

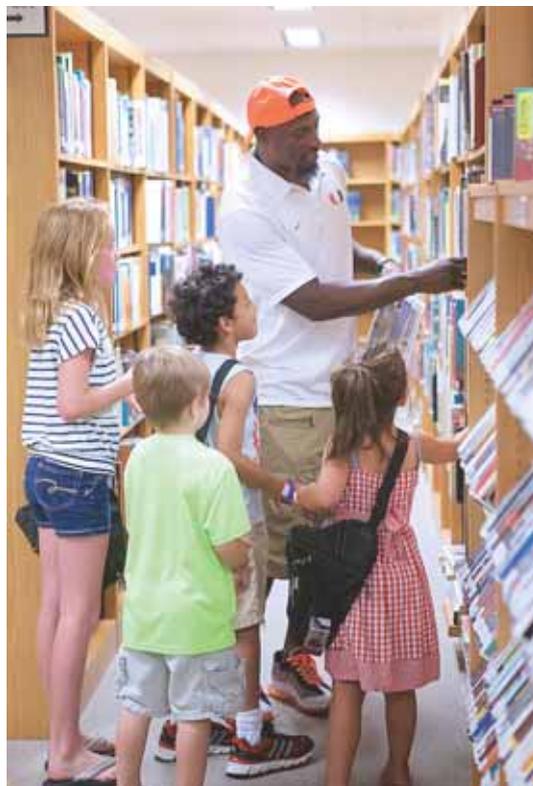


Sheila Stevens, deputy director of Programming for Blue Star Families, welcomes the families to the Books on Bases event on Aug. 23 at Fort Belvoir. Behind her are former Redskins player Roger McIntosh and Yellow Ribbons United co-founder Derrick Dockery. More than 100 families gathered to participate in the program offered by the partnership of Blue Star Families and Yellow Ribbons United.

Teaming Up for 'Books on Bases'



Emma Dockery fires up the crowd with her enthusiasm for the program about to begin. A military child, she founded Yellow Ribbons United, along with her husband, former NFL player Derrick Dockery. Yellow Ribbons United strives to support military families and veterans through the uniting of professional sports, corporations, and the public.



Roger "Rocky" McIntosh works with his Scavenger Hunt team, to find the items on their list. Event participants were divided into two teams and hunted for objects at the Van Noy Library.



At the Creation Station, youths decorated foam frames, with the assistance of event volunteers. After the frames were finished, family pictures were taken, to put in the frames.



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

New Principal At Whitman Middle

With international experience, Vanderhye brings 38 years of education to the job.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

With 38 years in education, Roger Vanderhye, 59, of McLean was named new principal July 1 of Whitman Middle School, at 2500 Parkers Lane in Alexandria, replacing former principal Jean Bell.

Coming from an international background, Vanderhye was the principal at international schools in Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Chile, Africa, and also Arizona and Colorado.

In September, Whitman Middle School with grades 7-8, is projected to have 1,010 students, with 40 percent in the ESOL program, and a total of 140 staff members. The 2014-15 ethnic breakdown of students is: Asian 6.26 percent; Black 25.58 percent; Hispanic 43.95 percent; White 19.95 percent; and Other 4.35 percent.

"(Whitman) a really strong school. It's got programs and highly trained staff for every child's needs. It doesn't matter what their needs are. Whether they're high performing or struggling, we have a supports in place, what we call scaffolding for all students," Vanderhye said.

Whitman has a high percentage of students from military families as well as children on free or reduced meals. It also has an International Baccalaureate (IB) Program school for grades 7-8, which encourages critical thinking and problem solving for all children. "We really want them to be thinkers, and the IB program is a very good vehicle for that."

Courses at the school include science, history, civics, reading,



STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Roger Vanderhye was principal at international schools in Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Greece, Chile, Africa, and also Arizona and Colorado.

writing, math, band, strings and chorus. "It's an incredible array of programs; there's something for everybody there," said Vanderhye.

As part of the Mount Vernon Pyramid, the students feed into Mount Vernon High School and come from six elementary schools. "We're really working hard with the vertical articulation from Kindergarten to 12th grade in the Mount Vernon Pyramid. We're a very tight group," he said.

Already, Vanderhye has met with most of the staff, including teachers, office staff and after-school coordinators. "They're some of the most dedicated, hard-working people," he said. "I've been super-impressed with how the staff is really together and how they really care about the school."

He added: "We owe the parents the best education for their child and we're going to provide that."

SEE VANDERHYE, PAGE 4

9/4/15
REQUESTED IN HOME
MATERIAL
TIME-SENSITIVE
POSTMASTER:
ATTENTION

PERMIT #482
ALEXANDRIA, VA
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CIRCULATION
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Alexandria \$649,000

Brick Colonial within walking distance to King Street Metro. Off-street parking for 3 cars. Fenced rear yard. Covered rear porch. Freshly painted inside & out. Beautifully refinished wood floors. MacArthur Elementary. Generous room sizes.

Betty Mallon

703.989.8548
www.BettyMallon.com



Alexandria \$725,000

Gracious, brick-front, center-hall Colonial on sunny corner lot in Hollin Glen. Spectacular landscaping. Bright sunroom with French doors overlooking in-ground pool. Hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, attached garage.

Trebor Lefebvre Whearty

703.627.5239
www.McEneaney.com



Alexandria/Hollin Hills \$599,900

One-level living at its best in historic Hollin Hills. Goodman-designed Contemporary on nice flat lot with easy access to Sherwood Hall Lane and GW Parkway. Renovated kitchen and baths. Great value at \$599,900. 7716 Elba Road

Peter Crouch

703.244.4024
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



Alexandria \$584,990

Location, location! Off Sherwood Lane, this serene home on a quiet street has 5 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, updated kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors, a nice finished lower level family room with a fireplace. The large deck and a level, fenced backyard is perfect for a BBQ. Call for an appointment to see.

Joan Dixon

703.862.2811
www.McEneaney.com



Old Town Alexandria \$589,900

Situated in quiet courtyard! Fabulously renovated 3- or 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath 3-level townhouse perfectly located in Old Town, super backyard, parking, shows beautifully. Perfect setup for au pair/roommate suite with private bath. A steal at \$589,900.

Delaine Campbell

703.299.0030
www.DelaineSells.com



Alexandria/Wilton Woods \$769,000

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

Jane Manstof & Sean McEneaney

571.276.8116 | 703.635.8836
www.sean-jane.com



Old Town Alexandria \$725,000

Vintage historic house in prime location offers high ceilings, original floors, an inviting living room with fireplace and built-in bookshelves, a sparkling updated kitchen, plus a separate dining room. A rooftop deck provides spectacular views and unique place for entertaining. 304 Prince is a prime location just a block from King Street, restaurants and fun shops!

Babs Beckwith

703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Alexandria/Westover \$525,000

No car required! Walk to Metro, shopping, new rec center, Old Town. Newer kitchen. Family room/office/bathroom in lower level (private entrance). New carpet on 2 floors. Newly refinished hardwood steps to bedrooms. Hardwoods on main level. Walkout basement. Compact front yard perfect for garden. Off-street parking space.

Robin Arnold

703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com



Alexandria/Governors Grove \$654,900

Fantastic end unit with oversized 2-car garage. Flooded with light on all 3 levels including the rec room with soaring 13-foot ceilings. All new stainless steel appliances & beautiful hardwood floors throughout the main level. Master suite with a separate dressing room/walk-in closet. Deck & lower level patio. Less than 1 mile to Huntington Metro.

Bob Bazzle

703.599.8964
www.BobBazzle.com

Seeking to Steer Fairfax County

Candidates vie for seats on Board of Supervisors.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE GAZETTE

The 10 men and women who occupy Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set the tax rate, fund the public school system, and determine priorities and policies for issues ranging from affordable housing, homelessness and human services to economic development, traffic calming and the environment.

They manage a \$7 billion budget, larger than the budgets of four states, and rule over a county with a diverse, well-educated population of more than a million people.

Their decisions can propel the community forward — or degrade public education, livability and culture.

The board supported the long-awaited Silver Line expansion, increased property taxes an average \$185, and approved a \$20,000 pay raise for themselves.

They want to hear from residents.

What they don't want to hear are complaints about potholes. Not because they don't care, but because they can't do anything about it. In the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state builds, maintains and operates local roads. Transportation funding is a perennial hot topic in the Virginia General Assembly.

So is redistricting, also known as gerrymandering, which has kept the Commonwealth in another form of gridlock as Republicans and Democrats struggle for control of the legislature.

Another perennial problem is the socioeconomic divide between affluent Northern Virginia (NOVA) and the Rest of Virginia (ROVA) — where a chunk of Fairfax County tax dollars disappear. NOVA gets less back from Richmond than sent down there, and so Northern Virginians have the privilege of paying extra taxes (and tolls) to fund the badly needed improvements to their own transportation infrastructure.

QUESTIONS

1.) What should newcomers know about the impact the Board of Supervisors has on their daily lives? In other words, what do you do at the county level that's important enough to compel newcomers to vote in this election?

2.) To make newcomers feel at home, what's a "must-see" place or event you recommend they check out in Fairfax County or your district?

3.) What's your favorite sports team?

4.) Fairfax County gained national and global Twitter prominence earlier this year when outraged FCPS students started the Twitter hashtag #closeFCPS after school officials did not call a snow day when it actually snowed. What Twitter or Instagram hashtag would you like to see trending in the coming year about Fairfax County or your district?

Race: Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (At Large)

Incumbent: Sharon S. Bulova (D)

Home: Fairfax Station
Email Address: sharonbulova@gmail.com
Phone: 703-267-9996
T w i t t e r @sharonbulova
Web sharonbulova.com



Challenger: Glenda Gail Parker (Independent Green)

Home: Alexandria
Email Address: ggailparker@cox.net
Phone: 703-960-5602
Twitter - @ggailparker
Web gailparker.us



Challenger: Arthur G. Purves (R)

Home: Vienna
Email Address: arthur@votepurves.org
Phone: 703-938-0242
Web - Votepurves.org
Twitter @agpurves



Answers: Bulova

1) We are the most grass roots level of government. Our board is responsible for everything from ensuring clean drinking water, safe streets and neighborhoods, compassionate human services, attractive parks and libraries to funding our fantastic school system.

