



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Improving Dog Park

Nearly three dozen volunteers, including members of Boy Scout Troop 1509, showed up to help Zachary Broome (second from left) with his Eagle Scout Project. Zachary attended the Planning Meeting, discussing the use of the land, before it became Westgrove Dog Park. His project involved planting eight trees on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the dog park. From left are Zachary Lyndon, Zachary Broome, Stephen Peterson, and Jacob Lyndon. Magee Landscaping donated the topsoil, mulch, and compost, for the newly planted trees.



Westgrove Pack Chair, Kathy Slekel (with Pippa) expressed much appreciation for Zachary's project. She also emphasized the collaborative effort between the Park Authority, the community, and the Scouts.



Scouts, Matthew (right) and Trevor worked hard planting trees. The Scouts were scheduled to be there from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Matthew is the younger brother of Zachary Broome.



Flynn, a regular visitor to the Westgrove Dog Park, watches the planting activity from underneath the instruction posters that Zachary Broome made for his project.



Mission Accomplished: Zachary Broome stands in front of a carefully planted and staked River Birch.

Gandee and Storck Vie for Hyland's Seat

Storck cites experience.

Gandee touts business background.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Christine Morin of Lorton remembers when South County Secondary School opened in 2005. She found out Fairfax County said they had no plans to build a South County middle school, as the system had previously promised, which was a reason Morin and her family moved to Laurel Hill from Burke. Morin created a South County Middle School solutions group, which is when she first with Mount Vernon School Board member Dan Storck.

"He made sure he was committed to helping us get the middle school and he never looked back the rest of the way," Morin said. "He didn't back down from the administration and knew it was in the best interests of the community, the kids, what made the most sense."

Storck, working with then-Lee District School Board representative Liz Bradsher, was able to get support from the board to move forward with the middle school planning and construction, which was completed for the school to open in 2012.

"I don't agree with everything he says, he's very much to my left, but sees the middle ground when he has to," said Bradsher. "Sometimes he would come in late on an issue, but once he did his homework, you'd always get a call from him, he would touch base with you to go over the issues in their entirety with him. I was very grateful for that."

Holly Dougherty, executive director of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, said Jane Gandee is the reason that organization became involved with helping the homeless along Richmond Highway.

"She brought it to our attention," Dougherty said. "It's something she's very passionate about. Last year for the holiday party, she spearheaded a drive to collect new coats and winter wear that went to Rising Hope Church."

Dougherty called Gandee a "very dynamic individual" who is "really fun to be around, with a good sense of humor."

Among Gandee's other community leadership positions which include chairman of the Alexandria Salvation Army, Board of Directors of the Chamber's Education Partnership and Legislative Committee, and serving on the Fund Development Committee for Rising Hope Mission Church, Gandee is also vice president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber.

"She's a natural leader," Dougherty said. "It's been interesting for me to watch other business owners here respond to her, her leadership, the way she motivates people."

Gandee is a business owner herself, running a ServiceMaster Restore franchise. However she said she stepped away from the company entirely in April to devote her full attention to the supervisor role.

SEE STORCK, PAGE 6

SEE GANDEE, PAGE 6

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Civilian Oversight Board Proposed, Debated

Board of Supervisors accepts Final Report from Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission chairman Michael Hershman was clear about what his group was, and was not tasked to do.

“We as a commission believe we were not appointed to defend the police department, nor was it our role to simply disparage the department,” Hershman said when presenting the final report and recommendations of the commission to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

The full 37-member commission met eight times between March 23 and Oct. 8. Five subcommittees met many times to more closely examine areas of mental health, use of force, independent oversight, communications and recruitment, diversity and vetting within the police department.

In that short time, Hershman said, they’ve done “what few other jurisdictions have been able to do: to take a police department that has the respect both within and without our county, and turn it into an ideal model in policing. They’ve had their problems — not as many as some other jurisdictions — but enough to warrant change.”

