

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 25, 2015



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

Moving On

The Mount Vernon High School MCJROTC presents the colors at the June 19 graduation ceremonies. Graduation coverage, pages 3 and 7.

Study Examines Police Use of Force

Recommendations outlined at latest police review commission meeting.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Nearly a year ago, Fairfax County sought an outside opinion on its police department's use of force. That July 2014 assignment went to the Washington, D.C.-based Police Executive Research Forum.

The organization gained access to unredacted files and case information going back 10 years, as well as police academy training sessions and other areas of the department while conducting the review. While not pursuing cases currently under investigation, the review team did look at use of force cases and deadly force cases.

The concept then was to compare Fairfax County's policies and practices to other jurisdictions and best practices, and make recommendations for how the county could improve.

Fairfax County published the completed review report online the weekend immediately after they received it. The following Monday, June 22, Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler and director of applied research and management Tom Wilson attended the meeting of the Fairfax County Police Practices Review Commission to give an overview of the document.

THE REVIEW includes 71 recommendations, spanning 92 pages. It and Wexler are generally positive about Fairfax County's police.

"This is a good department that wants to be better," said Wexler, "not just good but one of the best in the country."

If the organization's recommendations are implemented, the review text states, it would "signifi-



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Subcommittee member Jose Santos of Great Falls asks for the Police Executive Research Forum's opinion on how Fairfax County Police release information. "There's a knee-jerk reaction," he said, "a reluctance to air out their dirty laundry."

cantly enhance the [Fairfax County Police Department's] internal operations and its ability to serve the community in ways that build trust and cooperation, while increasing the professionalism with which use-of-force incidents are handled in the county."

Wexler chose five main areas for improvement to highlight in his presentation of the review. These included more comprehensive use of force training for police officers that is scenario-based, holistic and would be implemented department-wide.

The second area was a recommendation to explore implementing a policing practice called the Decision Making model, adopted from use in Scotland and across

SEE STUDY, PAGE 19

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Wolverines Walk 500 West Potomac graduates cross the Patriot Center stage.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

C graduations have always made Margret Lingenfelter sad. “It really resonates with me and holds a weird place in my heart,” the West Potomac High School class of 2015 president said during her graduation remarks to fellow wolverines. “Everyone wants to see everyone else succeed. That’s what I think I’ll miss the most about West Potomac. Hashtag blessed.”

The senior officer gave the welcome address at the June 18 commencement ceremony held in George Mason University’s Patriot Center basketball arena.

Graduate speaker Alexis Nobrega delivered the message of standing out and being unafraid to be who you are. “When we were young,” she said, “we all thought if

we didn’t fit in, we didn’t stand a chance.”

Standing out, Nobrega said, “can lead to the greatest award. Believe in yourselves; you’ve already made it this far.”

First-year principal Alex Case praised the class of 2015 for being “engaged, focused, inquisitive and dedicated.”

Case was particularly proud of the class’ dedication to the local community: As a group, he said, they put in 9,000 hours of community service in the two weeks leading up to graduation. That makes around 27,000 hours as a class over the last four years, Case continued.

The principal threw out another statistic, that together the class of 2015 had taken around 6,000 standardized tests. And though they were successful through those examinations, Case said it’s important to remember “life seldom comes with answer choices A, B, C or D.”



West Potomac seniors proceed into the Patriot Center for their June 18 graduation ceremony.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE



Senior class president Margret Lingenfelter delivers a welcome message peppered with hashtag slogans and the reminder that “Wolverines don’t wear hats.”



Graduate speaker Aman Butt, originally from Pakistan, said it took her six years to graduate from high school. She thanked her teachers for helping her understand “there is no age limit to learning in life.”



From left are West Potomac graduates Zshana Lee, Fiorella Garay, Alexis Lee and Ajenae’ Herbert.



From left are West Potomac graduates Virtuso Martin, Genet Tesfay, King Luther Martin, Chanidapa Suksiripornrit, Dylan Stephens and Madi Nashid.



Graduate speaker Alexis Nobrega encouraged her fellow graduates to “be unafraid to be who you are.”



Marina Zuffi (right), the final West Potomac graduate of the afternoon, receives help from her siblings to rise from her wheelchair and walk across the stage.

VIEWPOINTS

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?



Anton Kheirani plans to attend Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville and study economics.

“I see myself as a lawyer working in environmental law.”



Ajene’ Herbert plans to attend Clark Atlanta University and study early childhood development. “Hopefully with my own daycare. I like kids, they make me happy.”

Catina Accardi (left) plans to attend Virginia Tech and study nursing. “The program at Virginia Tech is four years. After that, I see myself working as a nurse somewhere.”

Margaret O’Meara (center) plans to attend Virginia Tech and study communications.

“I see myself working in a job, maybe for ‘The Tonight Show.’”

Taylor Haas (right) plans to attend the University of California, Berkeley and study business.

“I like economics — I see myself working in international business, maybe in France or Germany.”



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Old Town
\$1,035,000
513 Princess St. Elegant Bulfinch Square townhome recently renovated just steps from shopping & restaurants! 3 bedrooms (all suites), 3.5 baths, living room with fireplace flanked by 2 sets of French doors to a walled garden. Formal dining room, gorgeous new kitchen and renovated baths. Lower level family room and bedroom suite. 2 assigned parking spaces.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855

NEW PRICE



Old Town
\$799,000
731 South Pitt St. Sensational 2009 addition to circa 1940 Yates Gardens home. Possible to enjoy two-level living + nicely finished basement. Parking easement bonus.
Diann Hicks Carlson 703-628-2440

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4



Alexandria House
\$275,000
400 Madison St. #1909. SE corner. Meticulously renovated, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 garage spaces. All rooms are sun-drenched, with floor-to-ceiling windows/doors to the 81 ft. balcony. 24-hour concierge, roof pool - so many amenities.
Lib Willey 703-362-7206

CLARENDON BEAUTY



Arlington
\$1,750,000
802 N. Lincoln St. LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION - This energy-certified home has it all. Gorgeous Colonial within a short walk to Clarendon and the Metro. Five bedrooms, four & a half baths. Surround system. Gourmet kitchen with family room. Upper level has four bedrooms. Owner's suite with coffered ceiling and spa bath. Elegant living room, dining room and office. Lower level recreation room. Private bedroom with full bath. *Cary Garcia 703-505-9513*



Alexandria/Quaker Hill
\$1,075,000
1107 Dartmouth Road. Fabulous Craftsman home with over 3,300 sq. ft. of well-designed living space! 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 3 finished levels and stone fireplace. Gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room. Huge Owner's suite with sitting area, luxury bath and 2 walk-ins. Spacious 3rd level with full bath. Large professionally landscaped yard.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



Del Ray
\$1,050,000
3 East Bellefonte. Gorgeous Brick Colonial with over 3,000 sq. ft. of living space and a fabulous new Chef's kitchen! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 4 finished levels. Spacious kitchen with adjoining family room and awesome screened porch & deck (Trex). 4th level bedroom/office with full bath and sun deck. Lower level recreation room and storage room. 1 off-street parking space. *Christine Garner 703-587-4855*

NEW LISTING



Alexandria
\$550,000
7040 Quander Rd. No need to book trips with your own backyard oasis. This 2,300+ sq ft comfortable home has a pool and screened porch for outdoor living. European white & blue tile kitchen with picture window overlooking a lush backyard. Three main level bedrooms & 2 full baths. Next winter will be cozy with 2 fireplaces. Full lower level could accommodate an in-law suite with family room, full kitchen & bath, walk-out and workshop. Park your car in the garage & walk to the bus stop and local shopping & dining.
Greg Koons 703-209-7678 & Joni Koons 703-209-7277

JUST LISTED



Alexandria/Stoneybrooke
\$515,000
3804 Cobblestone Ct. Lovingly maintained, beautifully updated 5 BR/3 BA home in desirable Stoneybrooke, w/new kitchen, roof, siding, windows etc. on 1/4 acre w/new deck to enjoy the outdoors. Mins to Metro, D.C., Alex./Old Town. Sunny, open floor plan w/lots of space - READY TO MOVE IN!
Mike Downie 703-780-2727

JUST LISTED



Alexandria/Runnymede
\$445,000
6067 Knights Ridge Way. Beautiful remodeled home on quiet cul-de-sac in Runnymede neighborhood. Remodeled kitchen with granite counters, large pantry & desk area. Hardwood floors on main level; composite deck off main level. Two master suites up each with remodeled full baths & granite counters. Master bath with whirlpool tub & walk-in closet. Basement with family room, third bedroom and remodeled full bath.
Julie Hall 703-786-3634

UNDER CONTRACT



Alexandria/Carlyle Square
\$363,000
520 John Carlyle Dr. Unit 219. Sleek contemporary 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo in fabulous Carlyle Square just steps from shopping, restaurants with the convenience of METRO! High ceilings with exposed ducts and large windows looking out to the beautiful courtyard. 1 garage parking space with adjacent large storage unit.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855

JUST LISTED



Arlington
\$369,000
2200 Westmoreland St. #227. Immaculate, like new, 1 BR condo in the heart of Arlington. This gem has latest appliances, granite counters, maple cabinets, pecan wood floors, washer/dryer, and limestone tile bath. It also has a large convenient garage space and storage unit. STUNNING! Close to everything: E. Falls Church Metro. Best-priced unit in the complex! *Mike Downie 703-780-2727*

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Mount Vernon Firefighters recognizes Brownie Troop 1157 for using fire safety on their first camping trip.

Red-Hot Brownies Fight Fire

Fire station praises troop's teamwork.

BY SAMANTHA TKAC
THE GAZETTE

Preparing to conclude their first camping trip on Solomon's Island, third graders Anna Foote and Logan Jackson of Brownie Troop 1157 decided to check the campground to see if they had left any items behind. What they found instead were crimson embers and budding flames in an unattended fire pit at the evacuated neighboring campsite. The two girls sprinted through the campground's dense forest to notify troop leaders. Using an assembly line method, each Brownie took turns picking apart the sizzling pit and drowned the red-hot embers in water to ensure the fire wouldn't rekindle.