2) Hard to choose a favorite. Fairfax has the most wonderful park system with something for everyone to enjoy. I jog through the woods in Villa Park three times a week.

3) My current favorite is Fairfax County's World Police & Fire Games Women's Basketball Team. They won a gold medal at the Games and presented me with an autographed ball.

4) Trending: #FairfaxCounty/#model/EngagedCommunity

"I'd like to see #FairfaxModel become a trend for what we are doing in the area of mental health. I want others to look to us the way we are looking to Memphis and Bexar County for examples of how to adequately train public safety to deal with people suffering from mental illness and diverting those individuals from jail into treatment."

Answers: Parker

1) Your commute depends on politics, More Trains, Less Traffic! Trains as fast as planes. Nationwide and local rail feeder systems. We need light rail to serve tourists and VRE service throughout the day and on weekends. The Board of Supervisors can pressure the Virginia General Assembly and Virginia Congressional delegation to remove the barrier that prevents building rail mass transit and to encourage renewable energy — solar, wind, geothermal. Rail built anywhere in America benefits all of America.

2) Check out Channel 10's Green TV on Cox, Verizon or Fios. Visit us on YouTube: search for Independent Greens of Virginia or GailforRailParker YouTube channel.

3) My hometown girls' basketball team, the Kingston Princesses!

4) This is easy: #HHR4FXCounty #MoreTrainsLessTraffic #GailforRailrocks #www.GailParker.us

* Candidate Arthur Purves did not respond to the questionnaire.

Race: Mount Vernon District Supervisor

(*No incumbent. Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerald W. Hyland (D), 78, announced in February that he would retire after nearly 30 years in office.)

Candidate: Daniel G. "Dan" Storck (D)

Home: Alexandria
Email Address: danielgstorck@gmail.com
Phone: 703-799-4639
Campaign website - DanStorck.org



Candidate: Jane R. Gandee (R)

Home: Alexandria
E-Mail Address: jane@janegandee.com
Phone: 703-280-0928
Campaign website - Janegandee.com



Answers: Storck

1) The Mt. Vernon District Supervisor, one of 10 board members, decides key issues that affect every aspect of residents' lives from development, schools, public safety, taxation, land use, transportation, human services support, etc. The strength and quality of life in our community derives from these services and harnessing the skills, talents and interests of our residents. As your current elected representative and your future Supervisor, I will continue to strongly engage and improve our community.

2) From the Mount Vernon Estate to the

Workhouse Arts Center, our many parks to our river trails, exploring our heritage and natural beauty are musts.

3) Our many high school sports, concerts and plays always provide a great variety of first class entertainment!

4) #MtVernonRocks#GeorgeSleptHere #GeorgeReallySleptHere

Answers: Gandee

1) The Board of Supervisors has more impact on the daily lives of people in Fairfax County than any other level of government. The board sets the property tax rate which could make a difference in whether you buy that new house. The board makes decisions on land use that affect economic development. The board sets the priorities to ensure a great quality of life for everyone in Fairfax County. This election is about our community and how we live.

2) While Mount Vernon is a local treasure, the home of George Mason, Gunston Hall, is a "must see" for newcomers. Situated along the Potomac River it is a beautiful place and Mr. Mason authored the Virginia Bill of Rights which was used as the template for the U.S. Bill of Rights. I also recommend the Friday night concerts at Grist Mill Park.

3) I stay true to the Redskins and keep hoping that RGIII will come through for us. Growing up in West Virginia and loving football our family was happy to be somewhere with an NFL team.

4) #MovingForwardTogether

Race: Lee District

Incumbent: Jeffrey C. McKay (D) *Running Unopposed

Home: Alexandria
Email Address: friendsofjeffmckay@gmail.com

Phone: 703-501-7752

Twitter @JeffreyCMcKay

Campaign website - JeffMcKay.net



Answers: McKay

1) The County Board is the elected body closest to the people and has the most direct impact on residents' quality of life — everything from zoning enforcement to schools, libraries, parks, human services and transportation. We set the property tax rate. We are where residents go for information and assistance, often for matters involving the state and federal government even when they are not our responsibility.

2) The new Springfield Town Center — light years away from its predecessor and a vibrant shopping and dining center that appeals to residents and visitors alike.

3) The Saints

4) #FBIheadquartersinSpringfield

Vanderhye, New Principal at Whitman Middle

FROM PAGE 1

We want to be known as a world-class middle school; we want to be known as the school to attend."

The school has a business partnership in place with the U.S. Army at Fort Belvoir. "The Army has been a wonderful asset to us; they're very supportive in volunteerism, and in supporting all different endeavors. They're just an all-around excellent partner," he said. "We're looking for other types of business partners."

Vanderhye believes in a flat management style, not a top-down organization, where all staff members are leaders. "I'm there to support, encourage, motivate; I'm there to help parents and help children. But the teachers and other staff members need to know that they are leaders also," he said. "I'm the leader of many leaders. They need to know that and they need to be supported by me and my administration."

One of his challenges is children who speak little to no English. "We have very difficult state examinations and it's difficult for our special needs and ESOL children. They are judged at the same level as all other children," he said. "And the expecta-

tion by the state is they are going to have to pass the SOLs in civics, science, writing, reading and math at the same level as all other children."

His personal goal is to move Whitman from a good school to a world-class school. "Every child has the right to be challenged

academically, to go to school in a safe environment where they can develop socially, emotionally and academically," he said. As far as the PTA, he hopes to have monthly get-togethers for both 7 a.m. coffees and 7 p.m. meetings.

— Roger Vanderhye

Rick Trittle, interim principal of Spring Hill Elementary where Vanderhye was principal, said that from the moment Vanderhye arrived at Spring Hill 12 years ago, he proved himself to be an outstanding leader and mentor. "He has provided the staff, students, and parents with guidance born from his many years as a principal; experiences that have been garnered from having been a principal in many countries," he said. "Within the school and the community at large, Roger is a trusted friend, educator, and administrator. His guidance and counsel was/is sought by many and not just at the local level."

Angela Minutoli, a sixth-grade teacher at

Spring Hill Elementary, who has worked with Vanderhye three times over the past 25 years — in Greece, Saudi Arabia and Spring Hill — called him a smart guy who knows his stuff. She said he creates and promotes a positive learning environment at school, directed by data. "Roger is present at all of our weekly CLT (Collaborative Learning Team) meetings where we discuss the needs of our students. If we need assistance, he will do what he can in his power to help us," she said. "He attends all school functions and is often on the Morning Show sharing the school's latest accomplishments."

Stacey Davis, administrative assistant at Whitman, said: "With more than 38 years of experience in the field of education, in different countries and various cultures, (Vanderhye) brings a depth of personal understanding and respect for ethnic diversity and culture to our school community. His enthusiasm for his students, staff and community encourages all concerned, to reach for our personal best, as we embrace the challenges of learning and growing. He inspires excellence."

Vanderhye grew up on the South Side of Chicago, and went to the University of Idaho where he received a degree in elementary education and played Division I baseball. From there he moved to Charlottesville, taught middle school science and got his Master's degree at University of Virginia in administration and supervision.

He started his international career in Tanzania, Africa, where he was a teacher at the

International School at Tanganyika, in Dar Es Salaam. From there, he went to Fort Collins, Colo., where he taught for two years, then went to Cortez, Colo, where he was principal for two years. He moved overseas to Nido De Aguilas, in Santiago, Chile, where he met his wife, Cecelia, and had his first son.

From there, they moved to Athens, Greece, where he was principal for three years at the American Community School. He then moved to Mesa, Ariz., and was principal of Whittier Elementary School for five years. In 1997, his school won the U.S. Department of Education award for educational excellence for being the highest performing Title I School in Arizona.

From there, they moved to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and he was principal of the Consulate School for three years. Then they moved to Brussels, Belgium, where he was principal of the International School of Brussels for 2 and a half years. They then moved back to the states where he was principal of Spring Hill Elementary in McLean for 12 and a half years.

Vanderhye's wife, Cecelia, is principal of Belvedere Elementary in Falls Church. The couple has two sons: Nick, 26, a physical education teacher; and Alex, 24, a consultant with KMPG; and both are graduates of Fairfax County schools.

Margi Vanderhye is his sister-in-law; she was in the House of Delegates, 34th District, representing McLean. She was recently appointed by Gov. Terry McAuliff as executive director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

New Hope Housing Receives 'Housing First' Award

New Hope Housing Executive Director Pamela L. Michell accepted the "Housing First" award on Aug. 26 from the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH) on behalf of New Hope Housing at the "Housing Virginia's Most Vulnerable" conference in Richmond.

The award was created by VCEH to recognize a "Virginia housing/homelessness assistance provider who has demonstrated a strong commitment to the housing first approach to ending homelessness through successful implementation of best practice programs." New Hope Housing was nominated for this award by Shannon Steene, executive director of Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria

New Hope Housing was recognized with this award for its long history of providing Housing First services for homeless people in its community. The Housing First philosophy recognizes permanent housing as the first and primary solution to homelessness

and is designed to place a person or household experiencing homelessness in permanent housing as quickly as possible, regardless of physical, mental health, or substance use disability, or other barrier to housing.

New Hope Housing operates several Permanent Supportive Housing programs under the Housing First guidelines, serving 81 single adults and 15 families. These include three group homes, a building with 20 efficiency apartments, and many rented scattered site apartments.

The Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness is a statewide nonprofit organization focused on advocacy, education and technical assistance. See www.vceh.org

New Hope Housing is a nonprofit agency providing shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, outreach and support services for homeless families and single adults in Fairfax County, City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and City of Falls Church. See www.newhopehousing.org.



From left: Michael Wong, Board of Directors of Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness; Pamela L. Michell, Executive Director of New Hope Housing; Alice Tousignant, Interim Executive Director of Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness; Michael Shank, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Rhonda Thiessen, Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Margaret Covert was named to the dean's list for the spring 2015 se-

mester at Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia, Pa.).

Theodora Beschel has been named to the dean's list at Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.).

Geoffrey Teza and Travis Guerrero were named to the provost's list at Troy University (Troy, Ala.) for the summer semester.

