landscaped fully fenced yard, basement, garage! \$599,000  
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**Open House, Sunday 1-4 pm Northampton Place 3101 Hampton Dr N, Unit #1412, Alexandria, VA** Great location. Minutes to I-395. Close to Mark Center, Pentagon, D.C. Spectacular view of Arlington and D.C. from this 14th Flr unit. 2 BR, 2 BA, Den, 2 parking garage spcs + upgrades. \$474,900  
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**Open House, Sunday 1-4 pm Seminary Walk 51 Skyhill Rd #303, Alexandria, VA** Rare 3 bed condo 1 mile from King St. Metro! Renovated. Spacious floor plan with lg balcony. Granite Counters, tile fl., SS Appliances. Secure bldg. Ex Storage. 2 permitted pk. \$309,900  
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**Open House, Sunday 2-4 pm Quaker Hill 1100 Quaker Hill Drive #425, Alexandria, VA** Gleaming hardwoods throughout this totally renovated 2 BR/2 BA in Quaker Hill. W/D in Unit, fireplace, granite, stainless, separate DR, pool. \$299,000  
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# ENTERTAINMENT

Email community announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

**Art Exhibit.** Through April 25 during gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, The Associates Gallery, studio 319, 105 North Union. Ceramics artist Bev Andrews, painter Ann Noel, mixed media artist Gail Spencer Saour and fine arts photographer Jo Ann Tooley will present work for an exhibit titled "Layers." Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**"The Island."** Through April 26 at various times at MetroStage, 1201 N Royal St. "The Island" is set on Robben Island in South Africa where two political prisoners labor during the day and perform "Antigone" by night. Visit [www.metrostage.com](http://www.metrostage.com).

**"Art and Story."** Through April 26 at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Del Ray Artisans presents artworks illustrating the power of art and story. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW) for more.

**"Attics and Alleys."** Saturdays in May, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at various locations. Guests are invited to take a walking tour through historic sites like Gadsby's Tavern Museum, The Apothecary Museum and the Carlyle House in honor of National Preservation Month. Tickets are \$35. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov) for more.

**Art Show.** Through May 3 at Cove, 805 King St., Alexandria. Cove will partner with ArtSee to open the doors of their Alexandria location for a reception featuring the work of Alexandria artist Pete McCutchen. The work on display shares McCutchen's "Geometrics" series. Visit [cove.is](http://cove.is) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, May 3 at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Two new exhibits will be on display at the Multiple Exposures Gallery by artists Susan Meyers and Colleen Henderson. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**"COMPARTMENTALIZED."** Through

May 17, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday-Friday 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, 5000 Dawes Ave. The exhibit, featuring Lang's assemblages of photography, digital photomontage, and found objects will be on display. Free. Visit [www.schlesingercenter.com](http://www.schlesingercenter.com).

**"The Latin Beat."** Through May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. The Potomac Fiber Art Gallery will display an exhibition of Central and South American jewelry, sculpture, clothing and wall pieces. Free. See [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

**Nine Paintings from John Chapman.** Through May 25, 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](http://www.mountvernon.org).

**"Paws 'N Claws for Art."** Runs 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. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Through May 31 at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. "Rara Avis" is an exhibition of bird-centric works of Beverly Ress, Langley Spurlock and Martin Tarrat in the Athenaeum Gallery. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Eunsook Lee: "Dispersed Family."** Through May 31 during Gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 North Union St. Eunsook Lee's exhibit of black light threads sealed and laminated alongside images and other materials will be on display.



Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish are The Honey Dewdrops

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## The Honey Dewdrops Celebrate New Album

The Honey Dewdrops will be celebrating the upcoming release of their fourth full-length album, "Tangled Country" on Saturday, May 9 at 7 p.m. The folk/roots show featuring banjo, mandolin, and guitars will be held at Focus Concerts, 1701 N Quaker Ave. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at door. See [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

Admission is free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.com](http://www.torpedofactory.com).

**"Intricacies" Exhibit.** Through Sunday, May 31 at various times at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Artist-Photographer Nina Tisara unveils her "Intricacies" exhibit, a collection of mosaics. Visit [www.ourconvergence.org](http://www.ourconvergence.org).

**Alexandria Cars & Coffee** invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

**George Washington's Mount Vernon** has joined Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and James Madison's Montpelier to expand the "Presidents Passport," Virginia's premier presidential trail. As an added bonus to this year's program, visitors to the Alexandria Visitors Center at 221 King St. showing or purchasing a ticket to any of the three presidential estates will, upon request, receive for free Alexandria's "Key to the City" pass, which grants access into nine historic sites and museums in Alexandria—a \$26 added value. Visit [www.PresPassport.Monticello.org](http://www.PresPassport.Monticello.org) for more.

**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](http://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](http://www.mountvernon.org) for more.

**Second Thursday Music.** Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 pm. Second Thursday of every month. Visit [nvfaa.org](http://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.

**Art for Life.** Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps.** Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a favorite story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception for family and friends. Tiny Dancers is a program designed for ages 2-12, featuring a performance based ballet, tap, jazz and musical theater curriculum. The Alexandria studio is located at 621 S. Washington St., Old Town Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit [www.tinydancers.com](http://www.tinydancers.com) for more.

**Art League Summer Camps.** Registration for Summer Art Camp 2015 is now open. Art Camps run Monday to Friday, June 22-Aug. 21. Camps are available for ages 5 and older, with morning, afternoon, or all day options. Subjects include: drawing, cartooning, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, jewelry, fiber arts, clay animation, and Basic Art Camp (a new medium each day). \$155-\$345. Visit [www.theartleague.org/content/art\\_camp](http://www.theartleague.org/content/art_camp) for more.

**Encore Choral Summer Choral Institutes.** Encore Summer Choral Institute at Washington College in Chestertown MD runs from June 14-18 and Encore Summer Choral Institute at Chautauqua Institute in Chautauqua, NY from from Aug.30-Sept. 4. Sponsored by Encore Creativity for Older Adults, the nation's largest choral singing program for adults 55 and older, the institutes attract adult students from all over the country, at all levels of vocal experience, for a week of intensive choral music study. For information and pricing, call 301-261-5747, email [info@encorecreativity.org](mailto:info@encorecreativity.org) or visit [www.encorecreativity.org](http://www.encorecreativity.org).

**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 (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](http://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](http://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](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org) for a schedule.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 23

**"Coming Back to the Hoop."** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Film Festival hosts a screening of "Coming Back to the Hoop" about a woman who returns to competitive basketball after a 40 year hiatus. Free. Visit [www.alexandriafilmm.org](http://www.alexandriafilmm.org).

**"The Mad Wooing."** 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate Shakespeare's birthday with a staged reading of Kimberley Lynne's new play, "The Mad Wooing." Admission is \$15. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Alexandria Sesquicentennial**

## 'MIX' is an Adventure in Multimedia



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### "Untitled" by Kathryn Avila Reyes is comprised of least two different kinds of media

The "MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media" exhibit at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. will run May 1-31. "MIX" is an effort of Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts, a local craft store, to create an exhibit that explores the mixed media art movement, which requires the use of two or more mediums. The exhibit will include art made of paper, graphite, jewelry, found objects and more. The "MIX" Opening reception is Friday, May 1 from 7-9 p.m. There will be prizes for guests in "mix and do-not-match" attire. Del Ray Artisans will also host a free "Mini-MIX-Art Make & Take" on May 7, 6-9 p.m. Visit [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee'

On May 1 and 2 at 7 p.m., Mount Vernon High School students will perform the musical comedy "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." The school is at 8515 Old Mt. Vernon Road. Tickets are \$5-10. See mvhs.theatrearts.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Lecture.** 7:30 p.m. at Lloyd House, 220 N. Washington St. Stephen Smith will present a lecture on varied perspectives on Abraham Lincoln's life. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280](http://www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280) for more.

Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. \$4 per person. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280](http://www.alexandriava.gov/c/10280) for more.