On Friday, June 19, the Mount Vernon Fire Department wanted to recognize Troop 1157 for teamwork and bravery, and to discuss the methods of fire safety the Brownie troop utilized. Natalie Himel re-

called in a flurry, "We had to get water and get to the ember right away." Anna Foote said that the troop, "... each took turns with the sprinkler can." Allison Ary added that, "We'd poke at the fire with a bamboo stick." Abby LaFleur said, "Some fire was under the wood, so we had to move the wood [with the bamboo stick] to get the fire out."

When asked if the girls were following a specific Brownie code of conduct, Monica Rusten, who was the designated "fire patrol" leader during the trip remembered to follow one single rule, "You can only be in the fire circle if you ask to be in the fire circle." Coordination and teamwork were key factors that helped the Brownies triumph over the potential threat. When asked if the girls were nervous about confronting the fire, Troop 1157 answered with a resounding, "No."

The troop gathered in front of Firefighter Daniel Donato in the garage of the Mount Vernon Fire Station, to learn about what it means to be a firefighter in their hometown. Donato set the tone for the visit as he swung up on the side of the fire truck, flipped a latch and revealed the ax kept beneath the engine's outer shell—"The ax," he said, "is used for a fighter's favorite activity — breaking things."

The girls realized that they have big shoes to fill, as they took turns trying on Donato's heavy flame-proof suit. Afterwards, they were led through the back door of the ambulance and out its front passenger door — 15 minutes before the vehicle raced out of the garage.

For the main event, the girls were able to experience what it feels like to put out a fire on a larger scale, as they all helped attach a distended fire hose to the fire hydrant out back. The girls stood in a line with both arms supporting the tube, directing its heavy flow into the air. Then Donato and two other firefighters took their turn with the hose and shot a stream of water into the air. The girls howled in their cool embrace, twisting around one another in the hazy centerline between the street steam and the sparkling mist.

At the end of the visit, Donato gathered the pack of dripping, smiling faces for a simple and sincere recognition, "Thank you guys for being so brave."



Firefighter Daniel Donato teaches Brownie Troop members how to hold a fire hose.



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Alex./Woodlawn Estates • \$769,900

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Alex./Yacht Haven • \$849,900

4505 Dolphin Lane
4,000 sq. ft. of renovated luxury in this 5 BR/4 BA Split – Updates: Kitchen, all 4 baths, spectacular cherry hwdwd 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 Mount Vernon.



Alex./Riverside Estates • \$544,900

8602 Cherry Valley Lane
Stunning 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial w/2-car garage and sunroom on a beautiful lot. Meticulously maintained. Many updates: newer kitchen and baths, refinished hardwood floors, freshly painted interior, Family Room w/fireplace off the kitchen. Lower level has room to finish off for a Recreation Room and office. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town Alex., 25 mins to National Airport.



Alex./Olive Park • \$494,900

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.



City of Fairfax/Fairfax Towne Estates

\$519,900 • 10415 Darby Street
Lovely 4 level, 5BR, 2BA home w/carport & great bkyd. Hardwd floors refinished & interior newly painted. 2 wood burning fpls, one in the living rm & one in the family rm. Lg family rm w/skylights & living rm w/vaulted ceiling. Lg bay window nicely accents the separate formal dining rm. Carpeted LL can be convenient playroom, & the unfinished basement has ample storage space. Treed corner lot w/fenced bkyd. New Roof.



Alex./River Towers • \$239,900

6621 Wakefield Dr., #209
This lovely unit has 2BRs, 2BAs, & a sought after Balcony! The bathrms have been updated, the unit freshly painted & new carpeting. Utilities are included in condo fees. River Towers' amenities include a swimming pool, tennis courts, garden plots, picnic grove w/grills, beautifully landscaped grounds, & so much more. River Towers has a metro connector bus out front that goes to the Huntington Metro yellow line. Great community & location. Close to GW Pkwy, Mt. Vernon Bike Trail, Potomac River, & Belle Haven Marina. Less than 5 minutes to Old Town, Alexandria along GW Parkway. 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir.



Alex./Riverside Estates • \$509,000

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!

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Bidding Farewell to Mount Vernon High School

The year has not been without its challenges, but so many wonderful things happened for us this year, too, as we celebrated 75 years of excellence. The awards and honors are far too many to mention here, but the entire Mount Vernon High School community can be proud of the accomplishments of our students and our staff. On Friday, June 19, 403 seniors graduated, eager for the next phase of their lives. The class took with it innumerable honors, awards, and college scholarships. Our students at all grade levels have excelled in academic and athletic competitions. They have represented you and our school very well. Our teachers and staff have been recognized for their dedication and outstanding service to our stu-

dents, our school, and the county, including the FCPS First Year Teacher of the Year Award to MVHS drama teacher, Lee Daugherty and Berkeley McHugh was a finalist for FCPS Teacher of the Year.

"I would like to send a special thank you and congratulations to the following teachers and staff members who are retiring from FCPS on June 30, 2015: Bob Maxey (director of Student Activities), Willie Medley (MCROTC), Bob L'Hommedieu (science), Kerry Miller (special education), Joyce Ramos (media center), Donna Sinclair (art). They have positively impacted the lives of many students for many years and for that we are grateful. Each of them will be missed."

— PRINCIPAL NARDOS KING



Superintendent of FCPS Karen Garza and principal Nardos King applaud Charles Evans and his message to his senior classmates.



Mohammed Ali (center) was one of the 22 honor graduates with a grade point average of 4.0 or better.



Temesgen Tiguba Abera



Principal Nardos King gives honor graduate speaker Michael Rivera a hug before he begins his speech.



A small memorial was placed in front of the main stage as a remembrance to the late Gerald Jose Gomez, a student at Mount Vernon High School.



Honor graduate speaker Samantha Grimes



President of the senior class Charles Evans addresses his classmates.

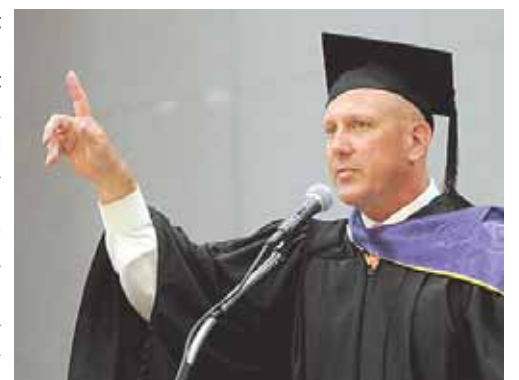


State Del. Scott Surovell, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland and former sub-school principal of Mount Vernon High School Michael S. Skinner.



Judith Belzer directs the Mount Vernon High School Madrigals.

Commencement speaker Billy Davis, a graduate of Mount Vernon High School and member of the Mount Vernon Sports Hall of Fame, is currently the special agent in charge with the U.S. Secret Service with the vice presidential division.



8514 DOTER DRIVE IN WAYNEWOOD • ALEXANDRIA • \$749,900

Beautiful 5-level split. Gorgeous large corner lot with manicured lawn and mature trees. Upgrades: AC, deck, portico, upper bathrooms, regal living room with hardwood floors and cozy wood-burning fireplace. Open renovated gourmet kitchen with granite counters, custom honey maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances and decor range. Renovated family room with 2-sided fireplace. French doors to tranquil patio.



OPEN SUN. 1-4



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SCHOOLS



End of School Year

Fort Hunt Elementary School staff and faculty line up to say goodbye to students on the last day of school.

Fort Hunt Elementary School students wave to Fort Hunt staff and faculty as they leave school on the last day before summer vacation.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TABITHA REBER

Waterfront on the Potomac

7717 SOUTHDOWN ROAD • ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22308

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Featuring five bedrooms and four full and one half-bath, interiors are distinguished by large windows with fabulous views and an open floor plan offering wonderful flow between rooms. Five fireplaces, hardwood, marble and granite flooring, and detailed craftsmanship further enhances the charm. Among the many noteworthy spaces are a deluxe master suite with vaulted ceiling, fireplace, sitting room and balcony overlooking the Potomac.

A screened porch overlooking the water and an 1800 thermostatically controlled wine cellar are just a few of some of the amenities. The home's private 300-foot dock has two boat slips and an electronic boat lift for 8,000 lbs, water and electricity.

DIRECTIONS:

Form Old Town Alexandria: G.W. Pkwy South - Right on West Boulevard (just past stone bridge) - continue right on Alexandria (over bridge) to Left on Northdown - Right on Stone Terrace (small street) and left on Southdown to 7717 on right.



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 8521 Cyrus Place
 Sunlit contemporary home renovated in 2010 features 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, attached 1-car garage, tons of storage, hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling, open kitchen and a fenced yard with 3 decks.



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

MOUNT VERNON \$767,500
 9401 Brookmay Court
 Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this 4 BR, 2.5 BA home offers a gourmet eat-in kitchen, cheerful sunroom, formal dining & living rooms, office w/ built-ins, and a tranquil backyard w/ patio, deck, and gardens.



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

FRANCONIA \$819,000
 6623 Beulah Street
 Private 2.25 acre horse property just 20 min from Washington, DC! Features a charming brick 3 BR, 2.5 BA cape cod, 3 stall modern horse barn, 4-car carshop, tack barn, 2-car garage, and horse wash station.



RIVERSIDE ESTATES \$924,000
 8348 Orange Court
 Expanded waterfront home with tranquil views of Little Hunting Creek, private pier, 5 bedrooms, 4 baths, luxurious master suite with vaulted ceiling, updated sun-filled kitchen, 3-car garage & large deck.



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

HOLLIN KNOLL \$939,000
 8043 Washington Road
 Custom built in 2009, this stunning home features an open eat-in kitchen & family room, spacious master suite w/ sitting room, private office, finished basement w/ in-law suite, back patio, & 2-car garage.