THE FINAL REPORT of the commission includes 142 recommendations spanning the subject areas of the subcommittees, in-



Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon, left) called the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission recommendation for a civilian oversight board “probably the most difficult issue for us to address.”

cluding calling for creating an independent auditor position, civilian review board and more robust crisis intervention training and management.

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova announced the formation of the commission in the wake of a lawsuit against the county brought by the family of Springfield man John Geer, who was shot and killed by Fairfax County police officer Adam Torres in August 2013.

The county had released scant details of the incident to either Geer’s family or the public, eliciting public demonstrations for justice and drawing the attention of U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), chair of the U.S. Senate judiciary committee, who wrote several letters to Fairfax County chief of Police Edwin Roessler and Commonwealth’s Attorney Raymond Morrogh asking why there had been a delay in releasing information.

Each of the subcommittees was allowed to bring on non-commission civilians, bringing the total citizen involvement in the com-

mission and subcommittees to 70 members.

Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) said county staff was already beginning to look at implementing a number of the recommendations. She also questioned whether there was a budget timeline established for recommendations requiring additional funding.

County Executive Edward Long responded that county staff has been developing a “matrix” to identify all the costs from the recommendations, priorities and a phasing strategy to spread out additional funding over time.

The supervisors praised Hershman and the commission for the body of work they accomplished over the spring, summer and beginning of fall. However, the recommendation of a civilian oversight board drew several direct questions from supervisors.

Jeff McKay (D-Lee) asked why the commission recommended that no member of the review board be a current or former employee of Fairfax County, saying their employment “shouldn’t disqualify them

from service.”

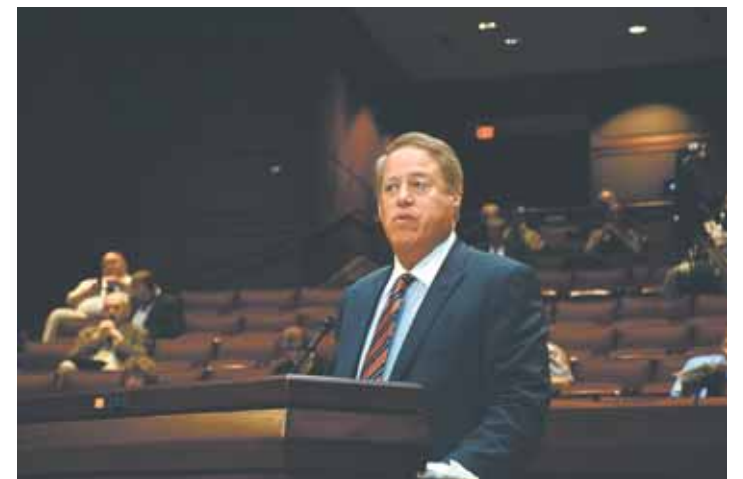
Hershman responded to McKay that the commission had discussed that concept at length and it was the feeling of the group that keeping the review board completely civilian would “ensure their independence and objectivity.”

Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) withheld his specific questions for the Oct. 27 Public Safety Committee meeting when the report is scheduled to be discussed in more detail, but said there were a few recommendations “that cause me concern.”

Chair of the Public Safety Committee supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon), said the civilian review board would be “probably the most difficult issue for us to address.” He added he would be looking to hear input as to experience of similar boards in other jurisdictions and the types of reviews and cases they handle.

Hyland also referred to Hershman’s introduction where he said “many of our rec-

SEE BOARD, PAGE 6



Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission chairman Michael Hershman presents the commission’s final report to the Board of Supervisors on Oct. 20.

In Stitches Needlework Celebrates 20 Years

Alexandria resident Ellen Meyer has been keeping customers “In Stitches” at her specialty needlepoint store for 20 years. The owner celebrated her shop’s anniversary on Sept. 5, with grilled hot dogs, cake, balloons and a gold work demonstration from award-winning needlewoman Deborah Wilson.