**Art Product Demonstrations.** 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. at The Art League, 105 N Union St. A representative of Winsor & Newton will be giving demonstrations of watercolor and oil paints. Free. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### APRIL 23-MAY 2

**"The Addams Family."** Various times at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac will present their production of the popular Addams Family franchise. Tickets are \$10-35. Visit [www.westpotomactheatre.org](http://www.westpotomactheatre.org).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 24-25

**"Into The Woods Junior."** 7 p.m. at George Washington Middle School, 1005 Mount Vernon Ave. Middle School students take on the Stephen Sondheim Musical with adaptations for a younger audience and actors. \$5. Call 571-218-0951.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 24

**Family Fun Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Chinguapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Bring the whole family to Family Fun Nights for swimming and fun for all ages on Friday evenings. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes and fun on the 'Aqua Challenge' floating obstacle course.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 25

**Native Plant Sale.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Church of St. Clement, 1701 Quaker Lane. Fifteen vendors



## A CALL TO ARMS REVOLUTIONARY WAR ENCAMPMENT MAY 2-3

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## 'Art on the Rocks' Delivers Exhibit-Inspired Cocktails and Appetizer Pairings

The Art League of Alexandria has challenged mixologists from six local restaurants to concoct cocktails inspired by art work chosen from the League's gallery, and an accompanying appetizer. On Friday, May 1 from 7-9 p.m., Chadwicks, Virtue Feed & Grain, Mason Social, Columbia Firehouse, GBD Fried Chicken & Donuts, and Red Rocks Neapolitan Bistro will compete for votes from guests based on the best/most creative pairing. The winner will be crowned by a panel of experts with representatives from places like Catoctin Creek Distillery and Green Hat Distillery. Tickets are \$55. The Art League is located at 105 N Union St. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).



Last year's participants sampling drinks crafted by local mixologists

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

will be selling native plants, shrubs and more. Free to visit. Visit [www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org](http://www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org).

**Raptor Rapture.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Belle Haven Park. See live raptors up close in celebration of Earth Day. Free. Call 703-765-5233.

**"La Fille Mal Gardée."** 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Drive. The students of the Metropolitan School of the Arts will perform their spring concert. \$10; \$7 for children 9 and younger. Visit [www.metropolitanarts.org/tickets](http://www.metropolitanarts.org/tickets).

**"Mothers, Daughters, and Special Friends."** 1 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. A children's tour will precede an afternoon tea with a program on colonial living. Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$15 for children under 12. Contact Helen Parker at 703-497-5927 or [helenandjeffp@verizon.net](mailto:helenandjeffp@verizon.net).

**"If You Lived During Slavery."** 2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Participants will experience the house from the perspective of its enslaved inhabitants, exploring the differences between slavery in cities and on plantations. \$7 in advance, \$10 day of. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

**Scholarship Fund Gala.** 6 p.m. at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center, 5000 Seminary Road. The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria will host, "A Splendid, Fabulous Affair," featuring an open cocktail bar and music. Previous awardees will be recognized for their achievements. Tickets are \$275. Visit [www.alexscholarshipfund.org](http://www.alexscholarshipfund.org).

**"With Strings Attached."** 7 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. Attend a concert of Mozart Weber, Bach & Jazz performed by Anders Lundegard, Terry Guidetti, and the Cherry Blossom String Quartet. \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Visit [www.calssicalsaxophonist.com](http://www.calssicalsaxophonist.com).

**Live Music: Bodeans.** 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Honor By August opens. \$29.50. Visit [www.bodeans.com](http://www.bodeans.com), [honorbyaugust.com](http://honorbyaugust.com) or [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com) or call 703-549-7500.

**Concerts at St. Luke's.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Violinist Marissa Regni and organist Wes McCune will perform Bach, Franck, Handel and more. \$20, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students and teachers. Visit [www.saintlukeschurch.net](http://www.saintlukeschurch.net).

### APRIL 25-MAY 26

**Historic Plant and Garden Sale.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Trees, shrubs and plants that have been grown in the Mount Vernon greenhouse will be on sale. No admission required to visit the gift shop. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### APRIL 25-MAY 16

**"The Odd Couple."** Wednesday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and 3 p.m. on Sundays. The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The LTA presents a

twist on the traditional comedy with female characters. Tickets start at \$19. Visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 26

**Carpenter's Shelter Cook-Off.** 12-3 p.m. at Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue. A fundraiser for Carpenter's Shelter, a local nonprofit. Guests will find area restaurants competing for awards. Adult tickets are \$50, child tickets are \$15, and VIP tickets are \$75. Tickets are on sale until Friday, April 24. Visit [www.carpentersshelter.org](http://www.carpentersshelter.org).

**"Mosaic" Opening Reception.** 2-4:30 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. Eleven artists are celebrating the launch of a group exhibit. Find more than a dozen works of art and a dozen different desserts. Free. Visit [www.torpedofactory.com](http://www.torpedofactory.com).

**"All About Music."** 7-9 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S Washington St. Five local musicians will perform to raise funds for the Lombardi Cancer Center. Tickets are \$50. Visit [www.uniquefoundationinc.com](http://www.uniquefoundationinc.com).

### APRIL 26-MAY 3

**"Mosaic" Exhibit.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. The Tag Gallery Presents its first all-member show. Free to attend. Visit [www.torpedofactory.org](http://www.torpedofactory.org).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 28

**Exhibition and Reception.** 1-3 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A exhibit of work by senior artists from Arts for the Aging programs will be displayed. Free. Email [brose@aftaarts.org](mailto:brose@aftaarts.org) to RSVP.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

**The Robust Walkathon.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive. Dr. Dan Kulund will get older citizens moving with low-intensity exercises. Suggested donation, \$10. Visit [www.seniorservicesalex.org/robust-walkathon-wednesday-april-29](http://www.seniorservicesalex.org/robust-walkathon-wednesday-april-29).

**War.** 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. American funk band famous for songs like "Low Rider" and "Cisco Kid" will perform. Tickets are \$55. Visit [www.birchmere.com](http://www.birchmere.com).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 30

**Poem in Your Pocket Day.** 6:30 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. DASHing Words in Motion contest winners will recite their poems. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**Witness to War & Reunion.** 7:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of The Lyceum, 201 S Washington St., Alexandria. This spring lecture series looks at the end of the Civil War, and its aftermath. "Freedom: A Documentary History of

Emancipation, 1861-1867," by Leslie Rowland, University of Maryland. \$5. Seating is limited, make reservations in person, at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or 703-746-4994.

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 2

**Book Sale.** Thursday 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3:45 p.m. at The Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Shop used books at the Friends of the Duncan Library Spring Book Sale. Free to attend. Visit [www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org](http://www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org).

### MAY 1-31

**"MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media."** DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists mix two or more mediums for this exhibition collaboration between Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts. See [www.TheDelRayArtisans.org](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org).

### FRIDAY/MAY 1

**Taste of Cinco de Mayo.** 6:30 p.m. at Durant Center, 1605 Cameron St. Food sponsors include South Austin Grill, Los Toltecos and Dos Amigos. The Quetzales Mexican Dance Ensemble will perform as well as Latin jazz band Ocho de Bastos. Individual tickets are \$5 and family tickets are \$15 in advance, \$10 and \$20 at the door. Visit [www.alexandria.gov/webtrac](http://www.alexandria.gov/webtrac).

**Opening Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. During the "MIX: Adventures in Mixed Media" reception, curators Karen Schmitz (Del Ray Artisans) and Judy Gula (Artistic Artifacts) will give several awards for MIX masterpieces and award prizes for best dressed guests in "MIX & Do Not Match" attire. Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

**Art on the Rocks.** 7-10 p.m. at The Art League, Inc, 105 N. Union St. Local mixologists with create cocktails and appetizers based on a piece of art. Tickets are \$45-55. Visit [www.theartleague.org](http://www.theartleague.org).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

**"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee."** 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Mount Vernon High School presents musical comedy of six students vying for a spelling championship. Tickets are \$5-10. Visit [www.mvhs theatreatarts.com](http://www.mvhs theatreatarts.com).