MOUNT VERNON \$949,000
 4202 Kimbreelee Court
 Beautifully renovated brick 5 BR/4.5 BA colonial in exclusive waterfront community! Large eat-in kitchen w/ center island & breakfast bar, library w/ built-ins, formal dining & living rooms, and 3 fireplaces.



WELLINGTON \$1,200,000
 7731 Southdown Road
 Perfectly sited along the GW Parkway, this 0.40 acre waterfront lot offers spectacular views of the Potomac River just minutes from Old Town Alexandria and Washington, DC.



MOUNT VERNON \$1,595,000
 5125 Remington Drive
 Gorgeous new construction home boasting tranquil river views, custom designed gourmet kitchen, and a luxurious master suite with vaulted ceiling, beautiful white marble bath, and large custom closet.



OPEN SUNDAY 2-4

PLYMOUTH HAVEN \$1,695,000
 8805 Winthrop Drive
 Stunning new construction home in sought after Plymouth Haven featuring 6 BR, 5.5 BA, luxurious master suite, high-end open kitchen, breakfast and family rooms, large finished basement, and 3-car garage.



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OPINION

Safe Planning for Independence

Talking and planning about celebrating July 4, and throughout the summer months.

Independence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

This is true for the young adults over 21 living with you, and unfortunately also for many teens who are under 21. More on that below.

For all revelers in independence: Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is an alternative safety net.

On the night of Saturday, July 4, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30), beginning at 10 p.m. for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2014, more than 150 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP.

SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

On July 4, historically, nearly 40 percent of traffic deaths in the U.S. are caused by drunk drivers; more than 20 percent of the drunk drivers involved in those deaths during the 2013 July 4 holiday had blood alcohol concentrations of nearly twice the legal limit, said Kurt Erickson of WRAP.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and driving — you know that many of them will be drinking.

Talk with your teens about the problems of binge drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

This is a message important for the tail end of graduation season and good for the whole

summer, which is the time of the highest risk for teen drivers.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided more than 62,500 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

Visit www.soberride.com.

Call for Pet Photos

The Pet Gazette, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 22, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 15.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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EDITORIAL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Irony of Park Petition

To the Editor:

Unfortunately some who volunteer to serve in the civic arena do so mainly to pursue their own personal agenda and impose it on the community at large. Not long ago, Martin Tillett's Spring Bank community opposed development of affordable housing on North Hill, his community instead supporting a self-serving proposal in which the money would instead be spent buying up foreclosed homes in Spring Bank. In the mid-2000s, Mr. Tillett was involved as a leader of the Spring Bank community in negotiations with the developers who wanted to create a centerpiece for the Mount Vernon community, a town center at Kings Crossing adjacent his community. The unreasonable demands of the then leaders of the Spring Bank community including Mr. Tillett and David Dale, among other issues, caused the developers to throw up their hands in exasperation. They stated in writing:

"Fairfax County must take a leadership role with the local citizen groups and reduce their direct influence on the final design of the project. Planning and Zoning comments must be given a greater weight in the process in order to prevent Kings Crossing from being held hostage by individual citizens and minority groups."

The uproar from civic volunteers was quite

forceful. The developer was compelled to rewrite that statement to read as follows: "Fairfax County must be involved in the community outreach process in order to maintain a consistent and expert intermediary with the local citizen groups."

The latter description was diplomatic; the former description was accurate.

Now Martin Tillett is circulating a petition that urges the county, at taxpayer expense, to create a county park on the 9-acre Fairchild property located adjacent the Spring Bank community and Mr. Tillett's own property, and behind the Kings Crossing property. At least in part as a result of his own actions and advocacy, instead of a town center at Kings Crossing, we have a Wal-Mart. Had we obtained the town center, the developer had agreed to provide on the Kings Crossing property a complete storm water management system to reduce runoff and up to \$500,000 for restoration of Quander Brook within the Fairchild property. With the demise of the Kings Crossing project and development of the Wal-Mart store, the property owner has no obligation whatsoever to create any storm water controls on its completely impervious property that drains storm water and debris into the Fairchild property.

The ingress-egress easement providing the only access to the Fairchild property goes through the northern edge of the parking lot of the Wal-Mart property but expressly forbids visitors to the Fairchild property from parking there. Where the easement ends, there is a deep

ravine in the Fairchild property partially caused by storm water runoff from the Wal-Mart property. That ravine comprises the location of a significant aspect of the restoration that is required in order to render the Fairchild property usable as a park. Without that restoration, there is no safe way to enter the property. Remembering that the developer had agreed to provide full storm water controls on its property and pay up to \$500,000 to restore the Fairchild property (a price we taxpayers would now have to foot), it is also noteworthy that without storm water controls being established on the Wal-Mart property, restoration efforts on the Fairchild property will likely be futile. Continuing runoff from the impervious Wal-Mart property will just erode again whatever restoration has been carried out on the Fairchild property.

Mr. Tillett knows all of these facts and so it is remarkable that his petition says absolutely nothing about the cost of restoration and the virtual futility of trying to do so. He wants taxpayers to fund restoration of a property that borders his own with the hope that a neighborhood park can be established that mainly benefits his community, after the actions of he and his community contributed to the fact that we no longer have a developer offering to fund the restoration and provide storm water controls to prevent erosion.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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Predatory Lending Continues Its March Across U.S. 1

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



The Virginia's State Corporation Commission latest annual report says that predatory car title lending is thriving in Virginia. With nearly three dozen car title lenders between Alexandria and Quantico on U.S. 1, this is troubling news, except to the lenders out to make big profits. You can read the full report on my online newsletter – The Dixie Pig – at scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

COMMENTARY

Car title lending began in our state in 2010 after Virginia limited interest rates on payday loans and predatory lenders argued that a new option was needed. Virginia law authorizes lenders to lend money at rates up to 30 percent per month which equates to around a 297 percent annual percentage rate (APR). A consumer can borrow up to 50 percent of their vehicle's equity and the loan term is limited.

First, the good news from the report. The total amount lent declined from \$206 million to around \$162 million and the total number of loans dropped from 177,775 to 155,128. This reduction could have resulted from several factors such as more cautious lenders, more informed consumers and an

improved economy.

However, the largest lender in Virginia, Title Max, co-located a second business in their car title loan stores and licensed them as relatively lightly regulated "consumer finance companies." Title

Max has been promoting these alternate loans, which have higher interest rates, longer terms and marginally smaller monthly payments. I introduced legislation to ban evasion of consumer protections by co-location illegal, but it was killed in committee.

Given the SCC's reporting methods, it is impossible to determine whether predatory lending is really up or down.

But there is clearly bad news. The interest rates charged on these 177,775 loans ranged from 84 percent to 268 percent and the average APR was 222 percent. Those are not typos.

The number of Virginians who failed to make a monthly payment rose from 33,387 to 38,286. That's about 400 people per state delegate or nearly 1,000 people per state

senator. This means in Fairfax County's U.S. 1 Corridor, there were probably about 1,000 people in default and probably another 1,000 to 1,500 in eastern Prince William and Stafford counties.

Out of those 38,286 defaults, 19,368 cars were repossessed and 14,949 were sold at public auction. Court judgments rendered totaled \$150,593; the bulk of amounts owed were covered by repossession sales or debt collection tactics.

If you convert those defaults to raw dollars (multiply the number of defaults against the average loan) it equates to about \$40 million of defaulted loans or about 25 percent of the total loans made. For comparison, Experian reports that loans to finance car purchases (not car title loans) have a default rate of 0.62 percent.

Predatory car title loans default 40 times more often than traditional vehicle purchase loans.

The small amount of judgments against the lenders also tells me is that this is a very profitable business. If a title loan shop sells only one \$1,000 loan per week and has \$52,000 under management at the state-sanctioned 30 percent per month interest rate then the business is projected to earn \$187,200 per year before expenses.

Given that loans cannot exceed 50 percent of the vehicle value, there is little risk to lenders if a consumer defaults, thus the

tiny amount of reported judgments. These profits are being made off people who are typically in extreme credit distress before they ever borrow the money.

All of these statistics underscore the need for Virginia to step up and short of an absolute repeal of the law that allows these practices, to take action.

The state legislature should pass (1) my legislation to prohibit title lenders from co-locating consumer finance companies in title loan shops and (2) legislation to reduce maximum interest rates from a 297 percent APR.

Also, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is actively considering my suggestion to prohibit new car title lenders from locating in revitalization districts. Chesterfield County enacted this two years ago. Prince William and Stafford counties needs to take action as well.

However, more is needed. Localities should also be able to prohibit these businesses from locating near clusters of their favorite targets — active duty military and low-income residents.

With these steps, we can begin to limit the financial destruction and heartbreak that this industry is causing in Virginia.

It is an honor to serve as your state delegate.

If you have any feedback, please contact me at scott@scottsurovell.org.

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Westminster at Lake Ridge, Lake Ridge, Virginia



Ingleside at King Farm, Rockville, Maryland

We have a new name and a new look reflecting our organization's full integration as providers of complete senior living solutions. Westminster Ingleside is now Ingleside. From community management and development, to senior living and home care, we strive to create and provide extraordinary services and truly *Engaged Living* retirement.

Our name is now Ingleside. Ingleside, a not for profit 501(c)(3) organization can be best summed up in two simple words: "Engaged Living". These changes reflect our deep and ongoing commitment to meet and exceed the needs of our residents, their families, and our clients.

The changes you will see in the coming weeks and months are aimed at making sure we fulfill the evolving responsibilities to our three communities and foundation, not only now but long into the future. In addition, you will see new services and products introduced in keeping with our long history and tradition of leadership, innovation and community service.