“In Stitches has a knowledgeable and friendly staff to assist customers at every turn,” Meyer said in an email, adding that she continues to lend her “expertise and passion for stitching to create an engaging atmosphere for all.”

In Stitches Needlework is located at 8800F Pear Tree Court in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria. For more information, visit www.institchesneedlework.com.

— TIM PETERSON



Award-winning needlewoman Deborah Wilson (left) demonstrates gold work at the 20th anniversary celebration of In Stitches Needlework.

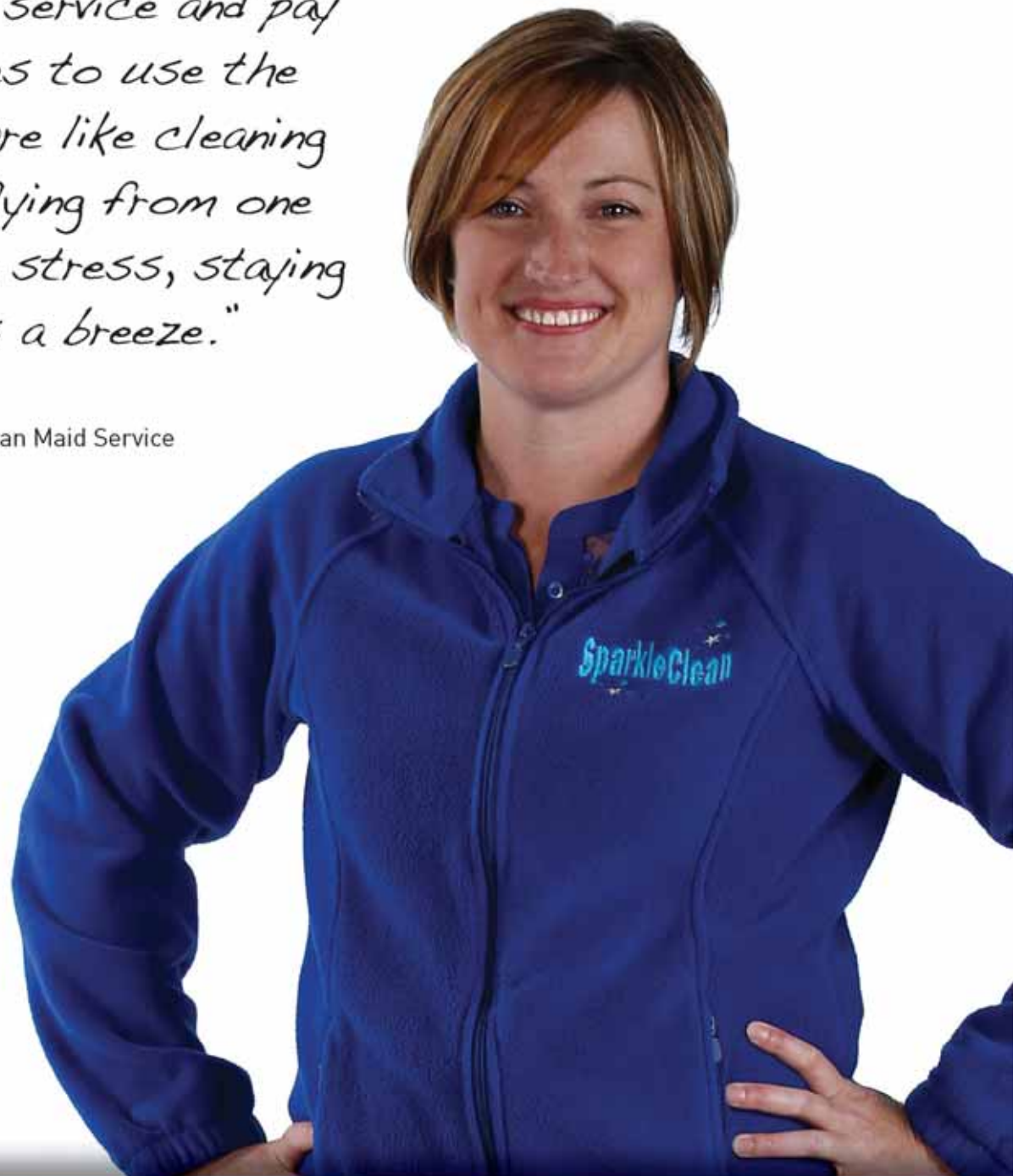


In Stitches Needlework owner Ellen Meyer (left) of Alexandria and shop manager Patricia Eaton (right) of Haymarket celebrate the 20th anniversary of the shop.

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See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com



Sarah's story was one of our winning entries in our "Express Lanes Love Story" promotion.

OBITUARIES

Warren Hinton

Warren Hinton, 41, of Alexandria, died on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2015 at Hiram Davis Medical Center in Petersburg, Va.

Warren was born April 22, 1974, the son of JoAnne Hinton and Charles Carter. Warren attended school in Alexandria. He graduated from Timber Ridge School in Winchester, Va.

Warren has always enjoyed working with computers.

He enjoyed photography, and understanding how



the camera works. Warren is survived by his parents JoAnne Hinton and Charles Carter, his brother Morris Edward Hinton, his niece Brittany L. Hinton. He also leaves his maternal grandparents, Ernest and W. Ann Austin, and a host of aunts, uncles and cousins. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Arthur Cotton, Cornerstone Church, Alexandria, on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015, at 7900 Fordson Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22306.

Sook Hee Kim Weidman

Sook Hee Kim Weidman, 67, died of lung cancer on Oct. 17, 2015, at Mount Vernon Hospital in Alexandria. She was born on Oct. 20, 1947 in Kunsan, Korea. She was the youngest of nine children of Young Sang Kim and Hyo Nyo Kwak.