### SATURDAY/MAY 2

**Pohick Church Tours.** 1-3 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. During the colonial period, Pohick Church was the congregation of many of the area's most prominent families, including the Washingtons, Masons and Fairfaxes. Free. Visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org).

**"Secrets of the Paper Garden."** 2-5 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt. Vernon Ave. Learn how to make flowers out of Italian papers. \$35 for

members, \$45 for nonmembers, plus a \$15 supplies fee. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).  
**Joan & Joni Tribute.** 7 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Allison Shapira & Kipyn Martin with Adrianna Naomi will perform a tribute to folk singers Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org).

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-3

**Revolutionary War Encampment.** 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mt Vernon. View reenactments, attend lectures, and learn more about military techniques from the time of the Revolutionary War. Admission is included in the cost of a general admission ticket. Adult tickets are \$17, youth tickets 6-11 are \$9, children younger than 6 are free and senior tickets are \$16. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org).

### SUNDAY/MAY 3

**Titan Expo.** 1-4 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King St. The Titan Expo is a community event featuring carnival games, inflatables, bake sale, bingo, car bash, large used book sale, and music by local musicians. Free. Call 703-824-6800.

**Gallery Talk.** 3 p.m. at Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Artist Beverly Ress discusses her work. Free. Visit [www.nvfaa.org](http://www.nvfaa.org).

**New Dominion Chorale.** 4 p.m. at Rachel M.Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. New Dominion Chorale will present a program of Gilbert and Sullivan and Classic Musical Theater to close its 24th season. General admission is \$30, \$25 for seniors; \$5 students and children; \$20 for groups of 10 or more. Visit [www.newdominion.org](http://www.newdominion.org).

### MONDAY/MAY 4

**"Gadsby's Tavern" Book Signing and Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N Royal St. Gretchen Bulova's new book, "Gadsby's Tavern" is hitting shelves and the Tavern is celebrating with a book signing and lecture. Admission is \$10 for Gadsby's Tavern Museum members and \$12 for nonmembers. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov](http://www.alexandriava.gov).

### TUESDAY/MAY 5

**Tuesday Morning Stroll.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E Monroe St. Residents are invited to visit the garden, receive free seed packets and have their gardening questions answered by experts. Free. Contact [carol\\_kilroy@comcast.net](mailto:carol_kilroy@comcast.net) for more.

### THURSDAY/MAY 7

**Mini-MIX-Art Make & Take Workshop.** 6-9 p.m. at DelRay Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Artistic Artifacts, a local arts and crafts store, will offer workshops and classes for anyone interested in mixed media. Free. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.org](http://www.thedelrayartisans.org).

### SATURDAY/MAY 9

**Spring Art Market.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This outdoor market will feature the work of more than 25 artists. Free to attend. Visit [www.thedelrayartisans.com](http://www.thedelrayartisans.com).

**The Honey Dewdrops with Buzz Peele.** 7 p.m. at Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Folk singers Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish will perform alongside Buzz Peele. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Visit [www.focumusic.org](http://www.focumusic.org).

**Spring Concert.** 8 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N Quaker Lane. Visit [www.alexandriachoralsociety.org](http://www.alexandriachoralsociety.org) for more.

### SUNDAY/MAY 10

**Mother's Day Tea.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N Fairfax St. Lounge at the Magnolia Terrace with catered food and learn the "Language of the Fan." Tickets are \$30. Visit [www.carlylehouse.org](http://www.carlylehouse.org).

**Mother's Day Open House.** 1-4 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S Alfred St. Learn the history of the fire house and have your picture taken by the in-house photographer. Free for mothers and families. Visit [www.friendshipfirehouse.net](http://www.friendshipfirehouse.net).

# Martin, Smith Lead Majors to Comeback Win over Titans

**Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse improves to 5-1, TC falls to 3-7.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
GAZETTE PACKET

Following Monday's weather-related postponement of their scheduled contest against West Potomac, members of the Mount Vernon boys' lacrosse team took the field for Tuesday's matchup with T.C. Williams having gone 11 days since their last game.

"It kind of put us back almost into hibernation waiting on tonight," Mount Vernon senior Louis Martin said, "even though knowing it was going to be a big game like this, we couldn't start off fast."

While the Majors were hibernating, the Titans scored the game's first five goals and led 7-1 early in the second quarter.

But once Mount Vernon awoke from its slumber, the Majors staged a dramatic comeback and continued the successful start to their 2015 season.

Greg Smith's goal with 17 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter gave the Majors their first lead of the night and Mount Vernon held on for a 12-11 victory over the Titans on April 21 at T.C. Williams High School's Minnie Howard campus.

Mount Vernon, a member of 5A's Conference 13, improved to 5-1 with its first win over a 6A opponent this season.

"Every game that we play, we're always getting beat first," said first-year Mount Vernon head coach Dan Convery, who coached the junior varsity for eight seasons. "We're used to coming from behind. [Seven] goals to one is a tough comeback, but the guys kept it together, kept their composure and never gave up."

"What a great win." Mount Vernon tied the score five times in the second half but didn't take the lead until Smith's goal in the final minute. Martin assisted Smith's game-winner.

Smith and Martin each scored five goals. "We've been playing together since we were freshmen," Smith said. "We know where we're going to be. Everybody on the field knows what's happening. It wasn't a designed play, we just do it in practice [and] we do it in a game."

Smith scored two goals in the second quarter and three in the fourth quarter.

"Greg is great on the crease," Convery said. "He's got that quick stick and he knows



Mount Vernon senior Louis Martin scored five goals during Tuesday's victory over T.C. Williams.

what he's doing."

While Martin assisted the game-winning goal, it was the senior's play in the first half that helped the Majors climb out of an early hole.

Martin scored the Majors' first goal late in the opening quarter, snapping a 5-0 Titan run.

He scored three goals in the second quarter, helping Mount Vernon cut the T.C. Williams lead to 7-6 at halftime.

Martin's fifth goal tied the score at 11 with 2:08 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"Louis is definitely one of my favorite players that I've ever coached," Convery said. "Every team knows who he is and how to stop him, and they can't stop him."

Ricky Dobson and David Gibbs each scored one goal for Mount Vernon.

"I've been looking forward to this game for the whole season," Smith said. "... We know some of the [T.C. Williams] players and on Twitter they talk, we talk, so actually beating them and making them stop talking, it means a lot."

T.C. Williams (3-7) entered the contest having won back-to-back games against Bishop Ireton and Stuart. The Titans came out strong and led 7-1 after Chase Larsen's goal with 10:36 remaining in the second quarter,

but things started to unravel for the home team.

"[We] lost momentum, and we started getting down on ourselves," T.C. Williams senior Reece Belcher said. "... The last two games were pretty close and we had won them, so we were kind of coming into this game thinking we could really take it to them and we didn't play up to our potential."

Belcher, who will play college lacrosse at Syracuse, led the Titans with four goals.



Mount Vernon defenders swarm T.C. Williams senior Adin Mengel during Tuesday's game in Alexandria.

Senior attackmen Adin Mengel scored three goals for T.C. Williams.

"[Mengel] provides a lot of stability on the attack end, so we can possess the ball," T.C. Williams head coach Mike Mulherin said. "I felt like they played pretty aggressive against him tonight and he had a bunch of pipe shots that didn't go our way."

Senior midfielders Remy Johnson and Mohamed Khaled and sophomore midfielder Samuel Zang each scored a goal for the Titans.

Mount Vernon faced West Potomac on Wednesday, after The Gazette's deadline.

The Majors will host Hayfield at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 24.

Convery said "I don't see us getting stopped in the conference." Martin is confident, as well.

"I feel like, as a team, we're capable [of winning] the big one," Martin said. "That's just a matter of us putting in the hard work, us putting in the time."