The following students have gradu-

ated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wis.): Patrick Etka received a bachelor's degree in economics and political science; Yeongsik Kim received a Doctor of Law degree; Aiden Mchugh received

a master's degree in nuclear engineering and engineering physics; Kelly Mcneil received a bachelor's degree in food science; and Courtney Riley received a bachelor's degree in sociology.

NEWS

Body Recovered

A search for a 16-year-old swimmer in the waters of Little Hunting Creek, that began shortly after 8:30 p.m. Aug 26, ended in the recovery of his body shortly after 1 p.m., Aug. 27. Vladimir Antonio Perez Flores, of the Alexandria-area of Fairfax County, was fishing with friends on Wednesday, Aug. 26. Sometime around 8 p.m., Vladimir was swimming when he experienced distress and disappeared beneath the surface. Witnesses called 911 immediately and directed police, fire and rescue units to the location upon their arrival.



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT PHOTO

CRIME REPORT

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

ROBBERY, 3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, Aug. 31 at about 1:05 a.m. Four men armed with a rifle and handguns entered the 7-Eleven store and demanded money from employees. The suspects took cash and property and then fled. The victims did not require medical attention.

BURGLARY, 1000 block of Dalebrook Drive, Aug. 29. A resident

reported someone entered the residence and took property.

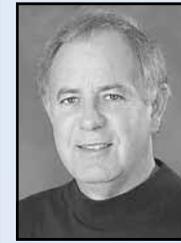
BURGLARY, 1200 block of Belle Haven Road, Aug. 28. An employee reported someone entered the business and took property.

ATTEMPTED ABDUCTION, 4200 block of Buckman Road, Aug. 27 at about 11:37 a.m. The victim was walking near the Pinewood South apartments and was approached by a man. The suspect grabbed the victim and attempted to drag her to a vehicle. The victim resisted and was assisted by

a good Samaritan who was driving by. The suspect fled in a newer model light-colored Toyota sedan. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was described as a black male, 20s, short black hair, approximately 6 feet tall, thin build and was wearing gray pants and sneakers.

ROBBERY, 2400 block of Fairhaven Avenue, Aug. 27 at about 3 a.m. Two men approached two employees and a customer in the parking lot of the 7-Eleven store. The suspects displayed

SEE CRIME, PAGE 8



Rex Reiley
RE/MAX Allegiance
703-768-7730
rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com

OPEN SUNDAY



Alex./Sulgrave Manor • \$539,900
4101 Sulgrave Drive
Spacious & renovated 3 BR, 2.5 BA Split – Beautifully finished hardwoods, freshly painted interior & exterior – updated kitchen & baths. Lovely sunroom or formal dining rm addition. Stunning brick FPL in living rm & separate gas-powered wood stove in rec rm. Large spectacular landscaped corner lot w/beautiful stone/brick patio – walkways meander thru the gardens. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town – This is a treasure!

OPEN SUNDAY



Alex./Windsor Estates • \$459,900
6500 Windham Avenue
Beautifully renovated, 2-level Rambler w/2,200 sq ft, 4 BRs, 2 BAs & finished lower level with walkout, on a huge .61 acre lot. Freshly painted, refinished hwdw floors on main level, new carpet on lower level, renovated kitchen & baths & new interior doors. Solid home w/tons of storage, 2 work-shops & great community! Great location – Close to Kingstowne Center, Springfield Mall & Fort Belvoir. Walk to Springfield Metro.



Alex./Mt. Vernon Woods
\$499,900
4006 Buckman Road

Builders – Beautiful .73 acre lot, zoned R-3. Dominion Surveys has done preliminary survey report for subdivision which can be e-mailed upon request – looking for quick sale/settlement and priced the property accordingly.

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex./Riverside Estates • \$519,900
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 new carpet and fresh paint. Can be used as rec room or office. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, 25 mins to National Airport.



Alex./Riverside Estates • \$749,900
8425 Mt. Vernon Highway
Beautiful home w/over 4,000 sq ft & 2 level addition in lovely Riverside Estates. Great rm on main lvl w/gas fpl & wet bar. Adjacent family room w/wood-burning fpl. An office adjoins the gorgeous 20' x 32' master bedrm addition w/vaulted Douglas Fir ceiling & skylights. Library/studio on upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replaced 2011. Close to Ft. Belvoir.

RENTAL \$2,400



Alex./Mt. Vernon • Rental \$2,400
8506 Mt. Vernon Highway
Lovely, well-maintained Mount Vernon home w/4 bedrooms & 2 baths on .38 acre. Kitchen w/granite counters opens to living rm & dining rm. New windows. French doors off living room to deck overlooking fenced bkdy. Soaking tub. Walk-out lower level w/2 bedrms, a bathrm & large family rm. Double lot 8506 & 8504. Close to Ft. Belvoir – 1 mile to G.W. Pkwy.

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex./Olive Park • \$494,900
8732 Lea Lane
Lovely 3,000+ sq ft Colonial with 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 Fort Belvoir, 25 mins to National Airport.

For more information: www.RexReiley.com



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OPINION

How To Vote; It Matters

Voting begins in two weeks, Sept. 18.

Election Day is Nov. 3, and on that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting begins Sept. 18, barely two weeks from now. Virginia Law allows voters to absentee vote if they could be “working and commuting for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day.” You’re allowed to count your worst possible commute in estimating how many hours you might be working and commuting on Election Day.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 13, 2015. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

It’s also worth noting that new, more restrictive voter identification regulations took effect last year.

Each voter in Fairfax County can make choices in one State Senate district, one House

of Delegates district, Clerk of the Court, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Sheriff, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, District member of the Board of Supervisors, Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for 3), School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>

As of last summer, there are new requirements for voter identification that voters must bring with them to the polling place.

Virginia law requires all voters to provide an acceptable form of photo identification at the polls. Voters arriving to the polls without photo ID will be allowed to vote a provisional ballot and will have until noon on the Friday after the election to deliver a copy of identification to their locality’s electoral board in order for their provisional ballot to be counted.

Virginia’s photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections.

Here are the “acceptable” forms of identification: Valid Virginia Driver’s License or Identification Card; Valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran’s ID card; Valid United States Passport; Other government-issued photo identification

cards (must be issued by U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Valid college or university student photo identification card, must be from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; Employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business; Virginia Voter Photo ID Card obtained through any local general registrar’s office. “Valid” is defined as a genuine document, bearing the photograph of the voter, and is not expired for more than 12 months.

Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar’s office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will have to complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad.

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EDITORIAL

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Common-sense Gun Measures

To the Editor:

Our thoughts and prayers are with state of Virginia and the families, friends, and colleagues of Alison Parker and Adam Ward killed on live television. I also send well wishes to Vicki Gardner who was injured in that deadly shooting.

This scene — a horrifying depiction of what gun violence looks like every single day — dropped into our lives even if we did not want to know about it. But pretending like gun violence isn’t all around us will not keep us safe.

For too long we have looked away and now gun violence is so pervasive that every day 88 Americans are killed with firearms and hundreds more are injured because dangerous people have easy

access to guns.

No single change alone is going to solve everything but that does not mean we should not act. We can save lives with common-sense measures like background checks that keep guns away from dangerous people. These checks however, can no longer have loopholes that let guns be sold before the check is complete or which allow online sales without any check at all.

An America where people are

gunned down at work, church, school, or at the movies is not the country we need nor the country our children deserve. Its time to demand common sense gun reform that balances the Second Amendment with the safety of those who chose not to own a gun and that of those who do so responsibly.

Regina Sanchez
Alexandria



STEVE ARLEY/THE GAZETTE

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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OPINION

Warming to Solar Power

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

Last week, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) approved an innovative solar program proposed by Dominion Resources, a project that will enhance consumer choices and facilitate clean, renewable energy production for many Virginians.

As Virginia implements the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, the state's utilities need to transition to systems that reduce carbon emissions and deliver reliable, affordable power to homes and businesses.

Carbon-based energy sources like coal are the largest contributors to global climate change. Traditional fossil fuels can also produce mercury and ozone pollution. We have some of the unfortunate consequences of coal-powered electricity right here in Northern Virginia. At Possum Point near Dumfries and Quantico in Prince William County, there are coal ash dumps in the form of five ponds near the Potomac River. Coal ash is well known to leach lead, boron and hexavalent chromium into ground water. This type of "storage" can also result in massive pollution spills.

Natural gas is another alternative, but it too emits carbon dioxide when burned. And producing natural gas by fracking is well-documented to cause ground water pollution and can even cause water to catch on fire. In addition, the infrastructure to transport natural gas requires pipelines and condemnation or forfeiture of private property.

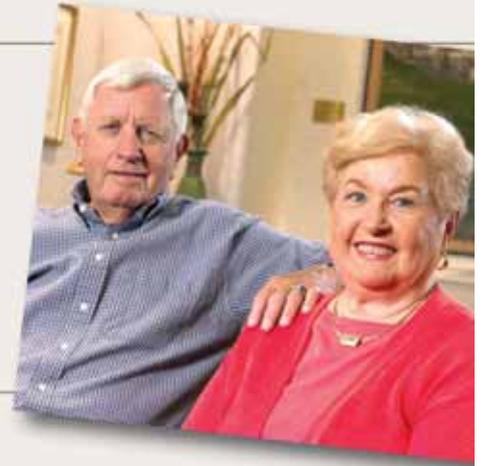
Solar energy does not have these shortcomings. Due to declining manufacturing costs as factories achieve economies of scale, solar power has increasingly become the preferred energy source of choice for many homes, businesses and utilities. Solar also promotes individual freedom as Virginians can live off the grid and produce their own power on their own terms.

Unfortunately, existing Virginia law only allows a customer to net the energy generated by a solar panel directly against a meter connected to the panel. This means that solar is not available to everyone.

Solar is usually not economical for homes in neighborhoods with significant tree cover. Also, it is usually not available if you do not own your roof, such as apartment or condominium buildings. Most businesses hesitate to make a significant investment in solar if they do not own their roof and most landlords are not incentivized to in

SEE SOLAR POWER, PAGE 18

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CRIME REPORT

FROM PAGE 5

handguns, demanded money, and then ordered them to walk into the store. The suspects took cash from the registers and fled. The victims did not require medical attention. The suspects were described as black, between 5 feet 5 inches and 5 feet 8 inches tall, wearing dark clothing and ski masks covering their faces.