Sook Hee studied Library Science at Ewha Women's University in Seoul, Korea, graduating in 1969. She then immigrated to the United States and worked at the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C., which is where she met her husband Stanley. She attended graduate school at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas, graduating with a M.S. in Library Science in 1972. She and Stan were married in San Francisco, Calif. in 1974.

Sook Hee and Stan moved to Alexandria in 1975, and their children Katie and Chris were born several years later.

Sook Hee was a devoted mother who was always involved in her children's activities, volunteering at the Waynewood Elementary School Library and for the Waynewood Swim Team for many years, among other things.

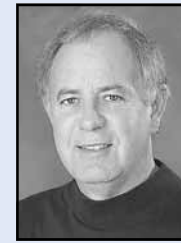
She eventually returned to the work force, initially



part-time as a librarian for SAIC, then full-time as a catalog librarian at The Library of Congress, where she worked for about 20 years. She retired from her position as Section Head of the Northeast Asia Team at The Library of Congress in 2013. In her free time she and Stan went on many mission trips with their church — twice to Uganda, twice to Guatemala, and once to Bolivia.

Sook Hee is survived by her husband of 40 years, Stanley Weidman, and her daughter Katie Kim Wolf. She was preceded in death by her son Christopher Weidman. Sook Hee is also survived by her sisters Sooja Kim of Alexandria and Soon Hee Kim of Seoul, Korea, and by her brothers Kyoung Eup Kim of Centreville, Va., and Woo Up Kim of Apex, N.C., as well as her son-in-law Joe Wolf and grandsons Caleb, Joshua, Moses, and Asher Wolf of Alexandria.

The visitation and funeral service was held on Saturday, Oct. 24 at Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria, followed by a committal service at Mount Comfort Cemetery. Donations in Sook Hee's memory may be made to the American Institute of Cancer Research.



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Civilian Oversight Board Proposed, Debated

FROM PAGE 3

ommendations are interrelated and rely on one another to bring forward transformation,” and gave the example of funding additional mobile crisis intervention units. “If that’s not accepted, the effectiveness of increased Crisis Intervention Training by police officers may be lessened. If civilian oversight is not accepted, then the lack of confidence in our police department by many of the citizens who addressed our commission is likely to continue.”