T.C. Williams will travel to face West Springfield at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 24. The Titans are looking to qualify for the regional tournament for the first time since 2011.



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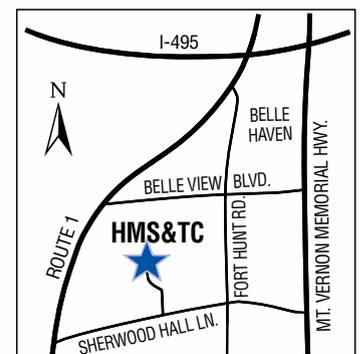
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Special Thanks to the Mount Vernon Gazette and Alexandria Gazette Packet



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# CLASSIFIED

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-04-09**  
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Telecomm Audit & Consultant Services. Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is three (3) years. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-04-09 Telecomm Audit & Consultant Services, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 7, 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 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the APCS website at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us), Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals. 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. APCS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.  
Sharon T. Lewis  
Director of Procurement & General Services

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-04-01**  
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Online Tutoring Services. Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is three (3) years. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-04-01 Online Tutoring Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 19, 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 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the APCS website at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us), Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals. All questions must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the APCS website. 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. APCS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.  
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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**101 Computers**

**101 Computers**

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 15-03-09**  
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Real Estate Brokerage Services. Minimum experience required for any firm submitting a response to this RFP, and for providing the services therein, is three (3) years. Sealed Proposals with the notation, RFP# 15-03-09 Real Estate Brokerage Services, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, May 20, 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 703-619-8043, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPSS website at [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us), Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services – Current Bids and Request for Proposals. All questions must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., May 11, 2015. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPSS website. 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. ACPSS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.  
Sharon T. Lewis  
Director of Procurement & General Services

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**21 Announcements 21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

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

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**21 Announcements**

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**OPINION**

**Upholding Governor's Vetoes**

FROM PAGE 10

Unexpectedly, there was one bill that the General Assembly did not need to revisit. In ordinary years, legislators would have voted on Gov. McAuliffe's amendments to Virginia's two-year budget.

This year, though, the governor approved a spending plan without seeking changes. Both parties were able to agree upon important new initiatives, including pay raises for teachers, state police, and other public employees; expanded access to health care for certain uninsured Virginians; and new funding for economic development, homelessness prevention, and school breakfast pilot programs to help low-income students.

To be clear, the budget is far from perfect. Notably, it fails to close our health care coverage gap, something that I believe is sorely needed. Right now, an estimated 400,000 Virginians — most of whom are in working families — earn too much to

qualify for traditional Medicaid, but too little to receive the subsidies and tax credits that help middle class families buy insurance on Virginia's health exchange. We could easily fix that — at a net savings to the state — by drawing down billions of federal tax dollars that we already pay, and will continue to pay.

Still, with Republican majorities in both chambers, the General Assembly had little hope of closing the coverage gap this year. Under those circumstances, the budget we passed was a compromise. I am hopeful that better opportunities will arise after this year's elections, and I aim to keep working on the coverage gap — along with ethics and privacy issues — when the legislature convenes next year.

You can email me at [district30@senate.virginia.gov](mailto:district30@senate.virginia.gov) or find me on Twitter @AdamEbbin or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign](http://www.facebook.com/EbbinCampaign).

It is my continued honor to represent the citizens of the 30<sup>th</sup> Senate District.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

Email announcements to [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:gazette@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website.

**SOL REVIEW**

- Mount Vernon High School will offer SOL review sessions beginning April 11. Students will be provided with breakfast and lunch. Registration required, visit [goo.gl/DrBGT](http://goo.gl/DrBGT).
- April 25, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — English Reading & Social Studies
- May 2, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — Math & Science
- May 9, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — English Reading & Social Studies
- May 16, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. — Math & Science

**SATURDAY/APRIL 25**

**Morning Market & Community Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. More than a dozen crafters and businesses selling handmade and popular items. Large community yard sale. Epiphany Lutheran Church and Weekday School, 5521 Old Mill Road, Alexandria. Visit [ewsmorningmarket@gmail.com](mailto:ewsmorningmarket@gmail.com).

**Volunteers Needed.** 8:30 a.m. at Candlewood Suites, 8847 Richmond Highway. Volunteers are needed to help "spring clean" Richmond Highway, Jeff Todd Way, and roads surrounding Fort Belvoir. Call 703-805-2034, email [jacqueline.n.leeker.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jacqueline.n.leeker.civ@mail.mil) or visit [www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org](http://www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org).

**Sign Dedication.** 9 a.m. at John Byers Park, 2213 Collingwood Road. The Fairfax County Park Authority Board renamed Williamburg Manor Park to John Byers Park in 2013. They will dedicate the new sign in honor of the Mount Vernon District representative to the Planning Commission. Free. Public is invited. Call 703-324-8662.

**THURSDAY/APRIL 30**

**Scholarship Application Deadline.** Scholarship applications for the 2015 Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce Education Partnership Scholarships are available and graduating high school seniors in Lee and Mount Vernon Districts, who plan to pursue further education in a business-related field, are encouraged to apply for these \$2,000 local scholarships at [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/Education-Partnership.html](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org/Education-Partnership.html) or call 703-360-6925 to request an application.

**THURSDAY/MAY 7**

**Social Media Seminar.** 8:30-10 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 6055 Richmond Highway. Speakers will discuss search engine optimization, website best practices, and email marketing. Free. Contact [info@sfdc.org](mailto:info@sfdc.org) to RSVP.

**SATURDAY/MAY 9**

"Fostering Wellness and Resiliency." 8:30

a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary, 7630 Telegraph Road School. Marc Brackett, Ph.D., the director of the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence will be featured as the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Community Conversation on Teen Stress: Fostering Wellness and Resiliency. Tracy Cross, Ph.D., Professor at The College of William and Mary and Executive Director of the Center for Gifted Studies and Talent Development will speak in the afternoon about perfectionism and child and adolescent suicide.

**THURSDAY/MAY 14**

**Business Breakfast.** 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Citizens may meet the candidates for Mount Vernon District Supervisor. Tickets are \$25. Visit [www.mtvernonchamber-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernonchamber-leechamber.org).

**SATURDAY/MAY 16**

**"Staying Home."** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. AARP is teaming up with Mt. Vernon at Home, Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, and Fairfax County Building for All Committee for a free community workshop. A panel of experts will share practical tips to minimize the financial costs of home modifications, and how to avoid fraud and scams. Registration is free, but space is limited. Visit [www.states.aarp.org/may-16](http://www.states.aarp.org/may-16).

**WEDNESDAY/MAY 20**

**Learn About Medicare Part D.** 3-4:30 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm).

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**Mount Vernon At Home** is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time to assist older adults aging in place in their homes. Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours are required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail [info@mountvernonathome.org](mailto:info@mountvernonathome.org) to learn more. Visit [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org). For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406:

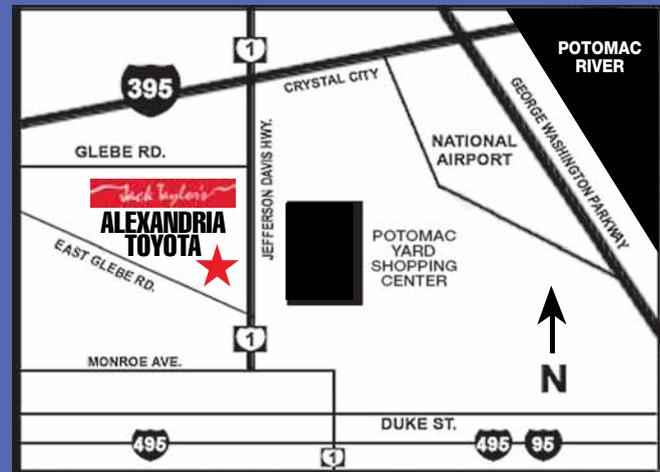
- ❖ The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteer English and Spanish-speaking social companions, a volunteer pianist, and front desk volunteer.
- ❖ The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** needs a DJ, a ballroom dance instructor to teach a class on Thursday afternoons, and an Italian instructor.
- ❖ The **Gum Springs Senior Center** needs a Spanish teacher.