ROBBERY, Lawrence Street/Saint Annes Court, Aug. 27 at about 9:36 p.m. The victim was at a bus stop and was approached by a man. The suspect displayed a knife and demanded money. The suspect took property and money and fled. The victim did not require medical attention. The suspect was de-

scribed as black, 20s, wearing a black bandana and a black hat.

BURGLARY, 5900 block of Richmond Highway, Aug. 23. An employee reported someone entered the residence and took property.

INDECENT EXPOSURE, 6700 block of West Wakefield Drive, Aug. 22 at about 9:25 p.m. The victim was sunning outside of her residence and saw a man with his pants down and exposing himself. The man fled prior to police arrival.

PEEPING WITH APPREHENSION, 4500 block of Colony Court, Aug. 21 at about 10:12 p.m. Officers were called for a report of a suspicious person and located a man looking into a window of a residence. A 34-year-old man

from Oxon Hill, Md., was arrested and charged with peeping and trespassing.

LARCENIES
6700 block of Richmond Highway, property from business.

7900 block of Audubon Avenue, phone from residence.

2200 block of Colonial Woods Drive, property from residence.

1000 block of Dalebrook Drive, property from residence.

8100 block of Mount Vernon Highway, beverage from business.

6200 block of North Kings Highway, bicycles from business.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business.

6300 block of Richmond Highway, wallet from business.

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Open House Sunday 2-4pm Mount Vernon Terrace 9221 Patton Blvd, Alexandria VA Gorgeous reconstruction with Potomac River views & a boat ramp! Craftsman style architecture, 2 main level bedrooms, 2 car garage, 2 staircases, gourmet kitchen, porch, patio & deck. \$1,195,000 Jeanne Atkins MLS # FX8731063



Old Town Commons 815 North Alfred St, Alexandria VA Charming and spacious 4 level town house. Sunlit with beautiful architectural features in popular Old Town Commons. 3 bedroom, 3 full and 1 half bath with 2-car garage. \$998,000 Karen Leonard MLS # AX8634639



Potomac Greens 1742 Potomac Greens Drive, Alexandria VA Incredibly spacious 4 level town house in Potomac Greens. Feels like single family living in a convenient Old Town neighborhood. 4 bedroom, 3 full and 2 half bath with 2-car garage. \$984,900 Karen Leonard MLS # AX8657379



The Woodlands 8129 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA PRICE IMPROVEMENT – Luxurious 1-owner home in Mount Vernon. Scenic commute down G.W. Parkway. 5 Br, 4.5 Ba open floor plan, double tiered deck backs to woods, gourmet kitchen opens to 2-story family room. 2nd large family room on lower level plus bed & bath. \$896,000 Peter Rickert & Gayl Warman MLS # FX8686583



Waynewood 1002 Danton Lane, Alexandria, VA Wonderful Waynewood! Expanded Cambridge Model 6 bed/3 bath, family room addition, gorgeous/renovated kitchen w/14-ft. vaulted ceilings, gleaming hardwoods, POOL MEMBERSHIP! \$775,000 Lyssa Seward & Jane Cole MLS # FX8730954



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Maryview 6322 Maryview St, Alexandria VA Renov. w/Addition – over 3,700 fin. sq. ft. 5 bed, 4.5 bath. 1-car garage. Possible Prof. office w/sep. entrance/In-Law Suite. Great rm. Rec Rm. Lg MBR w/walk-in. Spacious yd. Close to Metro. \$619,900 Fred Marcellus MLS # FX8643707



Open House Sunday 1-4pm Greenwood 6374 Dakine Circle, Springfield VA Brick front 1-car garage townhome backing to treed parkland – 9-ft ceilings – hardwood floors – large country kitchen with deck off eating space overlooking trees – free bus to Metro \$480,000 Steve Deleyiannis MLS # FX8720837



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Workplace Fitness

Employer-based health and wellness programs are good for business.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

It's Wednesday afternoon and a cohort of George Mason University staff, students and faculty hit the pavement. Clad in attire ranging from running shorts and brightly colored sneakers to neutral walking shoes and business suits, the group takes part in "Who's Walking Wednesdays," part of an initiative to get moving for health and wellness.

"It's really important to connect faculty and staff into well-being and wellness practices," said Janet Walker, life/work connections manager at George Mason University. "It benefits everybody in terms of their own personal health and wellness. It creates a community where people interact over more than just work."

The effort underscores the role of workplace health and fitness programs can play in decreasing stress and improving overall well-being. A National Institutes of Health study of more than 29,000 employees who participated in comprehensive workplace

health programs that included components such as fitness, weight control and smoking cessation, showed a 14 percent decline in illness over a two-year period, as well as a six percent increase in productivity.

Workplace health programs can also consist of health education, fitness programs, health coaching and screenings.

"There's all sorts of research about how time spent outdoors and taking walking breaks at work fosters creativity and problem solving," said Jeanne Bliss, director of marketing, Center for the Advancement of Well-being at George Mason.

Bliss says university officials hope to impact the well-being of 10 million people within the next four years through the center. "We want to be a replicable model for well-being," she said. "That has been one of our strategic 10-year goals."

"We're in a position to help the next generation in terms of how they connect with their own workforce in terms of health and well-being," said Brandice Valentino, director of well-being programs and mindful living coordinator at the Center for the Ad-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Staff, students and faculty at George Mason University take part in "Who's Walking Wednesdays," an effort to increase physical activity and well-being.

vancement of Well-being. "Our programs focus on topics for well-being and integrating mindfulness practices."

Amy K. Turner, executive director of Innovation Health, a Northern Virginia health insurance company formed as a result of a partnership between Aetna and Inova, says her company has improved the health of its workforce through tailored employee wellness programs.

Innovation Health has also created corporate wellness programs for its corporate clients. In fact, the company received the Loudon Chamber of Commerce Healthy Business Award, which honors the winners of the Loudon Healthy Business Challenge,

a competition designed to recognize Northern Virginia businesses that have improved the health of their workforce through tailored employee wellness programs.

A group mentality is one of the keys. Group fitness activity can lead to success, say experts. "I feel like when you do it in a group and you're part of a group, you're more committed," said Turner. "It holds people accountable and promotes success."

"Our 'Get Active Challenge' is where employees set fitness goals and challenge other teams within their corporation," she said. "It engages employees to work together in teams, challenges them. We've found that it improves employee satisfaction."

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Historic Sites: Resident Curators?

In exchange for rehabilitating the property, the curator gains use of the property and pays no rent.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

The Virginia General Assembly enacted legislation in January 2011 to ensure that local jurisdictions establish a Resident Curator Project.

Fairfax County is the first Virginia locality to pursue establishing such a project.

The Resident Curator Project Team held its inaugural meeting Monday, Aug. 24 in the Fairfax County Government Center.

Nineteen county properties made at least an initial cut from a list of 340 sites on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

Resident Curator Project Team will hold public information meetings and issue requests for information as details of the program develop.

Possible properties include:

In Great Falls, there's the Turner Farm House on Georgetown Pike and the Purple House on Walker Road.

In McLean, the Pimmit Barn on Cherri Drive, Lewinsville House on Chain Bridge Road have potential for being considered.

In Vienna, Lahey Lost Valley House on Brookmeadow Drive, the Ashgrove House on Ashgrove House Lane and Hunter House, on Courthouse Road, could qualify.

In Herndon, Leesburg Pike is home to the McDannald House and Dranesville Tavern that have historic qualifications.

In Oakton, there's the Gabrielson House on Leeds Road.

Lorton had the most properties of any town, including the Barrett House, Stepson House, and the Hannah P. Clark House, all three on Furnace Road, the Minnick House on Old Colchester Road, the Lipscomb House (Physician's House).

Most of the properties are owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority, with the ex-

Possible Sites

A report commissioned by Fairfax County in 2014 ranked some of the possible properties for the Resident Curator Program in the order shown here. County staff caution that planning for the program is in its earliest stages and speculation about any particular property is premature.

Name, Address, Park

- ❖ Barrett House, Furnace Road, Lorton, Laurel Hill Park
- ❖ Lahey Lost Valley House, 9750 Brookmeadow Drive, Vienna, Lahey Lost Valley Park
- ❖ Gabrielson House 2514 Leeds Road, Oakton, Difficult Run Stream Valley Park
- ❖ Lamond House, 7509 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, McCutcheon Park
- ❖ Physician's House (Lipscomb House), Unnamed Service Road, Lorton
- ❖ Stempson House, Furnace Road, Lorton, Laurel Hill Park
- ❖ Ash Grove, 8881 Ashgrove House Lane, Vienna, Ash Grove Historic Site
- ❖ Hannah P. Clark House (Enyedi House), 10605 Furnace Road, Lorton, Old Colchester Park and Preserve

ception of Physician's House in Lorton and Purple House in Great Falls, both owned by the Board of Supervisors.

"The end goal is to rehabilitate and maintain underutilized historic properties and provide periodic public access to appreciate the historical significance of the properties," according to county documents.

"EACH OF THESE properties is so unique," Cindy Walsh, of the Park Authority's Resource Management Division, said at the inaugural meeting on Monday, Aug. 24. Walsh said she had heard not only from individuals who would be interested in living and restoring historic sites, but nonprofits, citizens associations, wineries, restaurants, art galleries, and a beekeeper.

The group will meet in September to try to determine how to proceed.

- ❖ Hunter House, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna, Nottoway Park
 - ❖ Minnick House, 10419 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, Mason Neck West Park
 - ❖ Turner Farm House, 10609 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Turner Farm Park
 - ❖ Banks Property, 7400 Old Telegraph Road, Alexandria, Olander and Margaret Banks Neighborhood Park
 - ❖ Lewinsville House, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Lewinsville Park
 - ❖ Pimmit Barn, 1845 Cherri Drive, McLean
 - ❖ Dranesville Tavern 11919 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, Dravesville Tavern Historic Site
 - ❖ Stone Mansion, 3900 Stoneybrooke Drive, Alexandria, Stoneybrooke Park
 - ❖ Clark House 6332 Bancroft Mews Drive, Falls Church, Clark House Park
 - ❖ Purple House, 720 Walker Road, Great Falls
 - ❖ McDannald House, 11903 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, Dranesville Tavern Historic Site
- Source: *Fairfax County Resident Curator Program Study, 2014 Final Report by John Milner Associates Inc.* www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/downloads/resident-curator-program-final-report.pdf

For example, the group knows there's a lot of interest in Turner Farm House in Great Falls, including from Great Falls Citizens Association, but Turner Farm House could be a very complicated process with master plan process that needs to be followed.