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Open House Every Sunday Until Sold
Cameron Station
327 Fucci Court,
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 Sunny Cameron Station Bradley model. New hardwoods, carpet, paint, plantation shutters. Beautiful throughout w/4 levels, 3 very large bedrooms w/full baths. Built-ins, FP, deck, & kitchen with bump-out bay window & adjacent eat-in area. 2-car garage with visitor parking right at your front door. \$645,000

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6314 Field Flower Trl,
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den & full bath. \$349,900 **The York Group**
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 Home has plenty of space with six bedrooms, three full baths and over 3,100 sq. ft. on two floors. Located approx. ten minutes south of the Beltway between Fort Hunt Road and Route 1. Close to public transportation, shopping, restaurants and more. \$489,900
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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL THE GAZETTE

Thanking the Police

During the Gum Springs Community Day Celebration on Saturday, June 20, the Gum Springs community paid special tribute to the Mount Vernon District Police force. Holding a microphone, the Rev. Johnnie Abram of the Harvest Assembly Baptist Church; Queenie Cox, president of the Gum Springs Citizens Association; immediately behind, right to left, is the new Commander of the Mount Vernon District Police Station, Captain Shawn Martin; Anne Rizza, sergeant; and Marvin Goodley, detective, among many other police officers who were also in attendance, as shown. The girl and boy at left are Trequan Sparrow and Jinya Hagans.

DAR Awards

Fort Hunt Elementary School students Yasmine Bolden, left, and Katrina Kulinski were honored June 17 by the Kate Waller Barrett chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Yasmine received the D.A.R. Youth Good Citizenship medal and Katrina the D.A.R. Outstanding Work in American History medal. Past Honorary Regent Phyllis Kelley presented the awards during the Fort Hunt sixth grade promotion and awards ceremony.



PHOTO BY PHYLLIS KELLEY

OBITUARY

Alice June Atkinson Higgins

Alice June Atkinson Higgins died on Monday, June 22, 2015. She was born June 13, 1929 in Spotsylvania County, the eldest daughter of Anna Mae and Milton Francis Atkinson. She was preceded in death by her husband of 24 years, Lee Sanford Higgins, and by her brothers Robert, George, Roscoe and Daniel.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon Higgins Brock and son-in-law Steven, of Las Vegas, Nevada, and by her son, Ronald L. Higgins and daughter-in-law Patricia, of Gordonsville. Grandchildren include Heather Brock Harris (Dean) of Las Vegas, Jason Lee Brock (Amy) of Atlanta, Ga., Katherine Higgins Hosey (Lance) of Washington, D.C., and John Sanford Higgins (Lisi), of Baltimore, Md., as well as five great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Surviving sisters and brothers are Bernice Thompson (Tom), Lillian Morrison, Ruby

Merriman (John), William (Juanita), Raymond (Ann), and Benjamin (Gloria), all of Fredericksburg, and Elizabeth Ridgeway (Ashby) of Alexandria.

A family graveside service will take place on Friday, June 26 in Alexandria. Preddy Funeral Home of Gordonsville is in charge of arrangements.

The family wishes to thank Dr. Thomas Wolanski, Dr. Sutherland, staff at UVA Culpeper Regional Hospital Medical-Surgical Unit, Dr. Chen, Windy Forch, NP, the staff at Dogwood Village and Hospice of the Piedmont, as well as the many supportive and committed friends at JABA. Memorial contributions may be made to: Jefferson Area Board for Aging (JABA), 674 Hillside Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901; Dogwood Village, 120 Dogwood Lane, Orange, VA 22960; or Hospice of the Piedmont, 675 Peter Jefferson Parkway, Suite 300, Charlottesville, VA 22911.



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9412 Ferry Landing Ct \$799,500
Beat the Heat in your Own Custom Pool!
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9408 Brambly Lane \$1,165,000
New Home Feel!
Spacious Colonial by Wakefield Homes-the area's leading custom builder! Home has striking open floor plan accentuated by high ceilings and large windows which bring light to every corner of the home. Numerous fabulous features include: 3 luxurious finished levels, open kitchen-family room, spacious master suite and oversize 3 car garage. Deck overlooks private wooded yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Impossible to duplicate at close to this price! **OPEN SUN 6/28, 1-4. GW Pky S; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; R-Brambly.**



4204 Old Mill Rd \$534,900
Updated Home-Detached Two Car Garage!
Attention car enthusiasts! Truly unique property featuring updated home, large lot and oversize 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! **OPEN SUN 6/28, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; R-Old Mill.**



8315 Old Mt Vernon Rd \$779,000
\$70K Price Adjustment!
MAKE OFFER Sellers Have New Home! Custom-built w/ striking open floor plan-perfect for entertaining! Approx 5K sq ft on 3 levels, 9' ceilings & custom crown molding. Chef's kitchen w/adjoining family room w/FP & luxurious MBR. Finished LL, outside entrance, ideal in-law/au pair suite. Magnificent property offers size & custom amenities rarely found in homes < \$1 mill!



8720 Plymouth Road \$1,695,000
Brand New Home!
Spectacular Wakefield home loaded with virtually every custom upgrade & amenity in fabulous Plymouth Haven! Three 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 garage. Prime location on large lot-walk to Wayneswood School!



9100 Old Mt Vernon Rd \$629,900
Wonderful Westgate!
Premiere neighborhood's most popular model. In prime location on spacious corner lot in protected environment near Mt. Vernon Estate grounds. Features: large room sizes, 4BR, 2.5BA, family room off kitchen, gorgeous hwd flrs and side load two car garage. Kitchen & baths have been beautifully updated. Expansive rear deck overlooks private grounds. Very attractively priced-excellent value!



4831 Stillwell Ave \$565,000
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Curb appeal abounds in this classic cape in gorgeous setting on landscaped half acre lot in quiet neighborhood surrounded by country club grounds and parkland. Many features include: welcoming front porch, 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, updated kitchen, living room with fireplace hardwood floors, thermal windows. Prime location in heart of Mt Vernon.



8234 West Boulevard Dr \$1,625,000
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Award winning classic Victorian combines exquisite period detail with dramatic open floor plan. Painstaking attention to detail and its design led to this fabulous home winning the award for being the best custom home in its category for all of Northern Virginia the year it was built! Numerous special features. 3 car garage! Screen porch! Walls of windows! Upgraded trim detail! Luxury abounds!



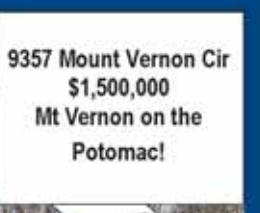
9409 Ludgate Dr \$1,890,000
Truly Spectacular! Nothing Else Like It!



4006 Renault Pl \$562,800
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9357 Mount Vernon Cir \$1,500,000
Mt Vernon on the Potomac!



1209 Falster Ct \$649,000
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

“Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists.” Through June 28, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-4:30 p.m. on Sunday at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Find watermedia floral and landscape paintings. Free to visit gallery. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

“Building Bridges.” Through June 28 during gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2701 Mount Vernon Ave. The gallery will unveil an exhibit that is the result of a partnership with Six Degrees Consortium. Free to attend. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org.

Cat Adoption Promotion. The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The Animal Welfare League will be holding a “Class of 2015” Cat Adoption promotion. Select cats (typically, cats who have been at the shelter longer than four months, senior cats, etc.), will have fees waived for the month of June. Email clindsey@alexandrianimals.org or call 703-746-4774.

“Art Uniting People” Exhibit. Through July 9, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on the 2nd floor hallway at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. The exhibit is designed to raise awareness about the stigma faced by those with mental illness, substance use disorders, and intellectual disabilities. Admission is free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

“Saturate.” Through July 19 during gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Six artists use different mediums to convey moisture. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

“Boundaries & Borders.” During gallery hours through July at the Target Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Artists were inspired the “outsider’s perspective” for this exhibit. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

“Magical, Mystical Animals.” Through July 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Studio 18. Artists will display art inspired by childhood stories and mythical creatures. Admission is free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Mt. Vernon Recreation Center Art

Class Exhibit. Through July 28, Monday-Friday 6 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at Saint Elmo’s Coffee Pub, 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. View drawings and paintings done by the senior art class. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffee.pub.com.

Cool Yoga. Wednesdays through Sept. 4, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at 1900 Mt. Vernon Ave. Participate in group yoga sessions taught by Prasada Yoga’s Maureen Clyne and enjoy refreshments provided by St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub and other local eateries. Suitable for all levels. Bring mat, towel and water. Free. Call 703-671-2000.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park. Through Sept. 26 at various time. Leaves from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Baseball fans can avoid heavy traffic and cruise along the Potomac to Nationals Park. Tickets are \$20 one-way and \$25 round-trip. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/baseball-boat.php.

Doggy Happy Hour. Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one’s dog. Free. Visit www.jackson20.com/buzzevents_events.php.

Water Taxi to the National Mall. Through Nov. 1, at various times at Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Cruise from Old Town to D.C. on the *Miss Sophia*, while stopping view some of the area’s most popular attractions. Tickets are \$28 roundtrip and \$14 one-way for adults. For children under 12, tickets are \$16 roundtrip and \$8 one-way. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

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 will the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

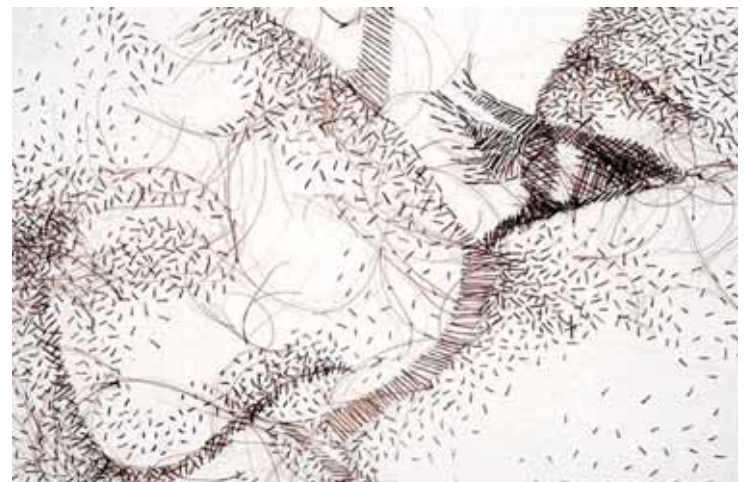
Tiny Dancers 2015 Summer Camps. Each session includes daily instruction in ballet, a snack, fine motor exercise through a theme-related craft and a story with dress-up dance interpretation. The session culminates with a recital and reception. Tiny Dancers is designed for ages 2-12, featuring a performance based ballet, tap, jazz



(Above) “The American Dream - Starring Jackie Chan and John Cusack” by Bin Feng and “Peck, No Prick” by Rosemary Meza-DesPlas. “Peck” is made of human hair sewn to a canvas.