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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE BRAKE SPECIAL \$99<sup>95</sup> PADS**

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

**MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95**

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**TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE ROTATE & BALANCE SPECIAL \$49<sup>95</sup>**

**Includes:** Rotate & balance all 4 tires, inspect brakes, inspect tires, & inspect suspension.

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**Includes:** 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.

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Finance a **New 2015 Camry LE<sup>1</sup>**  
at **1.9% APR for 60 months**  
Plus **\$750 Cash Back**



Finance a **New 2015 Corolla LE Auto<sup>2</sup>**  
at **0.9% APR for 60 months**



**New 2015 Prius Two<sup>3</sup>**  
**\$1,250 Cash Back**



Finance a **New 2015 RAV4 LE<sup>4</sup>**  
at **0.9% APR for 60 months**



1. 1.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.48 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. Finance Cash Incentive from Toyota in addition to special APR financing if vehicle is purchased and financed through Toyota Financial Services. Incentive will be applied to the down payment. One incentive per finance transaction. Finance incentive is available on approved credit to qualified customers through Toyota Financial Services. Not all buyers will qualify. See dealer for details. Offers do not include dealer fees. 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. Plus 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.

2. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. 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. Plus 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.

3. \$1,250 Cash Back from Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc. available on new 2015 Prius. Customers can receive cash back from Toyota or cash 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. Plus 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.

4. 0.9% APR financing up to 60 months available to qualified buyers thru Toyota Financial Services. Total financed cannot exceed MSRP plus options, tax and license fees. 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 for each \$1,000 borrowed. Not all buyers will qualify. 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. Plus 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 4/30/2015.

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**9315 Ludgate Dr**  
**\$1,250,000**  
**Stunning Luxury Home Opportunity!**

True custom home built in 2006 by Wakefield Homes, area's leading builder. Property is impossible to duplicate at even close to this price. (Seller spent approx. \$1.5 mil). Includes all the new home bells and whistles including high ceilings, open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, 5BR, luxurious MBR, 4.5 baths. Deck overlooks gorgeous grounds. Prestigious Wycliffe on the Potomac! **OPEN SUN 4/26, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon; L-Washington Woods; L-Ludgate.**



**4408 Tarpon Ln**  
**\$549,950**  
**Stunning Yacht Haven Opportunity!**

Fabulous updated home with dramatic open floor plan at remarkable price! Spacious four level home with major updates including brand new custom kitchen, 3 full updated baths, gorgeous hardwood floors on 2 levels, walk out lower level. Large deck overlooks beautiful half acre level lot. Walk to Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Nothing like it for close to this price! **OPEN SUN 4/26, 1-4! GW Pkwy S, past Estate; L-Forest Haven; L-Tarpon Ln.**



**8720 Plymouth Road**  
**\$1,719,000**  
**Grand Opening!**

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 Waynewood School! **OPEN SUN 4/26, 1-4! GW Pkwy S to Fort Hunt Road; R-Plymouth.**



**9413 Brambly Lane**  
**\$899,000**  
**Custom Home with Main Level Master Suite!**

Custom home 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, one on main level, hardwood floors, chef's kitchen and finished walk-out lower level. Many features the builder is utilizing in \$1.5+ homes!



**1209 Falster Ct**  
**\$649,000**  
**Updated Throughout!**

Nothing like it on market -totally updated Collingwood home on quite cul-de-sac for remarkably reasonable price. Major updates include: kitchen, baths, windows, electrical service, roof and basement. Four bedrooms, 3 baths. Large deck overlooks fenced back yards. All the work has been done-just move in! Prime location and Waynewood School attendance area. Don't walk—run to this outstanding property!



**4204 Old Mill Rd**  
**\$534,900**  
**Updated Home-Detached Two Car Garage!**

Attention car enthusiasts! Truly unique property featuring updated home, large lot and oversized two car garage with basement storage. Home features updated kitchen, open floor plan, gorgeous hardwood floors and more! Gorgeous elevated lot with large level backyard. Excellent price!



**8315 Old Mt Vernon Rd**  
**\$849,000**  
**True Custom Home!**

Classic Georgian exterior with stunning open floor plan. Three luxuriously finished levels, high ceilings throughout, elegant trim detail, chef's gourmet kitchen, "Andersen" thermal windows. LL with outside entrance, ideal in-law suite. Magnificent property offers combination of size & custom amenities rarely found in homes under \$1 mill!



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**Investment Opportunity!**

Huge Opportunity! Brick home on gorgeous half acre lot across from Mt. Vernon Country Club. Two miles from back gate to Fort Belvoir. Potential for investor or buyer willing to expend some sweat equity. Location perfect for rental property! Truly amazing price for neighborhood.



**9201 Cherrytree Drive**  
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**Huge House—Small Price!**

**Cool Spring Dr**  
**\$549,900**  
**Pristine Home—Prime Location!**



**3705 Carriage House Ct**  
**\$798,500**  
**Stunning Riverwood Renovation!**

Wow factor abounds! Better than new featuring dramatic open floor plan, breathtaking white kitchen with gas cooking, 3.5 beautifully updated baths, gorgeous newly stained hardwood floors. Extensive recessed lighting, 4 bedrooms, brand new thermal windows, newly finished lower level with full bath. 2 car garage. Prime cul-de-sac location.



**4720 Dolphin Lane**  
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**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!



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**Uniquely Gorgeous Property!**

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# 2015 Spring Real Estate & New Homes



PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

Mount Vernon Gazette

Period details like five wood-burning fireplaces and some of the original moldings and hard-wood floors have been maintained and married with modern conveniences like an intercom system and outdoor lighting.



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## Open Sunday, April 26, 1-4 P.M.



OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4

**722 S. Washington St. #204 • \$249,000**

•Pristine One BR Unit •Faces Courtyard •Freshly Painted •Lovely Parquet Floors •Remodeled Bath •Sunny Kitchen w/Granite Counters, Stainless Steel & Black Appliances, Built-in Microwave, Large Refrigerator

w/Ice Maker •Super Old Town Locale near restaurants & shops •Public Transport to D.C. & Metro •Bike Storage Rm •Close to Bike/Walking Trails •Must See! Dir.: From King St S on Washington to 722 on the left.

**7117 Marlan Drive \$729,000**

•Tremendous Curb Appeal – Lrg Level Lot •Custom Brick Rambler w/Rear Addition •Formal LR w/French Doors opening to Front Elevation •Three Generous BRs & Two beautifully Remodeled Baths on Main Level

•Totally Updated Kitchen with Granite Counters & Stainless Appliances •Refinished Hardwoods – Two Masonry Fireplaces •Lower Lev. Family Room, Full BA, Laundry & Storage Dir: G.W. Parkway South from Old Town, R on Tulane & follow Partners Signs.



OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4



OPEN  
SUNDAY 1-4

**1107 Gatewood Drive • \$869,000**

•Immaculate – Total update in 2000 includes Roof, Plumbing, Wiring, Marvin custom Windows, GE/Advantium Kitchen •Full Wet Bar with Dishwasher & Fridge •2 Masonry Fireplaces •3 Marble Baths •Extensive Granite – Steam

Shower •Whirlpool Tub for two •Brick Driveway •Slate Patios, Stairs & Walkway •Security & Sprinkler Systems •Retractable Awning •Custom Doors •Cul-de-sac Location! Dir: G.W. Parkway South from Old Town, R on Tulane & follow Partners Signs.