"I have people who are really interested in Turner Farm," said project manager Denice Dressel, Park Authority Resident Curator Project manager.

On the other hand, starting with a historic house on the list that is already ready for residential use compatible with Planning and Zoning might quicken getting started, said Michael Thompson from the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. Request for information and proposals, part of the process, would be significantly different depending on which properties are considered, he said.

Candidate Properties

Virginia enabling legislation requires a property to be historic and publicly owned to be considered eligible for a potential Resident Curator Program. Additionally, listing in or determined eligible for listing in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites was the threshold used in this study for a property to be considered historic. The following criteria have been established to rank properties to determine the order in which each property should enter the program, if established.

These criteria could also be used to determine the eligibility of properties for the program that are not currently identified in this list: property is underutilized; no direct or immediate use, either currently or in the foreseeable future; need for substantial rehabilitation; public interest; integrity; utilities are connected or available; access to the property.

Source: *Fairfax County Resident Curator Program Study, 2014*

"It's critical knowing which properties are on the table," said Christopher Daniel, from the Architectural Review Board.

The next group meeting is scheduled for September, and more will be known by that time.

The group already has compiled lists ranking properties in terms of historic and publicly owned prerequisites, whether properties have been underutilized, the conditions of the properties, the public interest, location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, if properties have electricity, water and sewer utilities in place.

RESIDENT CURATOR PROGRAMS

identify publicly-owned historic properties with no immediate or practical public use and through an open and competitive process, select outside parties with skills, resources and vision to rehabilitate a property in accordance with accepted preservation standards for historic buildings. In exchange for rehabilitating the property, the curator gains use of the property and pays no rent.

BUSINESS NOTES

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

In a recent Medicare.gov survey, **Mt. Vernon Nursing and Rehab Center** has received 19 out of a possible 20 stars in the nursing homes compare ratings on Medicare.gov the official U.S. Government site for Medicare. The "Nursing Home Compare" feature of the website allows consumers to compare information about nursing homes. Medicare.gov nursing home ratings are based on three areas: health inspections, staffing and quality then combined to calculate an overall rating.

Professional tennis coach **Lorenzo Popescu** is now being officially sponsored by the Blue Chip Tennis Academy at the Mount Vernon Athletic Club.

Regent SmartHome – a division of Regent Company, LLC a local real estate investment firm, has unveiled its second home built to date but first smart home for sale in Mount Vernon. SmartHome

capabilities include locking and unlocking doors from anywhere, or listening to the radio from built-in ceiling speakers and more.

Wegmans Food Market customers in Maryland and Virginia donated 81,894 pounds of food to 14 participating stores during a two-week "Fill the Bus" food drive to support local food banks' increased summer needs. From Sunday, June 21 through Saturday, July 4, customers were invited to help "Fill the Bus" by donating non-perishable items for children when they do not have access to free or reduced-price meals at school.

For the second year in a row, **George Washington's Mount Vernon** has been selected as one of The Washington Post's Top Workplaces. Mount Vernon employs tradespeople, educators, curators, food servers, fundraisers, and many other roles crucial to operating Washington's historic estate. The Top Workplaces awards are determined solely upon employee feedback.

Helping Prepare for School

More than 850 Mount Vernon area students from low-income families received new backpacks and school supplies this past week thanks to United Community Ministries' annual summer Back to School campaign. At right, helping students select their new backpacks are West Potomac High School teen volunteers Julia George (left), junior, and her friend Revathi Mohan, senior. Organizations hosting Back to School collection drives for UCM included: Aldersgate United Methodist Church (Vacation Bible School and Women's Group), Antioch Baptist Church (Vacation Bible School), Calvary Presbyterian Church, Good Shepherd Catholic Church (including Vacation Bible School), Heritage Presbyterian Church, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Kol Ami Jewish Congregation, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon United Methodist Church, Nativity Lutheran Church, Party World (Woodbridge), Plymouth Haven Baptist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Virginia's Finest Auto Club, and Vornado/ Charles E. Smith, and West Potomac High School Dance Team.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ENTERTAINMENT

LTA Stages 'Laughing Stock'

This play-within-a-play promises laughs galore.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

The Little Theater of Alexandria (LTA) is staging "Laughing Stock," a play-within-a-play, from Sept. 5-26.

The show gives audiences a backstage look at a ragtag troupe of actors and their backstage mischief as they attempt to stage three repertory productions: "Hamlet," "Charley's Aunt," and "Dracula." This show is a humorous testament to theaters everywhere that never seem to have enough time, staff, money, or talent to pull off the show — but in the end, the show must go on.

Director Shawn G. Byers decided to direct the play because of fond memories of having worked in summer stock theater at Weathervane Playhouse in Ohio. "I love 'Laughing Stock,' not only because it brings back such wonderful memories of Weathervane; but also because it manages to be wildly funny and really touching and sweet all at the same time," he said.

His goal was to make the show funny and appealing to all audiences, he said: "One of the issues, sometimes with backstage farces, is that they can get a little too insular. So I wanted to make the humor accessible."

Co-Producer Jamie Blake had produced "Plaza Suite" for Shawn in 2014, so this is an encore performance; and co-producer Becky Patton wanted the chance to work with an established director and learn more about how he puts together great theater.

"This show is pure fun," said Patton. "It's a theater person's show — anyone who has ever been involved in theater will see something of themselves, and anyone who hasn't will now understand a little more about what goes on back stage."

Will MacLeod plays the role of Tyler, an actor who takes himself a little too seriously and thinks he's God's gift to the proscenium. "I'd like to think I don't relate to him very much but that may be up to other people to decide," he said.

He said the challenge is trying to make

his character likeable when he's kind of an annoying jerk most of the time. "Shawn (the director) has been helping me try to show the parts of the character that show he's an insecure guy that's trying to hide that behind a pompous exterior," he said.

Tom Flatt plays the role of Vernon, a bitter 30-year veteran who never quite hit the big time. "I like his wit and although I'm not bitter, I appreciate his frustration (as all actors do)," he said.

As far as challenges, he said, "Shawn (the director) has a good eye for helping me strike a balance so that Vernon is not mean. He's just honest. It's always tricky to pull off that balance when the character says some awful things."

Ted Culler plays the role of Richfield, a lovable elder statesman of the theater group who is having memory issues. "Like Richfield, I have reached senior status and have to work a little harder than I used to work to learn my lines and remember blocking," he said. "But in spite of that, like Richfield, I love theater and want to continue as long as directors allow me to be on stage."

As far as challenges, he said the biggest is keeping his character's reactions believable. "Because this is farce and my character is often confused, it's easy to over do it and become a caricature," he said. "Shawn encourages us to explore, go big, and play with our roles with the understanding that he will rein us in if we go too far."

Abigail Ropp plays the role of Mary, the classic ingénue type. "She's a little self-centered, but without much of an ego, which I think makes her likeable and fun, even when you're rolling your eyes at her," she said.

For challenges, she said it's a very physical show, and she's a very cerebral actor: "So while I can think through and visualize every move and decide what's funny and what's not in a very intellectual sense, getting my body to project the idea in my head is always one of my actor challenges," she said.



From left: Tom Flatt as Vernon Volker, Ted Culler as Richfield Hawksley, Michael Dobbyn as Jack Morris, and Abigail Ropp as Mary Pierre.

Hilary Adams plays the role of Karma, one of the playhouse interns. "I think she and I share the hope that in the theater we'll find people just as dysfunctional and neurotic as we are, and they'll love us for it, not in spite of it," she said. "We're both looking for a family of people, however temporary, that understand us."

For challenges, she said she decided Karma was coming to the playhouse to get away from her parents who are going through a big ugly divorce, and her journey in this show takes her from not necessarily trusting adults to being more comfortable around them, as well as in her own skin.

Larry Grey plays the role of Craig Conlin, the accountant, business manager, producer and the voice of reason in a sea of dreamers. "I believe my character sees himself as the protector of the group," he said. "He takes on the reality so they can dream their dreams, and guides them to realistically achieving the dream."

He said he has to try hard not to make Craig cranky or cynical, just practical. "One thing the director did was devote an entire evening to character development with each member of the cast individually. It not only helped us to dig deep and see our character, develop a back story, but understand Shawn's (the director) vision, which is vital to bringing the show to life," he said.

Lars Klores plays the role of Gordon Page, the artistic director of the Playhouse.

"He's desperately trying to hold things together while they inevitably fall apart around him," he said.

His biggest challenge was learning the entire script, in which he's in every scene but one, in two weeks. "Our performances are now able to really deepen with the scripts out of our hands," he said.

Brian Selcik plays the role of Braun Oakes, an apprentice at the summer Playhouse. "I relate to my character because he is very energetic and is trying a new thing, which is what I like to do," he said. "It's really fun to play him because I do feel like he changes throughout the show, so it's fun and challenging to work with that."

Melissa Dunlap plays the role of Sarah, the stage manager who attempts to organize the chaos of the cast and crew. "At home and at work, I am always trying to manage the chaos," she said. "Sometimes I am more successful than at others."

As far as challenges, she said Sarah is fairly guarded and sarcastic, but she has some vulnerable moments. "Those vulnerable moments are special and a bit tricky to get right," she said.

The Little Theater of Alexandria is staging "Laughing Stock," from Sept. 5-26. Show times are Wednesdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$19-\$22. The venue is located at 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. Call the box office at 703-683-0496 or visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Leigh Merrill: "Cloud Seeding."