‘Boundaries and Borders’ Open at TAG

“Boundaries and Borders” is an exhibit of 20 works in a variety of media — including human hair. Each piece is meant to be a commentary on religion, politics, and other societal factors across the world. The artists come from as close as Arlington and as far away as Belgium. “Boundaries and Borders” will be on display through July 19 at The Target Gallery, 1-5 N Union St. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for gallery hours and more.



and musical theater curriculum. The studio is located at 621 S. Washington St., Alexandria. Call 703-739-0900 or visit 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_for_more.

2015 Youth Summer Art Camp. July 20-25 or July 27-31 at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Youth ages 8-14 spend one week creating art and learning creative techniques, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies, lunch, and snacks are provided. \$300 per child. Scholarships are available. See www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtCamp.

Grown-Ups Art Camp. June 29-July 17 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Adult art instruction including 37 workshops and events. Classes range from working with resin to polymer clay; from creating a monotype or paper masterpiece to learning how to tango. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.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. Register online or in-person at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. The Summer Fun Guide is available for download at www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation. Free printed brochures will be available at City Hall, recreation centers, and public libraries. Call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414.

Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. 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.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-

\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

Community Yoga. Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30-8:45 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. No experience required to participate in weekly community class. Suggested \$10 donation. Visit www.532yoga.com.

Tween Yoga. Thursdays, May 28-July 16. 4-5 p.m. at 532YOGA, 532 N. Washington St. Suite 100. 532Yoga uses yoga to help tweens develop greater self-confidence. The workshop fee is \$125 or \$20 for drop-in classes. Visit www.532Yoga.com.

Drawing and Painting Lab for Teens. Wednesdays, June 24-July 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Teens ages 13-17 may explore techniques including concepts of shape, line, texture and color blending. The fee is \$77 for four 2-hour lessons. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JUNE 25

Mason Jennings with Karen Jonas. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Acoustic singer/songwriters perform live. Tickets start at \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FOOD & DRINK

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon, Wednesdays, through Dec. 17. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm for more.

Old Town Farmers Market. 7 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Local farmers and artists have been selling products there since 1753. Located at Market Square, 301 King St. Call 703-746-3200 or email oldtownfarmersmarket@alexandriava.gov.

Del Ray Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-noon, Saturdays year round. Features fresh vegetables and fruits in season, meats, eggs, fresh pasta and sauces, Amish cheese, yogurt, bakery goods and more. Located at the corner of East Oxford and Mount Vernon avenues. Contact pmiller1806@comcast.net or visit www.delrayfarmersmarket.com for more.

Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through November. Located at the entrance to Four Mile Run Park at 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.4mrmarket.org/index.html for more.

West End Farmers Market. 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays through November. Fresh, locally grown, in-season vegetables as well as berries, apples, pears, and seasonal peaches. Vendors also sell fresh-squeezed orange juice, pastries, cheeses and more. Located at Ben Brenman Park, 4800 Brenman Park Drive. Visit www.westendfarmersmarket.org/#FarmersMarket for more.

IMAGES COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY/JUNE 26

The Derecho California Common Celebration. 3-10 p.m. at the Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Celebrate the third anniversary of the creation of a limited edition summer seasonal: the Derecho California Common. Lived music and food and souvenirs for sale. Admission is free. Email info@portcitybrewing.com, or call Tammy Portney at 713-560-0969.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 26-27

SkateFest & "Sk8 For A Cause." 3 p.m. at Wakefield Park, Annandale. Children and adults are invited to the 8th annual Skatefest. The two-day event of competitions and games will raise money for Children's National Medical Center. Registration costs: \$25 (pre-registration), \$30 (day-of registration), +\$10 (VIP tickets). Visit www.skatefestfairfax.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 27

Civil War Kids Drill Day. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 West Braddock Road. Children ages 9-12 can learn more about the daily life of the Civil War soldier. The cost per child is \$25, which includes a Civil War kepi hat and snack. Registration is suggested, space is limited. Call Fort Ward Museum to register at 703-746-4848. The program will be cancelled if it rains.

"Building Altars" Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Del Ray Artisans gallery at Nicholas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Create altars from small tins and recycled items. Instructor: Lori K. Gordon. \$80 for members and

\$95 for non-members not including a \$20 supply fee. See www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/Altars.

Food & Wine Festival. 12-6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Taste food from local restaurants and sample Virginia wines while listening to live music. Free admission. Visit www.alexandriafoodandwine.com.

Pieces of a Dream. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. American R&B and jazz group perform live. Tickets start at \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

THURSDAY-MONDAY/JUNE 25-29,

Choral Festival International Summer Celebration. Various times and dates at 319 Cameron St. This event features professional and community choirs. See www.classicalmovements.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 27

Ikebana Flower Design Workshop. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the fundamentals of the Japanese art of flower arrangement. The workshop is \$35 plus a \$25 supply fee. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Program on Water Wise Gardening. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Arlington 22206. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (Arlington/Alexandria) will present a program on water wise gardening. The program is free and open to the public, but advance registration is requested at www.mgnv.org. Call 703-228-6414.

Family Fun: Make a Patriot Garden. 1-2 p.m. at Green Spring

Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Children may decorate a red, white and blue container garden in time for the Fourth of July. The program cost is \$12. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fruit Salad Tasting. 1-4 p.m. at Olio, 1223 King St. Health and wellness coach Donna Zurick will lead demonstrations on fruit salad varieties for summer. Free. Visit www.oliotastingroom.com for more.


Entrepreneur Fellowship for Women Graduation. 2-4 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Center, 1 Veterans Pl, Silver Spring. Celebrate the accomplishments of this year's graduates of the Entrepreneur Fellowship for Women program with Alexandria-based Empowered Women International. Take part by listening to women's stories and learning about their businesses and projects. Also help welcome Florence Navarro, EPI's new Executive Director and Chief Empowerment Officer. Free. Visit www.mymail.constantcontact.com/You-re-Invited-to-EWI-s-Entrepreneur-Fellowship-for-Women-Graduation.html?soid=1101407869059&aid=tDP5KG3SVb4 for information and to register.

"Toy Stories." 7 p.m. at The Schlesinger Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria performs an original musical, "Toy Stories." Tickets start at \$20. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

SUNDAY/JUNE 28

Cook For Your Pet. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Pet Sage, 2391 S. Dove St. and Southern Kitchens, 2350 Duke St. Take a three-part course on cooking for your cat or dog. Each session is

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Monday 6:30 pm Mass (Español)	(en Español); 6:30 pm
Saturday Evening 5:00 pm Vigil Mass 6:30 pm Vigil Mass (en Español)	Weekday & Saturday Mornings: 9:00 am Mass, preceded by Rosary (on First Friday , Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Sunday 7:30 am; 9:00 am (with Sign Language Interpreter & Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm	Thursday & First Friday of the Month: 7:30 pm Mass (Español) preceded by 7:00 pm Eucharistic Adoration

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**Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria VA 22308**

ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Bumper Jacksons Celebrate Album Release

The Bumper Jacksons will celebrate the release of "Too Big World" on July 25 at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The new album is the second for the D.C.-based bluegrass/folk band. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JULY

- 7/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
- 7/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 7/22/2015.....Pet Connection
- 7/29/2015..Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

AUGUST

- 8/5/2015.....Wellbeing
- 8/12/2015.....HomeLifeStyle
- 8/19/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools – Back to School – Private Schools
- 8/26/2015.....Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout

SEPTEMBER

- 9/2/2015.....Wellbeing
- Labor Day is Sept. 7
- 9/9/2015..HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes
- 9/16/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools Open Houses

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 15.

\$25, or \$60 for all three. Visit www.petsage.com.

Sarong Brunch. 11 a.m. at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King St. Learn different ways to "rock" a sarong and partake in a light brunch and mimosas. Tickets are \$24 and include a rayon sarong from Bali. Customers can also upgrade to a sarong from Bangladesh or Ghana. Visit www.rock-your-sarong-brunch.simplertix.com/Event/23185/Rock-Your-Sarong-Brunch.

Downton Abbey Tea Program. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Discover whether Downton Abbey's depiction of life in the 18th century provides true historical insight or historical fiction. The program will be followed by a traditional English afternoon tea. Admission is \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Grand Re-Opening Celebration. 2-4 p.m. at Old Town Ace Hardware, 809 S. Washington St. Reception with snacks and sweet treats, demonstrations and a meet and greet with the new store owners, managers, and staff at Old Town Ace. The first 100 guests at the reception will receive a free gift. Free. RSVP to

Courtney Belew at Party@acehardware.com or 703-566-7040. Visit www.acehardware.com for more.

Henna Tattoos for El Fenn Maroc. 2-5 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For a \$10 donation to nonprofit El Fenn Maroc, artist Lori Gordon will tattoo a small, simple henna design on a hand or foot. El Fenn Maroc supports the traditional arts of Morocco. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Jazz at Meade. 4-6 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N Alfred St. Listen to jazz singer Anita King and her quartet. Entry with a \$15 donation. Visit www.meadechurch.org or call 703-549-1334 or email jazzatmeade@meadechurch.org for more.

"Toy Stories." 5 p.m. at The Schlesinger Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. The Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria performs an original musical, "Toy Stories." Tickets start at \$20. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter.

Brandy Clark Performance. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

MONDAY/JUNE 29

The Rippingtons. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Contemporary jazz group performs live. Tickets start at \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar/ for tickets and more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 30

Gardening in Alexandria. 7:30-9:30a.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The Alexandria Beautification Commission and Virginia Cooperative Extension invite the public to learn how to plan and install an urban garden. Learn local gardening best practices and more. Visit www.mgnv.org or call 703-228-6414.