“My reaction to that is when we look at the experience of our community, notwithstanding a few cases that have been difficult for us to handle, the reaction of the community that I represent, that all of us represent, the majority of people clearly support and have a very positive reaction to the Fairfax County Police Department and the job they do day in and day out.”

“I would hope we can talk about the civilian review board as to why that is considered essential to establish confidence in our citizenry and FCPD,” Hyland added.

Hershman responded, “We should understand policemen are going to make mistakes, no question about it, but we’ve got to make sure policies and procedures are in place to make sure mistakes are fewer and less.”

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) added to the discussion he hopes to “continue the strong bond between our citizens and police department.”

“It’s also clear some things have to change,” he said.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she was “anxious” to attend the public safety committee meeting to discuss the report, especially after a “long

term of not seeing them often enough,” referring to meetings of the committee itself.

Hudgins also expressed a need for civilian involvement in reviewing the report. “We need to hear this report through the lens of our community.”

“The Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Police Department recognize the importance of reviewing policies and determining new best practices as expectations from the community evolve with new technology and methods of communicating,” Bulova said.

“FCPD actively participated on and worked with the commission every step of the way to help achieve the common goal of maintaining a safe community and ensuring a culture of public trust in Fairfax County.”

Following the presentation, Hershman spoke to media and said though he was encouraged by the mostly positive response from the supervisors, “I would trade that praise for support for our recommendations.”

In getting these recommendations to the board prior to Nov. 3, Hershman also said he hopes both incumbents and candidates for the next Board of Supervisors “come forward with their own views before the election.”

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS will discuss the final report at the forthcoming meeting of the Public Safety Committee on Oct. 27 at 3 p.m. That meeting is scheduled to take place in rooms 9 and 10 of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

Videos and materials from the meetings of the ad hoc commission are available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission.

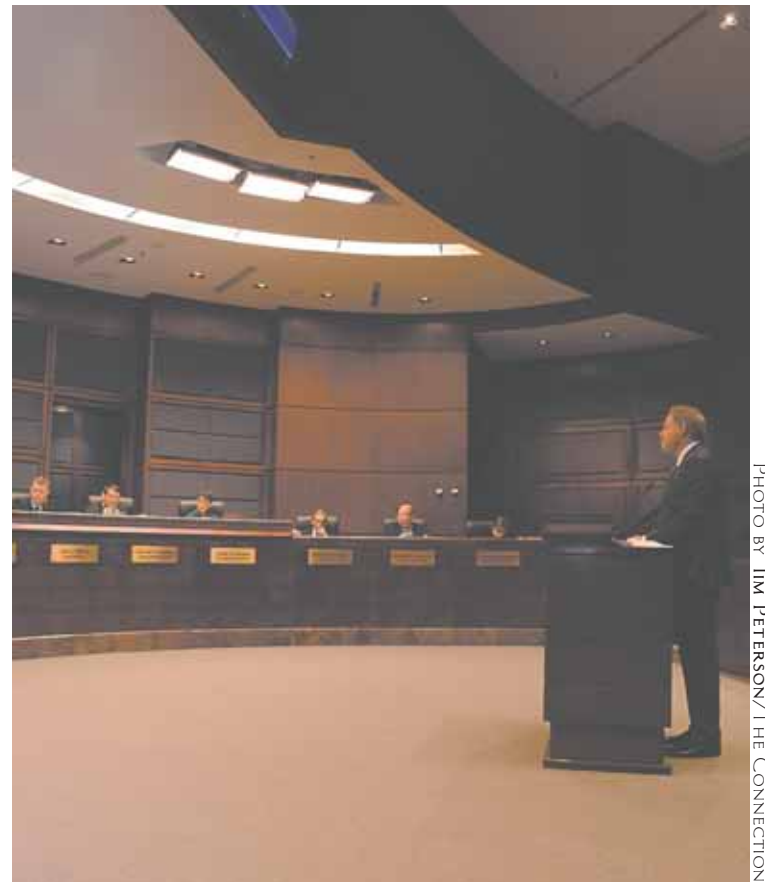


PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission chairman Michael Hershman (right) encouraged the supervisors to support the entire body of recommendations from the commission, saying many, like increased mental crisis mobile crisis units and crisis intervention training for officers, are dependent on each other for success.