Through Sept. 7, during gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Texas-based artist Leigh Merrill shows photography and video in her solo exhibition Cloud

Seeding. Merrill's work examines the construction of desire, fiction and beauty in urban landscapes by digitally compositing images and videos. Admission is free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

"Fields." Through Sept. 6, during gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. Abstract Artists David Carlson and Pat Goslee make art based on their interests in spiritual exploration and energy fields. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Special Family Museum Tours. Saturdays through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum,

134 N. Royal St. Flexible tours and hands-on activities provide a deeper experience into the social and political life of Alexandria in the 18th and 19th centuries. Tickets are \$5 for adults (\$4 with AAA card), \$3 children ages 5-12, and children ages 4 and under as well as Alexandria Public School and Blue Star families receive free admission. Coupons accepted. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Art Exhibit: Sultry Colors. Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Enamelists at The Torpedo Factory collaborate for an exhibit

filled with sultry colors and patterns. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/event/sultry-colors/ or call 703-838-4565.

Exhibit: "Scapes." Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. View the annual August landscape exhibit juried by Elizabeth Peak. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Exhibit: "Taking Shape." Through Sept. 7, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. This exhibit features three-dimensional works by Art League member artists. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park. Through Sept. 26 at various times.

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, Monday-Thursday, \$28 roundtrip Friday-Sunday. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

Fred Eberhart Photography Exhibit. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Photographer Fred Eberhart focuses on local Virginia landscapes. Free. Visit www.broadwaygalleries.net.

Doggy Happy Hour. Tuesdays through Oct. at 5-8 p.m. at Jackson

ENTERTAINMENT

20, 480 King St. Enjoy discounted drinks and treats with one's dog. Free. Visit www.jackson20.com.

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 Sophie*, 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/.

Mount Vernon in 3-D: Then & Now. Through Nov. 20 during regular operating hours at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visitors will have the chance to travel back in time, and in 3-D, to see how the estate appeared more than 100 years ago through a special photography exhibition. The exhibition is included in the regular admission fee of \$17 for adults, \$16 for seniors, \$9 for youth and free for childre younger than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit www.mountvernon.org/3D.

"Not-So-Modern" Jazz Quartet Performance. Thursdays through Dec. 31, 7:30-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. Not So Modern Jazz Music plays music from the glory days of traditional jazz, including tunes from traditional Dixieland and the Swing era. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffeepub.com for more.

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night. Every Thursday, 7 p.m. in the back room of Fontaine Caffe & Creperie, 119 S. Royal St. View a French film. Free, no reservation necessary. Call 703-535-8151 or visit www.fontainecaffe.com/reviews.html.

Journey to Be Free: Alexandria Freedmen's Cemetery. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A new exhibit tracing the 150-year history of the long-forgotten Freedmen's Cemetery, its rediscovery and how the new Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery Memorial was created at the site. Call 703-746-4356.

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812. Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, 614 Oronoco St. A new exhibit on the experiences of the Lee family in Alexandria during the War of 1812 examines the contributions of Alexandria's citizens during the conflict that led to the writing of our national anthem through the lives of this iconic Virginia family. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

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

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount

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

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

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine (except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to Park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of every month. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Hyatt Regency Crystal City has partnered 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.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

THROUGH SEPT. 18

International Guild of Realism 10th Annual International Juried Exhibition. During gallery hours at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. The Guild is dedicated to the advancement of realism in fine art. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.principlegallery.com/alexandria for more.

THROUGH NOV. 20

Young at Art Juried Art Show. Monday-Friday, 5-10 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Artists 55 and older can contribute their artwork for the exhibition. On Thursday, Aug. 20, artists can bring their work to the Durant Center from 10 a.m.-noon to be registered and displayed. Artists must fill out a Entry and Artist/Lender Agreement and pay an entry fee of \$20 for up to three works of art, \$5 for any additional pieces. Entry forms can be found at www.seniorservicesalex.org or by calling Mary Lee Anderson at 703-836-4414, extension 111.

THROUGH OCT. 18

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery Juried Show: "What I Did On My Summer Vacation." 10-5 p.m., 10-9 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Studio 18. View summer vacation-themed artwork. Admission is free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 4

Big Chalk Draw 2015. 8-10 a.m. at St Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. School supply donations are welcome at this chalk art community event. Free. Call 703-201-1250 or visit www.artatthecenter.org.

SEPT. 4-OCT. 31

"Seven Deadlies." Fridays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Sculptor Karen Swenholt explores lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, envy, and pride.

Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 5

Pohick Church Tours. 1-3 p.m. at The Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway. The Historic Pohick Church Docent Guild will give guided tours of the historic colonial church. Free. Visit www.pohick.org.

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Folk artist who has collaborated with Emmylou Harris and Darrell Scott will make a stop on a tour celebrating the release of "Tomorrow's Child." Tickets are \$39.95. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 5-6

Labor at Lee-Fendall Tours. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the life and times of the free and enslaved laborers who inhabited the grounds. Admission is free for museum members and \$7 in advance for others. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 6

Walk With Washington. 2-3:30 p.m. at Ramsay House Visitor Center, 221 King St. Take a guided walking tour of locations in the heart of Old Town Alexandria associated with George Washington. Hear stories about the Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and our first President. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-549-9128.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 8-OCT. 18

Photography Exhibit. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursdays at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View the work of photographer Karen Keating, who combines words and images in her photos. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9

Get Moving in Carlyle. 6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. and 1901 Jamieson Ave. Take an outdoor yoga class sponsored by Local Motion Studio. Free. Visit www.localmotionstudio.com for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 18

"Angel Soldier Dance Sublime." 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. View work exploring femininity and masculinity by female artists from Maine's Blue Hill Peninsula. Free. Visit torpedofactory.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 10-OCT. 25

Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition. During gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Works inspired by the song "Don't Fence Me In," by Cole Porter, will be on display. Free. Visit nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Second Thursday Art Night: Sharpen Your Pencils. 6-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Personalize your own art journal and leave a sketch in the six notebooks scattered around the building for a community sketching project. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Second Thursday Live: Rhythm and Roots Experience. 7 p.m. at

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ENTERTAINMENT

the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. This performance will feature West African music. Admission is \$15. Visit nvfaa.org.

SEPT. 10-OCT. 5

“The Ring of Fire.” Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; 12-6 p.m. Sunday at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Indonesian American artist Wijati Soemantoro expresses her emotional response to the natural disasters she experienced while growing up in the most seismically active zone in the world, the Pacific Ring of Fire. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 11

SPARK Health and Fitness

Festival. 4-8 p.m. at John Carlyle Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Hosted by SPARK Physiotherapy, LLC., fun and safe games, competitions, entertainment, raffles and giveaways. Free. Visit www.sparkphysio.com/home/make-your-health-happen-health-and-fitness-festival/ or email njabka@sparkphysio.com.

DC Public Opera Presents:

Mozart’s “Cosi Fan Tutte.” 7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. DC Public Opera presents a contemporary production of Mozart and DaPonte’s comic opera masterpiece “Cosi Fan Tutte (The School for Lovers).” Inspired by Andy Warhol’s work and his infamous parties at his New York studio, The Factory, the performances take place in the Torpedo Factory Art Center as a live installation. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.dcpubliopera.org for more.

Fort Hunt Preschool Outdoor



Throughout September, photographer Fred Eberhart will display his work at Broadway Gallery, located at 5641-B General Washington Drive. The exhibit is a collection of Virginia landscapes. The photo above is titled “Sunplay on Lime Kiln Road.” Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.broadwaygalleries.net.

Movie Festival. 7:30 p.m. at 1909 Windmill Lane. Watch animated film “Madagascar.” Admission is \$5, free for children under 2. Call 703-768-7584 or visit www.forthuntpreschool.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 is “Cool Runnings.” Bring a blanket or chair. Free. Visit www.theaterchurch.com for more.

SEPT. 11-OCT. 25

“Artifact” Exhibit. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, and during performances at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. In

this exhibit artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture with the naturally occurring textures or “gestures” in the wood. John James Anderson will also share the space. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Community Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. at Seminary Walk Condominium behind Buildings 105, 203, and 205

Skyhill Road. Free to attend. Rain date: Sept. 19. Call 703-370-6914.

Civil War Walking Tour. 10 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Discover locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including Robert E. Lee’s departure from his hometown, the occupation of Alexandria, and emancipation. Admission is free for museum members, \$12 in advance, and \$15 on the day of the event. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

Container Gardening in Cold Weather. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (Arlington/Alexandria) will present a program on gardening in containers. It will emphasize the use of edible herbs and vegetables that not only look attractive but also can survive cold conditions. Free, but registration is required. Visit www.mgnv.org.

Canine Cruise. 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. The family dog is welcome to join in on an hour-long cruise through the Alexandria Seaport. Tickets are \$16 for adults and \$10 for children. Dogs ride free. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

Dogtopia of Alexandria Grand Reopening. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Dogtopia of Alexandria, 3121 Colvin St. Dog daycare, boarding, and spa facility Dogtopia is reopening. The grand reopening is open to the public and will include facility tours, pet-friendly vendors and more. Free. Visit www.dogdaycare.com/alexandria.

Music Festival. 12-4 p.m. Four Mile Run Park Community Building, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. There will be live entertainment, local performers, children’s interactive games and crafts, food, face painting and various

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ENTERTAINMENT

vendors. Free. Email cisco.fabian@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-5465.

Book Signing & Reception. 2-5 p.m. at the Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Joseph and Sharon Scopin will be on hand to discuss their book "As I Remember." The book is about local Civil War veteran Lewis Cass White, whose story and memorabilia was discovered in the authors' basement. Free to attend. The book will be available to purchase for \$35. Only cash or check will be accepted. Visit www.fortward.org for more.

"Artifact" Exhibit. 4-6 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Drive. Celebrate the exhibit in which artist J.T. Kirkland integrates the painted gesture with the naturally occurring textures or "gestures" in the wood. Also meet, John James Anderson, an artist who will share the space. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu.

Collective Delusion. 9:30 p.m. at John Strongbow's Tavern, 710 King St. Local band will perform rock songs from the 1970s to the present. Free. Visit www.collectivedelusion.net.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 13

Friends of the Torpedo Factory Present Art and Light. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. As part of UNESCO's International Year of Light and Light-Based Technologies, The Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center present Art and Light, an afternoon celebration of art, music, dance, and light. Jane Franklin Dance, the Francis C. Hammond Middle School Orchestra, The Alexandria Singers, The Dance Studio at Hollin Hall, cellist John Kaboff, and the St. Petersburg Duo will perform alongside the Radiance Orb, a large geodesic globe that responds to music and motion with flashes of color. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/orb.