Concert in the Garden. 7-8 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. "Banjo Man" Frank Cassel will perform bluegrass and folk music. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Los Lonely Boys. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Texas-based rock and

ENTERTAINMENT



Del Ray Artisans Summer Camp

Youth ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and learning creative techniques, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies, lunch and snacks are provided. Two one-week sessions: July 20-25 or July 27-31. \$300 per child. Scholarships may be available. Camps will be held at Del Ray Artisans Gallery (handicap accessible), 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/ArtCamp.

roll band perform live. Tickets start at \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

performs. Tickets start at \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

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.

FRIDAY/JULY 3

Friday Evening Garden Tour. 7-8 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardener docents will highlight the summer sights, fragrances and sounds at the end of the day, when changing light accentuates different plants and landscape features. Refreshments also available. Admission is \$12 person for each tour. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 302 6901.

Bilal. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. R&B artist and wide-range vocalist Bilal

SATURDAY/JULY 4

An American Celebration at Mount Vernon. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Mount Vernon will pay tribute to the first president of the United States with a display of fireworks. The event also includes military reenactments, a wreath-laying ceremony, and free birthday cake for all in attendance. The public is welcome. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. During the colonial period,



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which helps participants increase the strength, flexibility and endurance necessary for gardening. The class is held indoors. The class is \$86 per person. Register on-line at www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

contemporary favorites. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

TUESDAY/JULY 7

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 for more.

Michael Fisherkeller Talk. 7-8 p.m. at Morrison House Hotel, 116 S Alfred St. Michael Fisherkeller, a Torpedo Factory visiting artist, will be talking about his artwork which incorporates images from pre-Raphaelite artwork into his street-art inspired paintings to represent contemporary issues. Admission is free. Call Tatyana Schremko at 703-548-1750 or email her at tatyana.ss@verizon.net.

TUESDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 7-10

Dance Class: Jane Franklin Dance. 10-11:30 a.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Body integration for the individual is the class's primary goal while encouraging flexibility, strength, and coordination. Enroll at www.JaneFranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 8

Swing Dance with DJ Dabe Murphy. 9-11 p.m. at Nick's Nightclub, 642 S Pickett St. DJ swing dance featuring the music of the 1930s, 1940s, '950s, and some

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Robert Earl Keen. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Country music artist performs "The Bluegrass Sessions" with guest The Hello Strangers. Tickets start at \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 10

Jason D. Williams and Dale Watson & The Lodestars. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Combining both country and rock, Jason D. Williams performs along with Dale Watson. Tickets start at \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com/calendar/ for tickets.

Tom Principato Band. 8 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Tom Principato performs his trademark guitar riffs live. Tickets start at \$25. There is a \$25 minimum food and beverage purchase required per guest, except for general admission tickets. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com.

Four Mile Summer Movie Festival.

Movies start at dusk and are shown at the Four Mile Conservatory Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Community Church's inaugural summer movie festival is co-sponsored by the City of Alexandria. Film schedule is as follows: Friday, July 10, "The Lego Movie;" Friday, Aug. 7, "Mcfarland USA;" Friday, Sept. 11, "Cool Runnings." Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.theaterchurch.com for more.

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In Jail: Don't Confuse Mental Health Services with Treatment

Fourteen mental health service staff at the disposal of 1060 inmates.

BY SAMANTHA TKAC
THE GAZETTE

A young man with ruffled hair and tired eyes peers out through the rectangular window of his single cell door. His gaze drifts across the green-tiled dayroom of the acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

The high ceiling of the dayroom reveals a second floor of single cells, the entire facility currently occupied by 45 incarcerated men. The young man's eyes catch an observer's and he nods in greeting. Besides this subtle gesture, the dayroom is quiet and still. The tiny cell windows above and below are brightly lit and faceless.

The women's acute mental health facility is structurally similar yet compressed, holding 19 inmates. Both spaces contain central open spaces filled with metal tables and attached chairs. This is where supervisor Steve Weiss, the director of jail-based behavioral services within the ADC and his 14 team members of the Community Service Board sit down with each of the current 64 inmates to provide mental health services. But along with serving those in acute care, the 14 CSB team members provide mental health services to the jail's general population, serving a total of 1073 inmates within the last six months, according to CSB Communications Director Belinda Buescher. During that time, the jail held an average of 1060 inmates.

"In a perfect world we would have a much larger staff and we would have a presence 24/7. If we did that with the existing staff that we have now we would be spread so thin and services would be so diluted that we couldn't respond effectively when we are here," Weiss said.

Sheriff Deputy J. Perkins who works in the facilities explains the Sheriff Department's involvement with the facility's mental health care. He points to "Ob-Logs" short for "Observation Logs." "These are 15 minute checks because it's high observation ..." Perkins said. "It's just another piece of the puzzle in reference to their mental health status." Some of the check ups documented in the logs include whether or not an inmate takes their medication, what meals they're eating and when they're sleeping. "This gives you a real good picture in reference to how well they're doing or if they're deteriorating."

Checking on these individuals frequently and extensively is a necessity when servicing mental health issues, because a state of mind can alter drastically even over the course of a few minutes. Weiss explains that these circumstances mean that the inmates who are prioritized for care changes daily. "We come up with a list every day of who we must see based on the severity of need, and then what we do from that point on depends upon the urgency of the situation."

Weiss has worked in the Fairfax Adult

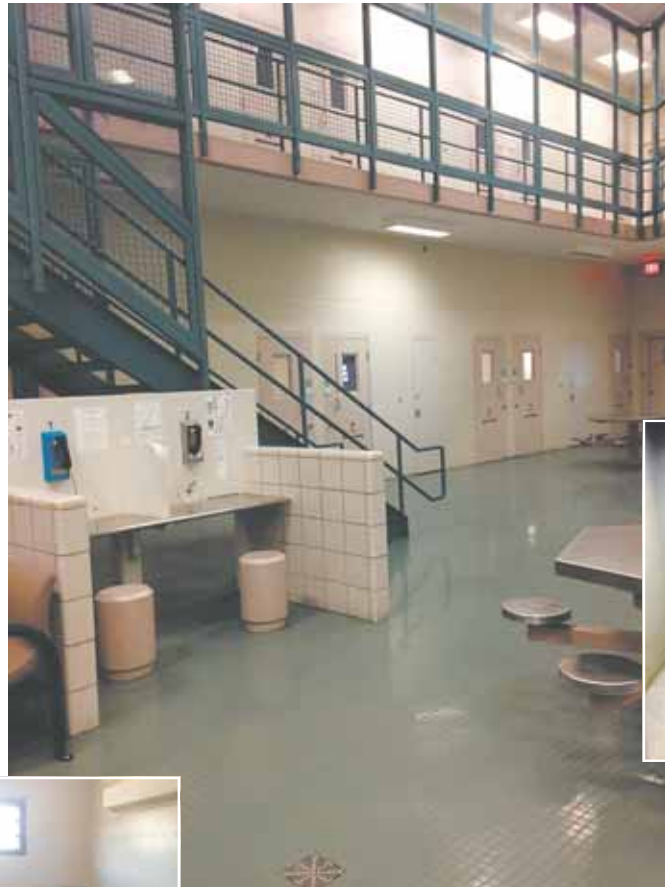
Detention Center for 11 years, and before that, in other mental health facilities. When Weiss retires in a few weeks, no one will be hired to fill his position, reducing the CSB staff from a total of 14 to 13. Psychology textbooks, behavioral therapy manuals and other informational texts about the human mind line the shelves of his office. Despite Weiss's knowledge and sensitivity toward mental health, he is adamant about referring to the services that his team provides as just that — services, not as treatment.

"I hate using the word treatment," Weiss said. "... People often believe, it's surprising — lawyers, police, family members especially, think 'Boy, I hate to see this person go to jail but at least they'll get treatment over there.' I don't really like to leave the impression that there is any equivalency between what we do here and what the person should receive or what they might receive in a hospital or in proper mental health treatment ... we want to do as much as we can for as many people as possible, but our objective is really not to provide primary treatment, it's rather to engage, stabilize, and to transition."

The CSB staff consists of social workers, psychologists, or psychiatrists who engage inmates by providing therapeutic group and individual sessions. Some of these sessions include goal-specific outcomes, such as substance abuse therapy. Other sessions may begin with confronting the most basic and important of mental health issues — figuring out what's wrong, and the needs of the individual. Weiss says that a benefit these services within the jail is that "There's no such thing as a no-show in jail for an appointment ... there's 100 percent show rate, that doesn't mean that people are always cooperative. ... There are instances where this is the first time when you're [the CSB staff] able to get a clear picture of what's going on. As crappy as life is in jail, it's the most stable that somebody has been."

Stabilization doesn't always occur.

"ONE OF THE FIRST stumbling blocks is the fact that often when people have an ill-



PHOTOS BY SAMANTHA TKAC/THE CONNECTION

Men's dayroom of the Acute Mental Health Facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.



Single cell in the women's acute mental health facility in the Fairfax Adult Detention Center

the police are called, he can't be taken to a hospital, but he can be taken to jail.

"It is not about this chunk or that chunk, all of them are equally important, the chain is only as strong as its weakest link," Weiss said. These "chunks" or services include the utilization of Crisis Intervention Training on behalf of the Fairfax County Police, the availability of Jail Diversion options such as substance abuse treatment and outpatient programs, and increasing the support of post-incarceration options, such as housing, and placement within mental health treatment facilities.

"What we need to do is understand that this is a systemic issue ... there needs to be seamless movement," Weiss said. "I am in favor of more service in the jail — but that is a reflection of the failure of everything else."

He reiterates that the issue of mental health treatment within the community is, "A single problem with different pieces." Weiss can only work to improve one.

WEISS SPENDS his days not only with the inmates, but with family members and friends who are also affected by this system. On the upside, these interactions make up his favorite part of the job. "It's always being able to make something a little bit better for the person who is incarcerated or for the person that cares about them ... always, there's never any question about that."