Gandee and Storck Vie for Hyland’s Supervisor Seat

Gandee

FROM PAGE 1

“It will get my full attention, I’m anxious to get started,” Gandee said at the Oct. 15 meet the candidates event hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at the South County government center.

“I think we have a problem in Mount Vernon: It doesn’t look like the rest of the county — the roads, schools, economic development is worse,” Gandee said. “We need new leadership, new ideas, to work together to get the problems solved.”

Retired physician and Mount Vernon resident since 1970, Dr. Thomas Cleary met Gandee through the Chamber of Commerce 10 years ago. Cleary said he’s impressed with Gandee’s long-hours work ethic and how successful she’s made her business. He also appreciates “her knowledge of the workings of the government and what’s necessary for changes in the way projects in the community can be accomplished, both private and public.”

As a person, Cleary says Gandee is “outgoing, just a very friendly, warm person. I’ve heard her speak to disparate groups where she’s always, always



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Jane Gandee is the Republican candidate for Mount Vernon District supervisor.

received well and is open to hearing other people’s opinions.”

The Rev. Lorenzo Hill is the pastor at Cranford United Methodist Church, where Gandee is a member, teaches Sunday School and serves on the nurture outreach committee that ministers to members who are sick, shut in or haven’t been to church for a period of time.

“She’s an above average member, very committed, dedicated and involved,” said Hill. “she’s honest, fair, and not changed. She’s consistent with the person I met 10 and a half years ago.”

Storck

FROM PAGE 1

Bradsher also recalled a controversial boundary change the two worked on affecting students at Annandale and Woodson high schools. “That was a tough thing for Dan,” she said. “He hated to pull people out of their home community and understandably so. But we all had to work on that issue as a School Board though it was not in our boundary.”

Storck referenced his more than a decade representing Mount Vernon on the School Board, as well as his previous roles as president of Good Shepherd Housing, a coach in the Fort Hunt area and West Potomac High School Parent Teacher Association president, at an Oct. 15 meet the candidates event hosted by the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce at the South County government center.

“I want to continue to provide the service, support and expertise,” said Storck, “that I have for the last 25 years on your behalf.” Storck highlighted his “willingness to listen” and experience in spending “thousands of hours” attending board meetings, boundary meetings and other community meetings as a member of the Fairfax County School Board.

Holly Dougherty, executive director of

the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. has known Storck since he was elected to the School Board in 2004, and through his businesses he has also been a member of the chamber.

“Dan is a very nice person who really cares

about the community,” Dougherty said. “He’s given a lot of time, with service on the school board and goes out of his way to try to understand concerns people have. Everything he does on the board has impacted our community directly or indirectly.”

Candice Bennett describes Storck as “conscientious.” Bennett is a small business owner from Lorton who ran against Storck unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary and then joined his campaign handling communications.

“He’s thoughtful and easy to work with,” she said. “Sometimes politicians can be unpleasant, that’s not been the case for Dan. He’s been responsive to me, to others, and tries to respond as quickly as possible, while putting thought behind it.”



Dan Storck is the Democratic candidate for Mount Vernon District supervisor.

Hyland Hospitalized After Meeting

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital after experiencing chest pains and shortness of breath during the Board of Supervisors Oct. 20 meeting, Fairfax County spokesperson Tony Castrilli said.

Earlier in the meeting, Hyland had been speaking with members of a French delegation to Chantilly and then later left the board's dais. He returned for the presentation of the final report of recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission.