CONTRACT

**7300 Burtonwood Drive, Alexandria**



SOLD

**7214 Valon Court, Alexandria**



SOLD

**7413 Park Terrace Drive, Alexandria**

## Spring Real Estate & New Homes

# Alexandria Real Estate Agent Gets Top Honor

### Allison Goodhart selected as one of REALTOR Magazine's '30 under 30' for 2015

**A** local, young professional has joined ranks of the real estate elite.

Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group at McEneaney Associates, Inc. in Alexandria was selected as one of REALTOR Magazine's "30 under 30" for 2015. Chosen from a pool of close to 400 nominees from around the country, the finalists were judged on community service, work ethic and commitment to their clients.

"The most special and surprising part of the experience has been all of the well-wishes I have received from clients, friends, my fellow agents here at McEneaney and other agents in the area ...," said Goodhart, an Alexandria native. "It is wonderful to see your hard work recognized at a national level, but what means the most is the local support."

Goodhart is director of sales for the Goodhart Group, which her parents, Sue and Marty Goodhart, founded more than 20 years ago. Clients say the fact that Allison has held various positions in the firm, ranging from receptionist to lead agent, gives her credibility.

**Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group at McEneaney Associates, was selected as one of REALTOR Magazine's "30 under 30" for 2015.**



McEneaney Associates, Inc.

"Allison ensured my husband and I understood every part of the ... process from seeing the newest listings as soon as they hit the market to explaining the different tactics and options we had at our disposal during the offer phase," said Molly Gannon, a first-time home buyer.

Goodhart volunteers with organizations like the Center for Alexandria's Children, The Fund for Alexandria's Child, Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and St. Coletta of Greater Washington.

A graduate of Dickinson College, Goodhart became a licensed Realtor in 2005. She and other finalists will be profiled in the May-June 2015 issue of REALTOR Magazine.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

## 50 Shades of Gray in Home Decorating

### Creating interior design through simplicity.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

"Gray is a new hot color, the neutral color in today's main stream. It is the new beige," said to Gayle Yoxtheimer, interior design specialist. She said another trend is less of everything: "You remember the '80s when people had a lot of tassels and bows and large florals?"

She said that removing the psychological baggage creates a simpler, more serene, peaceful atmosphere. This carries over to art objects where fewer is better. Another trend is color blocking: "For instance, a plain sofa would have pillows with accent colors with no pattern. And orange is back, along with shag carpets but frisée, a different shorter version that you can get your

SEE 50 SHADES, PAGE 7

**Gayle Yoxtheimer, interior design specialist, points to the gray, geometric glass tiles backsplashing the kitchen counter and matching the fireplace in this "shades of gray" themed house.**



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/  
THE GAZETTE

## Renovating the Historic House

Expert Murray Bonnitt says be prepared for extra and unexpected delays and expenses when renovating a historic property.

BY VERONICA BRUNO  
THE GAZETTE

**R**enovating a historic home is a labor of love and can be a test of real patience.

Do you think renovating your own modern home is a challenge? Try one from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

With so many homes in the region from the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a significant commitment to maintaining them comes with a desire to make them compatible for our time. According to the Department of Historic Resources, there are over 140,000 historic buildings and structures that have been identified since 1966. Virginia is in the top 10 for registered resources and has the most listed historic districts in the nation surveyed annually. According to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources' "Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan," the number of registered Virginia historical landmarks has surged since 2001.

With so many identified historic properties, what factors should be considered when attempting to restore such a property while preserving its historic integrity?

Murray Bonnitt, owner of Bonnitt Builders in Alexandria, has worked on many of these properties and explained some of the extensive procedures that go into a typical project.

"Work on historic properties is just more tedious. You don't have a clean slate to work from within historic buildings, so the projects are going to be more challenging."

A renovation of this type can become a real labor of love with many challenges along the way. It's important to manage these expectations. Bonnitt recommends lots of communication. "I find that a face to face meeting with the clients early on, to set expectations, and then weekly or bi-weekly to help manage those expectations, is the best policy."

Communicating is important especially since you will probably be dealing with more than the usual number of contractors. You may need to also hire historical consultants and undertake additional research. Bonnitt said why this makes such a difference.

"A historic preservation specialist might identify a significant artifact that others overlooked or didn't think of any significance. If a significant item can be protected



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BONNITT BUILDERS

One of the many design projects Bonnitt Builders has worked on.

and remain during the construction process, then it will stay. Often times an item will need to be refurbished, and we will remove them and take them to our shop, make the repairs, and keep it until it's time to reinstall it."

But there are difficult decisions along the way as well. "If a significant item is damaged and beyond repair, then we will remove it and replicate it at our shop." Unlike a custom-built, modern home, the closest you get to working with a "clean slate" with a historic property is gutting out the inside completely and as Bonnitt explained, "we typically gut everything shy of any significant architectural artifact. This is the one chance to bring everything up to date. Gutting an historic building is as close you can get to creating a clean slate, so removing antiquated plumbing, electrical and heating and cooling systems is more efficient in the long run."

Some of the most difficult decisions include what to remove and what should be retained as a historical artifact or functional structure. Helping in these decisions are historical records of the structures. There are several resources to turn to in your research efforts including the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Many historic property records can be viewed at the Department of Historic Resources; Library of Virginia; and the Virginia Historical Society. Knowing a home's history and physical conditions is integral to the preservation process and can illuminate your decisions to stabilize and restore the modernization process.

Getting these tactical changes approved

only adds to the stress. Murray Bonnitt explained the preservation requirements process. "We do a lot of work in conjunction with the Virginia DHR, which has stringent requirements which have to be met in order for property owners to qualify for tax credits. In Old Town Alexandria, everything needs to go through the Alexandria Board of Architecture Review (Alexandria BAR). "Any changes to virtually every square inch of a building can be seen from the public right of way, must be approved by the BAR."

And the approval process can be quite extensive.

"I remember being at a BAR hearing once where the Board debated the merits of a certain type of screen door a resident wanted to install on their house, longer than they debated the changes we were proposing to the exterior of an 8,000-square-foot building. We were approved at the hearing, whereas the homeowner's item was deferred until the next meeting while he sought to find a door more in keeping with the architectural styles in Old Town."

On projects that require Virginia Department of Historic Resources approval to qualify for tax credits, the process can be even more tedious, as that body has to sign off on anything you want to do to the exterior and interior of the building. Virtually all phases of construction and installation of finishes must be approved, and thoroughly documented, for the DHR, in order for tax credits to be issued," said Bonnitt.

The cost saving in tax credits can be substantial (sometimes as much as 25 percent of the construction costs) since historic home renovation budgets are often ex-

### Details

The Alexandria Board of Architecture Review meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm (except for August). There are seven board members, including five citizen and two architect. Each serves a three-year term.

Find links to aid in historic research here:  
<http://alexandriava.gov/historic/info/default.aspx?id=28182>

ceeded. As Bonnitt recalled, "One of my clients once told friends of his that he gave me an unlimited budget on a project and I managed to exceed it! I would say that the possibility of exceeding a budget on a historical renovations is higher than on new construction because of all the unforeseen issues that will invariably pop up during the renovation."

This is why many experts recommend building in a contingency fund in the overall budget to with the inevitable surprises that spring up when undertaking a historic restoration.

There are several conditions that often cause project delays as well. According to Bonnitt, "usually the great delays come if there is an unforeseen structural issue, or if what has been designed is in conflict with unforeseen existing conditions."

Often those unforeseen conditions are discovered when getting behind the walls and discovering rot, structural damage, and toxic substances that now need to be built into the schedule and the budget.

When it comes to a historic home renovation, homeowners should prepare for the unexpected.

Mount Vernon Gazette

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# Historic Home on the Market

18th-Century Shreve House for sale.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE GAZETTE

After stepping through the handmade, mahogany front door of a home nestled in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, visitors might feel as though they'd been transported back to the late 1700s, the period during which this Virginia home was built.