But with love comes heartbreak, as Weiss describes the difficulty in seeing individuals whose, "only crime really is being mentally ill." He spoke to one such individual, a young man who was refusing therapy or medication "due to severe paranoia."

Weiss was trying to convince him to apply to receive disability checks. After lots of time and persistence Weiss received, "the smallest sliver of a maybe" from the man "which I'm sure by today is going to be a no." Weiss sighs, "But — it's not always a no."

Back in the lobby of the Adult Detention Center, a woman sits in the one of the plastic chairs and bounces a baby on her knee. Besides thumping the heel of her clog, she holds her body stiff as she looks above the baby's bobbing head and through the doors leading into the Detention Center. Weiss said, "When people come here, whether they're in the lobby worrying about the person inside or whether it's the person inside the jail — they're at the worst point in their life, and sometimes the smallest thing can make a very big difference ... sometimes it's saying to a mother — 'I promise you your son is going to be OK, we're watching him.'"

He provides a hypothetical situation, "If I know that Sam can't make good decisions for himself, and can't care for himself, I can't just say, 'I'm putting Sam in a hospital.' There are laws that protect people." So when Sam starts to act out of control and



Holding cell in the basement of the Fairfax Adult Detention Center.

Study Examines Fairfax Police Use of Force

FROM PAGE 1
the United Kingdom.

“What they’ve done is designed a format for officers to look at any given situation,” said Tom Wilson, and answer, “What is your threat?” This method, Wilson and Wexler said, is a crucial part of any effort to de-escalate a situation. It requires officers to slow down or take a step back.

Next were recommendations for police recruit training. The review organization found new Fairfax County officers were first given firearms training, rather than starting “with the most significant principles of policing,” Wexler said.

“They ought to hear ... about the sanctity of human life, those terms, before being handed firearms.” The fourth area was how Fairfax County responds to people who are emotionally disturbed or have mental illness. According to Commission member Lt. Col. Tom Ryan of the police department, 43 percent of officers have received Crisis Intervention Training to better handle such situations. Police Chief Edwin Roessler has stated his goal of having 100 percent of officers trained, which Wexler said the review fully supports.

On improving use of force policies, the Police Executive Research Forum recommendations include prohibiting officers from shooting at moving vehicles, investigating all cases where deadly force was used regardless of if the officer hit the target, making sure electronically controlled weapons are used appropriately, prohibiting chokeholds and discontinuing the use of the “precision immobilization technique” for stopping moving vehicles.

“The department is already doing a lot,”



Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler (center) and director of applied research and management Tom Wilson speak to the ad hoc commission on June 23.

Commission chairman Michael Hershman asks Police Executive Research Forum executive director Chuck Wexler follow-up questions after his presentation over the forum’s report on Fairfax County police use of force.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Wexler said, “and we have suggestions for how they can do more.”

Commissioner Eric Clingan of the NOVA Law Firm asked how long Wexler expected it would take to “change the culture” with respect to the recommendations from the Police Executive Research Forum, and what kind of monitoring should be done.

Wexler responded that changes would have to come both from Fairfax County Police leadership and the training academy. “I don’t think the leap is that far to go,” he said. “The department is already going in that route.” Commissioners John Lovaas, a Reston resident, and Sal Culosi, father of

Dr Salvatore “Sal” Culosi Jr., who was killed by a Fairfax County Police officer, asked if citizen oversight and use of Special Weapons and Tactics teams were covered in the review. Wexler said those topics were “not part of the scope” of the review.

In answering a commission member, Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova explained this review was separate from the outside review of police policies for releasing information, something the supervisors decided to move forward with earlier this year. That review, being a budget item for the new fiscal year in Fairfax County (July 1), has not moved forward

much.

“I’m disappointed in the timing,” Bulova said. “It’s no excuse.”

FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION by Wexler and Wilson, Dr. Steve Band spoke to the commission on the “human element” — the psychological and biochemical effects of being a police officer faced with life-threatening situations. “It’s ‘Oh sh-t, that awareness of extreme vulnerability,” said Band. “Once you jump on that continuum, it’s like deer in the headlights. Gaining control of that situation requires muscle memory and committing to action.” The meeting concluded with reports from each of the five subcommittees — Use of Force, Communications, Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Training, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting, and Independent Oversight and Investigations — all of which have different deadlines for submitting recommendations to the full commission.

Monday, July 27 is the next date scheduled for the meeting of the full ad hoc commission at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Chairman Hershman said county staff is working on securing an alternate location that would be convenient to residents that may have difficulty reaching the government center.

The full text of the Police Executive Research Forum review of Fairfax County Police use of force and practice can be found through the county website’s pages on the ad hoc commission, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission, or directly at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/materials/fairfax-county-police-dept-final-report-june19.pdf. Band’s presentation is also available on the commission website.

MVCCT Names 2015 Scholarship Winner



Catherine and David Schurr with their son Andrew, the 2015 MVCCT scholarship recipient.

Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre (MVCCT) named Andrew Schurr as its 2015 scholarship recipient. Andrew is a graduating senior at West Potomac High School and plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall to study theatre. He performed in four productions with MVCCT including: “Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band,” “The Pink Panther,” “Much Ado About Nothing” and “The Beverly Hillbillies.” Additionally, while at West Potomac, Andrew was in several productions and a member of the Thespian Honor Society. MVCCT has been offering this scholarship to a graduating senior since 2007.

PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Mount Vernon District Police Station.

ROBBERY, 6600 block of Wakefield Drive, June 20, around 5:06 p.m. The victim was in his residence and opened the front door after hearing a knock. A man forced his way into the residence, displayed a handgun at the victim and demanded money. The suspect took property and cash and fled. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as white, about 6 feet 2 inches tall, 210 pounds, wearing a mask over his face.

ROBBERY, 7800 block of Belford Drive, June 18, 8:30 p.m. The victim was walking and was approached by a man. The suspect demanded money and displayed a knife to the victim. The suspect assaulted the victim with the knife, took property and fled. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The suspect was described as Hispanic, about 5 feet 8 inches tall, 160, medium build, short black hair, and wearing jeans.

ROBBERY, Arlington Terrace/Liberty Drive, June 18, 2:58 p.m. The

victim was walking and was approached by a man. The suspect pushed the victim, took property and fled. The suspect was described as black, about 18 years of age, between 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet 2 inches tall, wearing dark shorts and a T-shirt.

ROBBERY/BURGLARY OF AN OCCUPIED DWELLING, 7500 block of Snowpea Court, June 20, 3:30 a.m. The victim was walking and was approached by three men. The suspects assaulted the victim, took property and entered the victim’s residence. The suspects then fled in a vehicle. Officers located the vehicle but the suspects had fled. The victim was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. The first suspect was described as black, 20s, about 5 feet 10 inches tall, between 180 to 200 pounds, and wearing tan pants and no shirt. The two other suspects were described as Hispanic males in their 20s.

UNLAWFUL ENTRY, 3400 block of Lockheed Boulevard, June 18, 12:38 a.m. Officers responded to a school alarm at Hybla Valley Elementary School. Two suspects were located inside the school and arrested.

Aces Battling in South Division

The Alexandria Aces were one of four teams in the South division within 1.5 games of one another entering Wednesday's action in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League.

The Aces were tied for third in the division with a 6-8 record, 1/2 a game behind the Vienna River Dogs, and 6 1/2 behind the first-place Bethesda Big Train (14-3). The Herndon Braves (5-7) and D.C. Grays (7-11) are also in the South division.

The top two teams in each division qualify for the league playoffs, along with the two remaining teams with the best records.

Alexandria defeated Herndon 7-2 on June 22, thanks to a five-run third inning. Griffin Harms finished 3-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Malcolm Nachmanoff went 2-for-4 with a home run and two RBIs.

Gabriel Mosser earned the win on the mound, allowing one earned run on six hits in six innings. He walked two and struck out five. Mosser was tied for the league lead with three wins. He had an ERA of 1.13.

The Aces will host the Grays at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 26.

West Potomac Participates At 7on7 University Bulldog Classic

The West Potomac football team participated at the 7on7 University Bulldog Classic on June 21 at Westfield High School. The Wolverines finished pool play with a 2-1 record, outscoring opponents 75-41.

John Champe defeated Chantilly to win the single-elimination tournament. John Champe, Chantilly, Lake Braddock and Oakton each qualified for the 7on7 University National Championship Tournament on July 10 and 11 at Oakton High School.

Field Hockey Training Available

The Academy International Coaches will be running field hockey camps this summer in the following locations at Herndon High School, Annandale High School, Yorktown High School and Long Bridge Park in Ar-

lington. Beginners to advanced players welcome. For dates and times go to www.academyinternational.net or call 1-888-529-3827.

Register for Senior Olympics

The 2015 NVSO competition will take place Sept. 12-25 at 23 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Events include track and field, rowing, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, pickleball, racquetball, handball, bocce, golf, miniature golf, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, eight ball pool, nine ball pool, horseshoes, men's basketball, men's and women's basketball free throw and field goals, Frisbee throw, football throw, bunco, badminton, volleyball, cycling, scrabble, cribbage, duplicate bridge, softball hit and throw, Mexican Train dominoes. Mah Jongg, 5K road race, cornhole toss and yo-yo tricks. Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Participants can register online at www.nvso.us after July 1. Registration fee is \$12 which covers multiple events. There is no onsite registration.

Marymount to Host Boys' Lacrosse Camps

Marymount University is hosting a series of lacrosse camps for boys ages 6 to 15 this summer. There will be a day camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday, July 13 to Friday, July 17. Cost is \$310.

There will also be a day camp from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday, July 20 to Friday, July 24. Cost is \$310. Lunch is included for the day camps.

Campers will have access to all of Marymount University's Division III varsity athletic facilities.

Rental equipment is available for \$35 a week but does not include sticks. Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact jreynolds@marymount.edu.

Marymount Summer Baseball Camps

Marymount University is offering two all-



Ryan McMillen and the Alexandria Aces entered Wednesday's action with a 6-8 record.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/GAZETTE PACKET

pus.