Members of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue responded to the Government Center and then transported the supervisor to Inova, where he stayed overnight for ob-

servaion and other tests.

Hyland's chief of staff Brett Kenney said the following morning that Hyland's blood panel was negative for enzymes that show a myocardial infarction — or heart attack. His heart was found to be normal and "appropriately situated for an elected official," Kenney said in an email, adding that Hyland was scheduled to be discharged Wednesday.

"Supervisor Hyland would like to thank the incredible response and assistance of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, Police Department and County Executive Ed Long and Deputy County Executive Dave Rohrer for their help yesterday," Kenney said.

— TIM PETERSON

Fire Destroys Townhouse

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Units responded to a townhouse fire Saturday, Oct. 17, at approximately 11:45 p.m., at 8634 Woodward Ave.

Firefighters encountered smoke coming from the two-story, split foyer home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 20 minutes. Six adult males were home at the time of the fire and escaped unharmed. The occupants were alerted to the fire by an odor of smoke.

There were no working smoke alarms in the home. All occupants of the home were displaced. Red Cross is providing assistance to the displaced occupants. Damage is estimated at \$266,000.

No civilian injuries were reported. One firefighter was transported for medical evaluation after returning to the fire station.

According to fire investigators, the fire originated in the basement and is under investigation.





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Alexandria/Cameron Station \$653,000
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Ana Rivas-Beck 703-772-3526
Melissa Schultz 703-407-5847



Alexandria/Rosemont \$649,000
4 East Spring Street. Totally renovated 3 bedroom (all upper), 2.5 bath end town house with off-street parking just a few blocks to METRO! Open floor plan with sleek new kitchen featuring 42" cabinets, granite counters and breakfast bar with SS appliances. Three beautifully finished levels, updated baths and fully fenced yard with patio.
Christine Garner 703-587-4855



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1218 West Abingdon Drive. Sensational brick town home, this 2 bedroom, 3 full bath, 4 level property boasts 3 masonry fireplaces, parking and wood floors. You will love the updated kitchen & baths.
Diann Hicks Carlson 703-628-2440



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Maren Seubert 703-835-2580



Alexandria/Georgetown Woods \$389,000
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Alexandria/Old Town Office
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Correction

In "Fun at Back to School Night" [The Gazette, Oct. 1], the person with the students, above, was misidentified. It is Marcus England, who has donated funds and volunteered his time to Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School.

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Election Coverage for an Informed Vote

Find stories, candidate questionnaires, letters and photos.

This week and next week are the last two publication dates before Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Our pages and website are full of coverage, letters, candidate questionnaires and photos of the campaign trail in an effort to help voters decide to vote and which candidates hold views closest to their own.

Virtually every state and local office is on

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Budgetary Experience

To the Editor:

I am writing in support of Anthony Stacy for School Board. We desperately need to turn things around here in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County — seven schools in our district are failing, MVHS is at the bottom in terms of SAT scores, all of our high schools are in the bottom half of the rankings for FCPS schools. Fifty-three percent of our tax dollars go to the schools — yet they are projecting a minimum \$70 million deficit.

These issues affect all of us, whether we have children in the school system or not. The decline of our schools, once vaunted as some of the best in the nation, affects all of our property values.

We need someone with budgetary expertise and with “skin in the game” i.e. children in the FCPS system. Anthony Stacy’s children will be attending FCPS schools for the next 14 years. Mr. Stacy has set up a school in Romania, worked as chief of staff for the Nature Conservancy’s Philanthropy Department, and currently works for Booz Allen Hamilton. Anthony’s education, work experience, and personal motivation make him the ideal candidate to make our schools and students successful again. Please vote Stacy on Nov. 3.

Susan Bradley
Alexandria

Tainted Endorsement?