Known as the Shreve House, the home was constructed by shipping merchant Benjamin Shreve, a Quaker and abolitionist. During the Civil War, it was used as barracks by wounded soldiers and was occupied by escaped slaves. Today, it has an archaeological designation from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

The home is currently on the market and has "gracious rooms and high ceilings," said Babs Beckwith of McEneaney Associates, Inc., one of the listing agents.

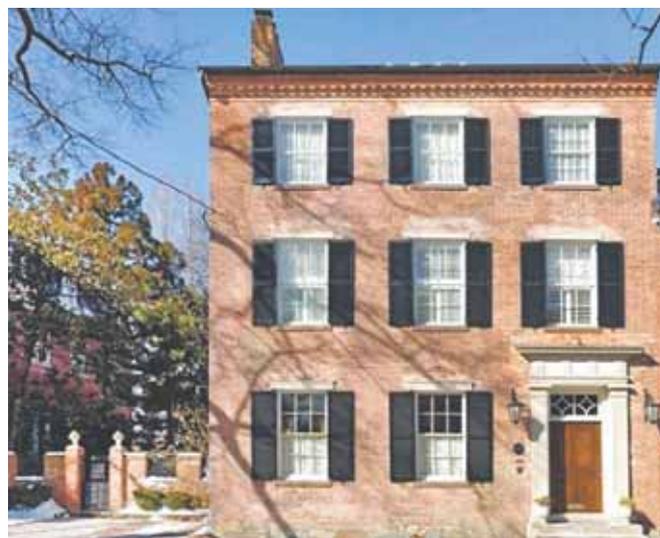
Expanded in 1854 and periodically updated by each occupant, the Shreve House is steeped in both modern luxuries and preserved historic integrity. Period details like five wood-burning fireplaces and some of the original moldings and hardwood floors have been maintained and married with modern conveniences like an intercom system and outdoor lighting.

"Inside is a gracious entryway with 10-foot ceilings leading into a glorious ... living room with six large windows overlooking the garden," said listing agent Sue Goodhart of McEneaney Associates, Inc. "A lovely glass-enclosed breakfast nook is off the kitchen."

The 11-room home has five bedrooms and four full bathrooms, a family room on each floor and a space above the garage that can be used as an office or family room.

Goodhart says the current owners, a family with three children, upgraded the home, renovating the existing kitchen and bathrooms and adding two additional lavatories. "They restored light fixtures, hand painted the walls, widened the entry into the dining room ... and rebuilt the chimneys," she said. "They also installed a copper roof, relandscaped the garden and added an irrigation system."

The Shreve House sits on a large double lot and has two off-street parking spaces. It is located at 307 South Saint Asaph Street and is for sale at \$3.995 million.



The Shreve House in Old Town Alexandria has a handmade, mahogany front door and was once owned by a prominent Quaker family. During the Civil War, it was used as barracks by wounded soldiers and was occupied by escaped slaves.

PHOTO BY BOB NAROD



PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

Large windows and recessed lighting are among the amenities of this Old Town Alexandria home.



PHOTO BY BOB NAROD

Period details like five wood-burning fireplaces and some of the original moldings and hardwood floors have been maintained and married with modern conveniences like an intercom system and outdoor lighting.

**Caroline Beane, Vice President of Landscape Designs, reminds Janice Curtin it was 15 years ago when she planted the cherry blossom tree in the Curtin's backyard. Beane said when she started working on their yard in 1995 it was a swamp with dense trees.**



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

## Transformation: from Swamp to Gorgeous Design

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
THE GAZETTE

**I**n 1995 when I first started working on this yard, it was basically a swamp with dense trees growing straight up because they had nowhere to go.”

Caroline Beane of Landscape Designs, Inc. has seen landscaping needs for this acre on Bishop Lane in Alexandria change with the addition to the house, the need for more entertainment space and an expanded patio and the addition barrier protection to alleviate noise created by the high school in back.

Janice Curtin adds, “we need to keep our two grandchildren happy. I’m putting a swing set over there on the side.”

“We did this in stages, starting with drainage,” said Janice Curtin, owner of the property with her husband David. “See that fake creek with a bridge going over it and a hidden sump pump?” She vividly remembers the next step when Beane strategically chose the trees to be taken out and marked them in white.

“Then I hired some tree guys to come and take them down,” Curtin says. “The first truck got stuck, then the next truck got stuck and when they finally took down the trees one of them fell over a power line and took out the electricity in the whole neighborhood.”

Beane says when she starts a job she has a free consultation with the client where they tell her what they are interested in. She looks at the space. “I ask a number of questions like are there children that need a play space? Do they have animals that might eat poisonous plants? What is their idea about use of pesticides? How much do they entertain and for what size groups?”

Also it is important to know if they are planning to stay in the house for a while or are fixing it up to sell. “Things like hot tubs and swimming pools take a lot of maintenance and don’t bring back your return.” Then she walks the yard, does the measurements, draws up a plan and discusses it with them. She and Janet Gaskins, who started Landscape Designs 27 years ago, personally oversee the design, installation and maintenance projects.

She says when she is designing the area she considers balance of scale of the house to the yard, orientation of the house-do you need shade?

“Like in this yard you need big plants for scale.” Sometimes a client just has to have something that is not likely to grow well in their soil and sun conditions. “I always advise them, but I do what they want.” She adds there is a lot of marine clay in this area and it expands when wet and contracts when dry so it can shift your foundation. It makes a difference in what you can do.”

Today Beane is doing cleanup and Janice says, “my driveway needs attention because it is green with grass growing through the stones. Beane tells her foreman Eric Martin to take off the bluestone on the driveway and it will be reused in the backyard. He will install filter fabric to keep the grass from growing back and put in smaller pieces of bluestone. “This job will take two days; sometimes they take two weeks.”

Beane says they do mostly residential properties, especially in the Alexandria and Arlington areas but sometimes they do some commercial maintenance.

Beane started at the University of Maryland Extension Service as the first female horticultural agent in the State of Maryland. Then on to another residential garden center, owned her own nursery for a while and was chair of the Horticultural Department at then Charles County Community College. But this all started as a little kid when her mother encouraged her to work in the yard. “My mother was a pointer — put that over there; I did it all.”

In high school she worked at a local nursery and when she decided to attend college, her grandmother was very proud until she found out “I planned to major in horticulture. She was very upset, said it wasn’t ladylike. Women could be a teacher, nurse or missionary.”

Beane commented that today, people are looking for outdoor kitchens and fireplaces as well as water features that “hardly anyone was doing 10 years ago.” She adds that a lot of people don’t have big yards so they are trying to use space in the most efficient way. It is an expansion of the house. They are also asking for no maintenance yards.

“Years ago people were interested in gardening, but today they have no time.”

She says if you are trying to sell, good landscaping is important to add to a home’s curb appeal. “If the outside is cool, people will think the inside is cool, too, so it sets them off in a good pattern and absolutely helps sell the house.”



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# Mount Vernon REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY  
VERONICA BRUNO/  
THE GAZETTE

## February, 2015 Top Sales

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BETWEEN \$845,000-\$155,000  
IN THE MOUNT VERNON AREA.