Grandparents Day Celebration. 12-2 p.m. at Paul Spring Retirement Community, 7115 Fort Hunt Road. Celebrate Grandparents Day with family and friends with family-oriented activities including pony rides, a moon bounce and a magician accompanied by a traditional picnic lunch and live music from the Mt. Vernon Community Band. A raffle will be held by the resident council. Free. Visit www.rui.net/paul-spring/events-activities.

DC Public Opera Presents: Mozart's "Così fan tutte." 7 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. DC Public Opera presents a contemporary production of Mozart and DaPonte's comic opera masterpiece "Così fan tutte (The School for Lovers)." Inspired by Andy Warhol's work and his infamous parties at his New York studio, The Factory, the performances take place in the Torpedo Factory Art Center as a live installation. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.dcpubliopera.org for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 14

Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. practice and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Come with or without a partner to learn several classic dance styles from Gary Stephans. Admission is \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998 for details.

History Lecture: Medical Heroism in Alexandria. 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Learn about the Athenaeum's role in the Civil War and medical efforts in Alexandria from historian Tom Shultz. Free. Visit nvfaa.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 15

Genealogy and DNA Talk. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Jim Bartlett tells how to use DNA test results to prove lines of ancestry in this free talk sponsored by the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-768-4101.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

The Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club Meeting. 9:30-11 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Speaker Barbara Stewart will share her experiences as a buyer of antiques for dealers, decorators and individuals, as well as her volunteer work at a local thrift store, where she has found many items. Members and guests are encouraged to bring their own "finds" to share. Free. Call 703-360-4979 for more.

Get Moving in Carlyle. 6 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. and 1901 Jamieson Ave. Take an outdoor pilates class sponsored by Local Motion Studio. Free. Visit www.localmotionstudio.com for more.

"An Ordinary Hero." 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Join Joan Mulholland, civil rights activist, and Mike O'Brien, author, for a screening of the documentary "An Ordinary Hero" followed by a Q&A session. The documentary focuses on Joan's experiences in the Civil Rights Movement and at the Woolworth Sit-in. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us for more.

What is a Healthy Forest? 7:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park-Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Listen to geology and forest ecology instructor Joe Marx discuss issues facing Mid-Atlantic forests. Free. Visit www.vnps.org/potowmack.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Medical Heroism in Alexandria. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Tom Schultz of DC Military Tours will discuss medical heroism in Alexandria during the Civil War. The discussion will be based on the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street" which will depict hospital workers in Alexandria during the war. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

2015 SIGGRAPH Computer Animation Festival. 7-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Washington DC ACM SIGGRAPH is partnering with the Torpedo Factory Art Center to host some of the best examples of computer animation from the past year. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Dave Mason's Traffic Jam Tour. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Dave Mason's music is influenced by rock and roll and is backed by guitar. Tickets are \$55. Visit www.davemasonmusic.com/tour.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

"Seven Deadlies" Opening Reception And Artist Talk. 5-8 p.m. at The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Celebrate sculptor Karen Swenholt's exploration of lust, sloth, greed, gluttony, wrath, envy, and pride. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

Factory Society Open House. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The Factory Society is a new young-professionals group at the Torpedo Factory Art Center dedicated to hosting innovative



Scottish Heritage Weekend to Accompany Arts Festival

During the Alexandria Arts Festival, Sept. 19-20, the Carlyle House will host a Scottish Heritage Weekend: Outlander Style. On Saturday, guests may experience Scottish tradition with a fashion show, dance performance, and concerts. Admission to the museum is free. On Sunday, find an Outlander-style tea at 11 a.m. accompanied by a tour of the house. Tickets are \$30 for the tea alone, or \$35 with the tour. Visit www.novaparks.org for more.



programs to advance the region's creative community and engage with artists at the Torpedo Factory. Young professionals are invited to get an exclusive, after-hours peek of the Target Gallery's new exhibition, Angel Soldier Dance Sublime, hear about new projects, and learn how to get involved as a charter member or a volunteer. There will be an open wine bar and DJ Juan Zapata will perform throughout the evening. Free, but registration is required. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/openhouse.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 19-20

Colonial Market And Fair. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Visit the 18th century at this colonial celebration featuring crafting demonstrations, puppet shows, military drills, and traditional food and music. Tickets are \$9-17. Children age 5 and under are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

King Street Art Festival. Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 480 King St. In its 13th year, the festival features art displays, art giveaways and sales and live music. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/artfest.

Scottish Highlander Festival. 10 a.m.-2:15 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. on Sunday at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Attend a fashion show, highland dance performance, or Celtic concert on Saturday or an Outlander Tea and Tour on Sunday. Prices vary based on activity. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

Fairfax County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet. 1-5 p.m. at The Waterford at Springfield, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Event will recognize numerous organizations and individuals for continued community service. Eric Broyles, co-author of "Encounters with the Police: A Black Man's Guide to Survival," will be the event speaker. The evening will include a silent auction, cash bar, and door prizes. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$600 per table of 10 guests. Payment due by Aug. 23 via www.evite.me/Wb3XgF4HP8. Email fairfaxnaacp@gmail.com.

Ladies Night Out: Radiating Joy in Painting. 7-9:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. In this workshop participants enjoy

the practice of centering through painting. Admission is \$45 per person. Visit www.metamorphosisaec.com to register.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

Jazz at Meade. 4-6 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Jazz artist Marshall Keys will perform. Suggested donation is \$15. Visit www.meadechurch.org for more.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

STEM Homeschool Program: Firefighting Technology. 1-2:30 p.m. at 107 S. Alfred St. Homeschool student and their families are invited to explore science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) with a monthly program sponsored by the City of Alexandria. At this event, visit the Friendship Firehouse to learn how fire-fighting technology has evolved and test the scientific concepts behind how the historic equipment worked. Features the 1851 Suction Engine. Children may attend for free, adult tickets are \$8. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

Mount Vernon Field Hockey Faces Early-Season Challenge

Michelle Diminuco scores twice in win over Stuart.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE GAZETTE

Moments after the Mount Vernon field hockey team earned its first win of the season, beating Stuart 2-0 on Tuesday, head coach Jessica Edwards shifted focus to four lopsided losses the Majors suffered the previous week.

Mount Vernon participated in the Blast ALS tournament Aug. 26-27 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Majors faced Robinson, West Springfield, Fairfax and Centreville during the two-day event, and lost all four games by a combined score of 14-1.

"I think it's good to get a win on the board, but I was really happy we had strong competition at the tournament," Edwards said Tuesday. "... Not knocking Stuart or anything like that, but I was glad that we had strong competition early in the season because I feel like it was a good kick in the butt for us to make sure we really worked on some things at practice. I feel like what we struggled with in the tournament, we did a little bit better with tonight."

After spending the previous two seasons a member of Conference 13 at the 5A level, Mount Vernon, due to an increase in enrollment, will compete at the 6A level as a member of Conference 7. On Tuesday,

Mount Vernon faced minimal resistance from Stuart, a 5A school and former Conference 13 opponent. But as the season progresses, Mount Vernon will have to deal with big-school conference foes such as Lake Braddock, South County and T.C. Williams.

"I think it's really important because I think they need to understand the level of competition," Edwards said about facing strong competition at the early-season tournament. "We had some good schools in 5A, but I think overall, the [6A] teams that we'll play on the regular will be tougher and I think they need to feel that early on so they don't become complacent"

While Mount Vernon will face tougher tests, the Majors were happy to get their first win on Sept. 1. Junior and first-year varsity player Michelle Diminuco scored both goals against Stuart.

"It felt good," Diminuco said about beating Stuart, "because it felt like we worked as a team better and we connected our passes better."

"It's definitely a sense of relief," senior Jessica Miller said. "It's refreshing to have a win."

Miller, a four-year varsity



Mount Vernon junior Michelle Diminuco scored both goals during the Majors' 2-0 win over Stuart on Tuesday.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE GAZETTE

player, is committed to Old Dominion University and is one of the Majors' best players.

Sarah Donnelly, Kaylyn Gardiner and Kathryn Gailliot are also key players for the Majors.

Mount Vernon will host Edison at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3, and will open conference play on the road against Lake Braddock on Sept. 10.

Edwards has experienced success with Mount Vernon as a "big school," winning three National District championships in a four-year span while competing at the AAA level prior to the VHSE's six-class re-alignment. Edwards said she thinks the 2015 Majors can be competitive, as well.

"I think if they improve their technique ... [and] they really understand that they need to focus on the basic skills and do those things well, I think they'll be strong," Edwards said. "I think they can finish strong at the end of the season. I really want to be in the top three [in Conference 7]."

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/SEPT. 3

Business Roundtable Speaker Series Session 6: Business Franchising. 8:30-10 a.m. at Holiday Inn Express, 6055 Richmond Highway. Sessions include presentation from Heather Rosen, of FranNet; Barbara Bershler, of Press & Dozier, LLC; and Alicia/Barryl Pryor, of Liberty Tax Service; a light breakfast, and time to network. Free. Visit www.sfdc.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 9

MOMS Club Meeting. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, 2001 Sherwood Hall Lane. Attend the meeting to hear about the process of language development from a speech pathologist. Children may attend. Free. Contact Melissa Holmes at 571-217-4171 or southalexmomms@yahoo.com, or visit southalexandriamommsclub.webs.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 10

Business Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at

Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce September Business Breakfast will discuss upcoming economic development in Alexandria City. Tickets are \$25 per person. Visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org.

Virginia Citizens Coalition for Police Accountability Meeting.

7 p.m. at The Martha Washington Public Library, Room 104 A/B, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. An advocacy group concerned with discussing actions of the police force meets. Free. Visit virginiaccpa.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 12

Mount Vernon 2015 Day To Serve. 9-11 a.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. Help prepare meals for the Food for Others program, which provides food to local students on the weekends. Free. Visit www.heritagechurchva.org/.

Office Hours.

Fairfax County School Board Member Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Members of the community are invited to stop by to ask questions or to discuss concerns, no appointment necessary. Contact Dan Storck at Dan.Storck@fcps.edu or his assistant Mary Ellen Hook at mehook@fcps.edu ♦ 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

SUNDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 13-19

National Assisted Living Week.