Designed for high school players preparing for the fall season, the camp will offer specialty position instruction, strength and speed workouts specific for lacrosse, along with individual sessions and full field scrimmages.

Each player will be given a pinny to use for scrimmages, which they can keep.

The camp will be staffed by the Marymount women's lacrosse staff and certified strength and conditioning coaches. Cost is \$150.

Registration Open for Fall Field Hockey League

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's fall youth league for ages 4-14 (U6, U8, U10, U12, and U14).

No experience necessary. Once-weekly team practices with games on Saturdays. Season runs March 23 through June 13.

For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Potomac Field Hockey Camps

Potomac Field Hockey is running one-week camps on July 20-24 and August 17-21 at the Dulles Sportsplex for boys and girls, rising first through ninth grade. Learn both indoor and outdoor hockey. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Registration Open for Adult Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's summer game-only league for adults aged 18 and older. All games are on Sundays at Loudoun Soccer Park on sport turf.

Season runs June 14 through Aug. 9. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email adult@potomacfieldhockey.org.

day baseball camps for high school players from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 18-19 at Bishop O'Connell High School.

Run by the Marymount Saints staff and other area college coaches, the camps provide the opportunity to showcase a player's talent and offer instruction and feedback. Marymount's Frank Leoni has more than 20 years of experience as a head coach, including stints at William & Mary and Rhode Island.

A total of 25 players Leoni has recruited or coached have been either drafted or signed free agent contracts to play professionally.

The camps will be held at the Saints' new, state-of-the-art baseball facility in partnership with Bishop O'Connell. Cost is \$100 per day or \$150 for both days.

To register, go to <http://collegebaseballcamps.com/saints/info/19200>. Contact the Marymount coaching staff at baseball@marymount.edu or 703-284-5966. Campers must bring their own equipment, including a glove, bat, cleats, turf or tennis shoes, hat and helmet.

Marymount Offering Girls' Lacrosse Camp

Marymount University is offering a lacrosse skills camp for girls in ninth through 12th grade from 5:30 to 8 p.m., July 27-30 at the back field on the school's main cam-

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JULY 2

Successful Networking Seminar. 8:30-10 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 6055 Richmond Highway. The Business Roundtable Speaker Series presents, "Successful Networking" with speakers Juli Monroe of 1 to 1 Discovery and Chris

Cooks on nGAGE DC Networking Group. Free. Visit sfdc.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 4

Free Taxi Rides. 10 p.m.-4 a.m. During this six-hour period, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and be afforded a safe way home. Must be 21 or older to call a SoberRide. Visit <http://www.wrap.org/soberride/> for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 9

Mount Vernon Chamber of

Commerce Business Breakfast.

8-9:30 a.m. at Embassy Suites Fort Belvoir, Springfield. The July Business Breakfast will feature the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Tickets are \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for nonmembers. Price includes admission and breakfast buffet. Visit www.mtvernon-leechamber.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs a licensed beautician, a social companion and a Spanish-speaking

social companion. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs a Ballroom Dance Instructor and an Italian Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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. Visit www.mountvernonathome.org. **Volunteers needed in Fairfax County** to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. Call 703-324-5406.

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

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Obituary



Irene Louise Tilley Russell

ASHEVILLE, NC

After a long illness, Irene Louise Tilley Russell, 92 years, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2015 at Deerfield Health Care Center in Asheville, NC. She was born on July 6, 1923 in Magnolia, Massachusetts, the fourth child of Elsie Irene (Renna) Kellaway and Arthur Wareham Tilley. She is survived by James S. Russell, her loving husband of 71 years, and her five children; Jeffrey K. Russell (Bea) of Asheville, Suzanne R. Stillman (Brad) of Norfolk, Va., Sandra R. Andrews (Jeff) of Burlington, NC, Elaine R. Boger (Brian) of Columbia, SC, and Thomas S. Russell (Gail) of Reston, Va., and 15 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. She grew up with three older brothers, Art, Bill and Doug, who all preceded her in death. Her early years were lived in Gloucester, MA and Chevy Chase, Md., and she spent the summers on Cape Cod in Hyannis, MA. She attended Hood College in Frederick, Md., and graduated with a BS in Nursing from Johns Hopkins University. She married James Sidney Russell, who also attended Johns Hopkins University. After her husband, Jim, returned from Germany (WWII), they began a family, eventually having 5 children. They settled in Alexandria, Va. where they lived from 1956 to 2001. At age 41, she returned to nursing, working in post-partum obstetrics. Later she cared for her aging mother for 10 years. She was also Vice President of Northern Virginia Beverage Company, the family business, and managed their pension fund for many years. She and her husband, Jim, traveled extensively and provided many family gatherings in Alexandria, at the beach in their second home in Garden City, SC and on ski trips to Colorado. She loved the outdoors, especially the ocean, fresh salt air, and the sun. In 2001, they moved from Alexandria, Va. to the Deerfield Community in Asheville, NC. For the past two years, she resided in Simonds Health Care at Deerfield. As a wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was the picture of grace and had an elegance that inspired others. She never missed a birthday, family event or anniversary without a thoughtful card or gift. She leaves a legacy of humanness, kindness, unselfishness and unending love for her family and others. A supportive and intelligent woman, she was devoted to her husband and family. She brought a calm and smiling presence to many. May she rest in peace with her loving God and deceased relatives and friends. We would like to acknowledge and express great appreciation for the loving and excellent care she received from the staff at Deerfield Health Care Center. Special thanks go to Malinda McDevitt, a loving caregiver from Home Instead. We also would like to thank her many caring and supportive friends at Deerfield Retirement Community. A funeral and memorial service are planned for August. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to CarePartners/Hospice Foundation, P.O. Box 25338, Asheville, N.C. 28813 or to a charity of your choice. Groce Funeral Home at Lake Julian is assisting the family and a memorial guest register book is available online at www.grocefuneralhome.com.

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LEGAL NOTICE

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

Title: Request for Proposals No. 00000523, Transportation Demand Management Marketing Communications and Outreach

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

The City will hold a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference on: July 8, 2015, 10:00 AM prevailing local time at 100 N. Pitt Street, Suite 301, Purchasing Conference Room, Alexandria, VA 22314

For general inquiries contact Cynthia Davis, Contract Specialist at 703.746.3921.

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

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**OBITUARY
BRENDA BROWN HATTON**

Brenda B. Hatton passed away on June 15 at her home in Alexandria. She put up a valiant effort against the lung cancer with which she had been diagnosed three years earlier.

Brenda was born in Lake Providence, LA, the daughter of Edna Mae (Keller) and Joseph Patten Brown. She grew up on a cotton plantation, owned by her father, and graduated in 1963 from Sophie Newcomb College (now Tulane) with a degree in English Literature. She was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. For over thirty years, she served as a professional staff member in the U.S. Congress, working in the personal offices of Florida Senator Edward Gurney, Louisiana Senators Allen Ellender and Russell Long and Representatives David Bowen (MS) and Jerry Huckaby (LA). She also directed a subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture and retired as staff member of the full Committee.

Brenda was an avid reader, an accomplished gardener and an enthusiastic traveler, visiting over 30 foreign countries during her lifetime. She was a member of the Red Hill Garden Club and Alexandria Hospital's TWIG.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Bruce N. Hatton, and her daughter Amanda Briggs Hatton. She is also survived by her sister, Amanda Lasker, of Alexandria, her brother, Joseph Patten Brown, of Lake Providence and several beloved nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on Tues., June 23 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Alexandria. Donations may be made in her name to the Alexandria Public Library.

I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.
-Arthur Wing Pinero

28 Yard Sales

Pinewood Lake HOA Community Yard Sale
Lawrence & Central Park Dr area 22309
Sat Jun 27 (r/d Sun 28)
8 am - 1 pm

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Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon
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E-mail ad with zone choices to: classified@connectionnewspapers.com
or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

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- ZONES**
- Zone 1: The Reston Connection, The Oak Hill, Herndon Connection
 - Zone 2: The Springfield Connection, The Burke Connection, The Fairfax Connection, The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
 - Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet, The Mount Vernon Gazette
 - Zone 4: Centre View North, Centre View South
 - Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac
 - Zone 6: The Arlington Connection, The Vienna/Oakton Connection, The McLean Connection, The Great Falls Connection

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

AUCTION
Wed, July 22, 12:30PM • 70,000 Sq.Ft. in Forest, VA
Sells w/ bid of \$1.5M or higher!
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VAAF501
Details online or call for packet.
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION
to benefit Patrick Henry Family Services
272Ac in 4 Tracts
near Hampden-Sydney College
Friday, July 10 at 12:30 PM
233 Moore Rd, Farmville, VA
LONG frontage on 2 roads, open fields, woodland, & nice creek.
Details online or call for packet.
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

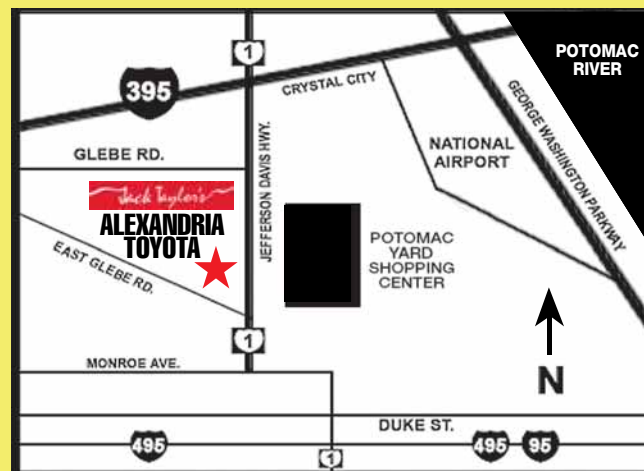
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POWER STEERING FLUSH	\$139⁹⁵
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BRAKE SPECIAL
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PADS

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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\$99⁹⁵

PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.

Includes: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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DETAIL SPECIALS

Wash & Vacuum	\$39⁹⁵
Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning	\$139⁹⁵
Full premium detail	\$295⁹⁵

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