1 9014 Charles Augustine Drive  
— \$845,000



2 1405 Lafayette Drive —  
\$813,545

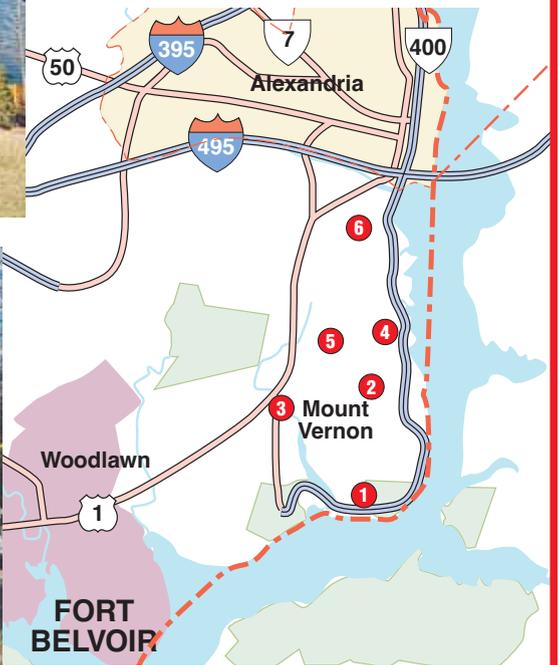


3 3456 Sun Up Way — \$733,860



4 1102 Belle  
Vista Drive —  
\$685,000

5 7424  
Rebecca Drive  
— \$655,000



6 1715 Belle Haven Road — \$650,000

Address ..... BR FB HB ... Postal City .. Sold Price .... Type ..... Lot AC . PostalCode ..... Subdivision ..... Date Sold

1	9014 CHARLES AUGUSTINE DR	5	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$845,000	Detached	0.50	22308	RIVER BEND ESTATES	02/02/15
2	1405 LAFAYETTE DR	5	.4	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$813,545	Detached	0.34	22308	HOLLIN HALL VILLAGE	02/23/15
3	3456 SUN UP WAY	4	.2	.2	ALEXANDRIA	\$733,860	Detached	0.24	22309	SUN UP	02/03/15
4	1102 BELLE VISTA DR	4	.3	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$685,000	Detached	0.26	22307	VILLAMAY	02/17/15
5	7424 REBECCA DR	4	.2	.0	ALEXANDRIA	\$655,000	Detached	0.46	22307	HOLLIN HILLS	02/20/15
6	1715 BELLE HAVEN RD	4	.3	.1	ALEXANDRIA	\$650,000	Townhouse	0.07	22307	OLDE BELHAVEN TOWNE	02/20/15

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## 50 Shades of Gray in Home Decorating

FROM PAGE 2

vacuum in.” Yoxtheimer said that colors come and go but with a different twist. Faux painting is out.

Every client is different according to Yoxtheimer and that is what has kept her consulting for the past 46 years since she got degrees in textile chemistry at the New York School of Design.

“All clients have a different mix and offer a challenge for my creativity,” she said.

When she enters a new house, ideas come to her but then she looks into the client’s eyes. One of her current clients has a contemporary style. She also happens to have gray eyes and wanted “new and fresh ideas.”

The couple’s townhouse is being done entirely in gray from the walls to the color on the newly-installed hardwood floors and the tiny geometric glass tiles lining the side of the fireplace and matching the backsplash in the kitchen.

Her client, Deborah Coleman in North Arlington calls it “50 shades of gray.” Accent colors of orange, turquoise and mustard yellow are used for the pillows and throws. The upstairs shower has a wall of waterfall tiles in shades of gray with a square shower head, a ceiling rain head which is a new age gentle sunflower shower, and contemporary silver drawer handles to replace the brass.

“It’s all about the details,” Yoxtheimer said.

The economy has definitely affected the busi-

ness of design consulting because many people cut back on major projects when their resources are fewer, Yoxtheimer said. “But you can do a lot with painting, and removing things can make a big difference, just reduce the load of small items.”

Yoxtheimer recalls she had a client who was stuck in the ‘80s with floral everywhere and she loved hydrangeas, both in her house here and Cape Cod. “But when I talked to her and worked with her we stepped back and removed things and cleaned up. By the time we were finished we were left with her beautiful things and it was sleek and serene.”

Yoxtheimer said when she was in school she saw students who could draw a perfect room and put furniture in it. But she said she starts “by reviewing your cherished things, the items you already have or have inherited and look at them with new and fresh ideas.” Then she suggests getting rid of the clutter and supplements the items with shopping.

This current client has a closet full of things that she has bought that “we’ll sort through later and decide whether to keep them and where to put them. Taste is more than money and I work within the client’s budget. I know where to find some good pieces at reasonable prices.”



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

**The theme of gray, the new beige” in home decorating is carried out in the waterfall tiles in the upstairs shower.**

Decorating trends partly follow fashion according to Yoxtheimer. “Look at how people dress today; it’s simpler.”

Another influence is lifestyle. In this part of the country people get rid of the living room, and houses are built with the great room because of the busy lifestyles. “People want to feed their kids at the kitchen bar quickly before soccer. And with late work schedules, they don’t see the kids as much as they’d like so they want them close by instead of the old family room in the basement,” she said.



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE GAZETTE

**Roberto Melgar from M&M Floors puts test stains on the hardwood floors to match the walls.**



## PHOTO GALLERY!

### “Me and My Mom”

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

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Mount Vernon Gazette,  
“Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,”  
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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don’t send us anything irreplaceable.

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# Award-Winning Mount Vernon Gazette

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 and Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Editorial Contests**

## First Place Winners

**Steven G. Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Cartoon. Judge's comments: Smart and insightful.

**Bonnie Hobbs**, *Centre View* – Feature Series or Continuing Story. Judge's comments: Clear and concise writing with a good flow. Journalist captured the emotion of the event and engaged the reader well.

**Michael Lee Pope**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Business and Financial Writing. Judge's comments: First-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues. Fine work.

**Michael Lee Pope**, *McLean Connection* – Health, Science and Environmental Writing. Judge's comments: Michael Lee Pope's stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are well-researched, clearly written and engaging. His use of real-live people high up in his stories to illustrate his findings makes for very compelling material. He seems quite capable of turning some of these topics into a book. If he does, I'll read it.

**Jon Roetman**, *Vienna/Oakton Connection* – Sports Writing Portfolio. Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.

**Victoria Ross**, *Oak Hill/Herndon Connection* – Government Writing. Judge's comments: An engaging look at a lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.

**Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Personal Service Writing, Obituaries. Judge's comments: These stories provide a glimpse inside the lives of people who have played significant roles in their communities. The writing is engaging and well-researched. And the stories serve as an example to others of how to live a life of purpose.

**Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Column Writing, Entertainment. Judge's comments: Ms. Theismann's entertainment columns demonstrate a breadth of knowledge that gives her opinions a ring of authority and authenticity.



**Steve Artley**



**Bonnie Hobbs**



**Michael Lee Pope**



**Jon Roetman**



**Victoria Ross**



**Jeanne Theismann**



**Jean Card**



**Steve Hibbard**



**Louise Krafft**



**Joan Brady**



**Veronica Bruno**



**Vernon Miles**



**Marilyn Campbell**



**Mary Kimm**



**Steven Mauren**



**Geovani Flores**



**Laurence Foong**



**Renee Ruggles**



**Ken Moore**

**Mount Vernon Gazette**  
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



Though I live nowhere near her area, I found it easy to be influenced by her writing and to wish that I had the opportunity to attend some of the events she talked about. All three examples are nicely written.

**Jean Card, Jeanne Theismann, Steve Hibbard, Louise Krafft and Kara Coleman**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages. Judge's comments: Good balance. Front page article has good detail and info.

## Second Place Winners

**Joan Brady**, *Great Falls Connection* – Column Writing.

**Veronica Bruno**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Feature Story Writing.

**Jean Card**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Page Design.

**Vernon Miles**, *Arlington Connection* – Breaking News Writing.

**Jeanne Theismann**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Headline Writing.

## Third Place Winners

**Steven G. Artley**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Cartoon.

**Marilyn Campbell**, *Chantilly Connection* – Health, Science and Environmental Writing.

**Bonnie Hobbs**, *Fairfax Connection* – Personal Service Writing.

**Mary Kimm**, *McLean Connection* – Editorial Writing.

**Michael Lee Pope**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Public Safety Writing.

**Steven Mauren, Mary Kimm, Steve Artley, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong**, *Alexandria Gazette Packet* – Editorial Pages.

**Jean Card, Renee Ruggles and Laurence Foong**, *Mount Vernon Gazette* – Informational Graphics.

The *Potomac Almanac* participates in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and while 2014 award-winners there will not be fully announced until May 1, 2015, we do know that Ken Moore and Marilyn Campbell are winners.