Various times at Spring Hills Mt. Vernon Assisted Living, 3709 Shannons Green Way. Participate in a week filled with activities that focus on this year's theme: Nourishing Life: Mind, Body, Spirit. The week will kick off with the Spring Hill's Got Talent Show on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2:30 p.m. Activities throughout the week include a history lesson about Rosh Hashanah on the first full day of the holiday, an interactive music show with Ernie Tolley, massages, music trivia with the Sojourners, a magic show, a music therapy session, arts & crafts and more. Free. Call 703-650-0779 or visit www.springhillsmountvernon.com for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 14

Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. The public is welcome to attend. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 16

Mount Vernon At Home Coffee Social. 11 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 7116 Fort Hunt

Road. This event will include information on aging in place and volunteer opportunities in the Mount Vernon at Home community. Free. RSVP by calling 703-303-4060 or by emailing info@mountvernonathome.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 19

Worship Watch Meeting. 8:30-12 p.m. at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Rd. Participate in a crime prevention meeting focused on preventing crime targeted toward places of worship. Admission is free. Call 703-360-8928 or e-mail Robert.urps@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

SFDC Summit: Sustainability & Resiliency. 9-11 a.m. at Hampton Inn & Suites, 5821 Richmond Highway. Attend a program about "green" building, planning for a healthier environment and a more resilient community. Time to network and a continental breakfast will be provided. Free. Visit www.sfdc.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 14

Mount Vernon At Home Coffee Social. 11 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 7116 Fort Hunt Road. This event will include information on aging in place and

volunteer opportunities in the Mount Vernon at Home community. Free. RSVP by calling 703-303-4060 or emailing info@mountvernonathome.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 under "Get Involved."

Mount Vernon At Home is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers 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, home technology and more. No minimum number of volunteer hours required. Call Mount Vernon At Home 703-303-4060 or e-mail info@mountvernonathome.org or visit www.mountvernonathome.org for more.

For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions: ♦ The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults needs instructors for Mosaic Art and Jewelry Making.

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FROM PAGE 7

Loving family seeking **child care provider** to transport children from school in afternoons to home and/or activities. 12 to 15 hours week. Excellent pay. Must have excellent driving record and own vehicle. Call 703-403-4045.

Part-Time Admin Asst.
Consulting firm in Old Town Alex seeking part-time admin asst. Responsibilities include: word processing, answering phones, filing, database mgmt, research. Word and Excel 2010 knowledge required. 25 Hours per week. Casual dress. Email resume and salary requirements to info@revparintl.com

Part Time Admin Assistant-Front Desk
Dr's office needs admin assistant for answering phones, making appointments, posting payments. Helpful to know computers, use of Medical Manager system. Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 - 5:00 in Alexandria Mt Vernon area. Please contact Nancy at hfswanmd@aol.com subject line "resume"

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21 Announcements
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING is hereby given that Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on its PRELIMINARY BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2016 on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at AlexRenew's Administrative (J) Building located at 1500 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA. The preliminary budget is available for examination by the public online at www.alexrenew.com and during regular business hours at the above address. Copies will be made available upon request - phone (703) 549-3381 ext. 2260. August 6th and September 3rd.
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BY: William Dickinson
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21 Announcements
LEGAL NOTICE
Pursuant to the provision of section 4-1-16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3600 Wheeler Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304 is now in possession of unclaimed bicycles, mopeds, lawn equipment, money, scooters, and other items. All persons having valid claim to the property should file a claim to the property with reasonable proof of ownership or the items will be sold, destroyed, converted or donated. For a complete listing go to <http://alexandriava.gov/police/> and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6709.

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-St. Francis de Sales

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21 Announcements
ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NUMBER 15-06-05
The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive proposals from qualified Offerors to provide Security Services.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 15-08-03 Security Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, September 21, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php> ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all offers and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

21 Announcements
ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 15-08-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified bidders to provide Fencing, Installation and Repair.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 15-08-05 Fencing, Installation and Repair will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, September 14, 2015. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding and bid pricing will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php> ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.
Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

21 Announcements
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stall solar because the tenants pay the electrical bills.

Given these obstacles, one solution I have championed over the last six years has been what's commonly referred to as community solar or "solar gardens." Some states allow groups of consumers or businesses to pool their capital, construct solar panels on a third party's property and then collectively net the energy generated by the panels against their individual meters. This is a net win for individuals, businesses and the third party who can receive more return on their property. However, Virginia's investor-owned utilities have consistently opposed this because it undermines their monopoly.

Because of our pressure, Dominion recently received approval to construct two megawatts of solar panels which they will resell to consumers and businesses in 100 kilowatt (kw) chunks for approximately \$4 per month. Each consumer or business will be allowed to purchase up to 400kw. This means that customers in Dominion's territory will be able to purchase solar energy and net it against their home meter.

Last March, I was proud to partner with Dominion in announcing their application for SCC approval. On Aug. 7, 2015, the SCC approved this plan. Dominion can now move forward.

While I still believe that the best solution is allowing groups of individuals or businesses to do this independently, Dominion's program is a great advance that will provide consumers with more choices and the ability to choose less-polluting, renewable energy if their homes or businesses are not ideally suited.

You can read the SCC's approval order and Dominion's "Frequently Asked Questions" flyer about this program at scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

It is an honor to serve in the House of Delegates and hope to serve you in the State Senate of Virginia. If you have any feedback, you can always reach me at scott@scottsurovell.org.

Write

The Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

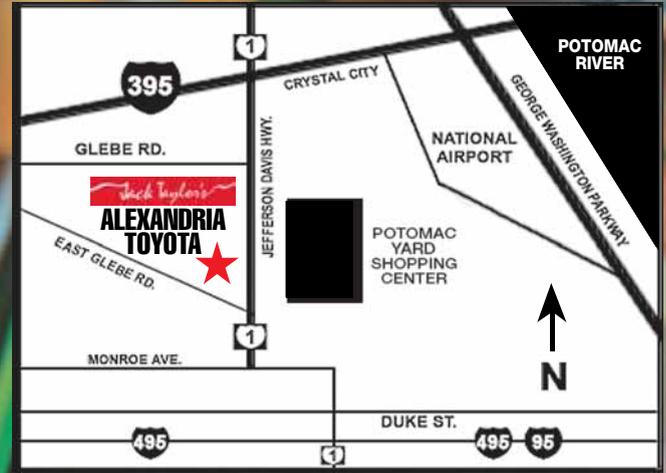
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FALL SAVINGS

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Synthetic \$10 More
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Includes: Rotate and balance all 4 wheels and inspect brakes and tires.
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE
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Includes: inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.
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BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1.00
GOT TIRES? NO CHARGE ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION. PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE. SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS.
BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95
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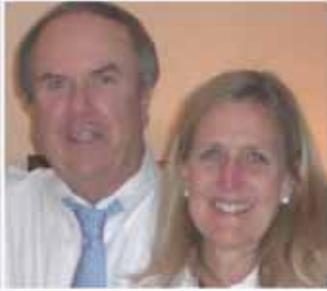
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NEW PRICE!



9312 Heather Glen Drive \$618,500
Classic Colonial - Great Price

Classic three level, 4 bedroom Colonial in premier setting at remarkable reasonable price! Spacious home in absolutely pristine condition & offers many features including 3 finished levels, fab. floor plan, family room with fireplace, eat-in kitchen, spacious master suite & garage parking. Magnificent grounds with stone walk, patio & gorgeous landscaping. Prime location!



9412 Ferry Landing Ct \$799,500
Beat the Heat in your Own Custom Pool!

Uniquely gorgeous property! Custom home in premier setting on quiet cul-de-sac ending at river. Magnificent grounds featuring custom pool, hot tub, expansive decking and large level lawn. Home with numerous features: open floor plan, updated kitchen & baths, fabulous rec room over side load, two car garage. Super value-nothing like it at close to this price!



8720 Plymouth Road \$1,599,000
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 Waynewood School!



6036 Fort Hunt Rd \$799,000
True Belle Haven Gem!

Classic Belle Haven Colonial in prime location on gorgeously landscaped grounds overlooking Belle Haven Country Club. Fabulous property carefully updated throughout in a manner which provides a delightful blend of the home's original character with many modern conveniences. Numerous features include 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, hardwood floors, fireplace and garage. Private grounds with outdoor kitchen and brick patio.



3205 Woodland Lane \$1,550,000
One of a Kind Property-Waterfront!

Spacious residence, custom crafted to capitalize on natural beauty of its setting. Soaring cathedral ceilings and expansive glass walls bring light, natural beauty of property and water views to every corner of home. Special features include 3 finished levels, 6 BR including 2 master suites (one on main level), 4 fireplaces, spectacular family room off kitchen, walk-out lower level, fabulous screen porch and open deck. Nearby private boat launch. Magnificent property! Impossible to duplicate!



4204 Old Mill Rd \$499,500
Updated Home-Detached Two Car Garage!

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



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 oversized 3 car garage. Deck overlooks private wooded yard. Prime location on quiet cul-de-sac. Impossible to duplicate at close to this price!



JUST LISTED!
CONTRACT!

7107 Richard Casey Ct \$779,500
Victorian Classic-Exceptional Price!

Stunning value-custom built by Wakefield Homes. Numerous features characteristic of area's leading builder include large room sizes, bright open floor plan, high ceilings, 3 finished levels, chef's kitchen, private master suite and oversized 2 car garage. Distinctive wrap around front porch. Screen porch and deck overlook spacious fenced rear yard. Unique opportunity to purchase Wakefield custom home at fraction of today's prices.



JUST LISTED!
SOLD!

4327 Ferry Landing Rd \$559,000
Mid Century Modern-Yacht Haven Estates!

Classic contemporary Rambler featuring the open floor plan, large room sizes and high ceilings that characterize this popular model. Kitchen and baths have been beautifully updated. Other features include 2 finished levels, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, gas heat & tankless hot water heater. Unique main level master suite with private porch. Prime location near Mt. Vernon Yacht Club. Fab combination of modern amenities with mid-century character.



SOLD!

9357 Mount Vernon Cir \$1,500,000
Mt Vernon on the Potomac!

9227 Allwood Dr \$548,950
Updated Throughout-Move-In Ready!

JUST LISTED!
SOLD!



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