To the Editor:

A national group designated by the Southern Poverty Law Center as an anti-muslim and anti-gay hate group has been involved in Fairfax County Public Schools politics since April, and now has endorsed a slate of candidates for School Board. The Traditional Values Coalition, known for equating gays to child molesters and Nazi’s, brought a level of vitriol to School Board discussions with their involvement this spring that I have not seen in my 15 years of working for FCPS.

This nationally-focused hate group has endorsed at-large candidates: Jeanette Hough, Bob Copeland, and Manar Jean-Jacques; and district candidates Pete Kurzenhauser (Dranesville); Mark Wilkinson (Hunter Mill); Anthony Stacy (Mt. Vernon); Patty Reed (Providence); Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield); and Tom Wilson (Sully).

the ballot. Find previous coverage and complete coverage on our website www.connectionnewspapers.com, click on Elections. Because many districts in Virginia resemble spiky amoebas, it is sometimes difficult to include every race that might impact a town or community in the print editions.

Please take the time to vote, it matters. In

I encourage and challenge the candidates to repudiate this tainted endorsement and return Fairfax discourse to local stakeholders. One is known by the company one keeps.

Robert Rigby, Jr.

Sponsor of the Full Spectrum Gay-Straight Alliance and Latin teacher at West Potomac High School

Candidate With Vision

To the Editor:

As we move toward the planned significant personnel increase at Fort Belvoir, in response to the BRAC realignment, the Mount Vernon District finds itself at the threshold a potential new and better future — if we are able to elect a leader on the county Board of Supervisors with the vision and ability to make this better future a reality.

Mount Vernon District Board of Supervisors candidate Dan Storck (who is serving his third term as the Mount Vernon District representative on the county School Board) has a proven track record offering evidence of his political skill and leadership to successfully take advantage of new possibilities presented by the upcoming changes at Fort Belvoir to provide a better future for our community.

Dan Storck’s motivation, passion and accomplishments on the School Board in promoting the best needs and interests of our community are undeniable, and have resulted in numerous endorsements from numerous and varied parties in our community — including outgoing Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland; our brave first responders, including the Virginia Police Benevolent Association, Fairfax Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 77 & the International Association of Firefighters Local 2068; working men & women, including the Service Employees International Union – Virginia 512 and the Northern Virginia Labor Federation; organizations representing our teachers, including the Fairfax County Fairfax Education Association; business leaders (Dan himself is a successful entrepreneur and businessman) including the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors; and elected representatives, Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, state Sen. Toddy Puller, Del. Scott Surovell, School Board Chair Tammy Derenak Kaufax and School Board members Moon, McElveen, Velkoff, Evans, Hynes, McLaughlin, Smith and Strauss — among others.

Dan’s visions, for the redevelopment of the Route 1 corridor and leveraging the presence of the Fort Belvoir Hospital and Mount Vernon

Virginia, key races that have affected policy have been decided by fractions of one percent. Your vote can make a difference.

We will not be endorsing in any race this year.

I’m keeping this short to allow more room for letters to the editor.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Hospital to attract medical and medical research enterprises to our district, show the foresight needed to bring the hope of a new and brighter future for our community to fruition.

Charles Finn Peña

A Matter of Accountability

To the Editor:

Dan Storck, the current Fairfax County School Board member who is running for Mt. Vernon supervisor, does not have a very good record for Mt. Vernon Schools delivering quality education when compared with other Fairfax County school districts for school accreditation and preparing seniors for college. Also, a reminder of Dan Storck’s voting record for family life education.

♦ **School Accreditation:** The Virginia Department of Education benchmarks for accreditation are based on standards of learning achievements by students with 75 percent for English and 70 percent for math, history/social science and science. Despite the low benchmarks, there are 17 schools out of 195 that received accreditation with a warning. A school receives this rating if pass rates are below the achievement levels required for full accreditation. Mt. Vernon stands out as not very good when compared with other school districts. It has five out of the 17 schools or 29.41 percent including West Potomac and Mt. Vernon High Schools. Five of the nine school board member districts have schools that received warnings. Two have two schools, one has one school, Mt. Vernon has five schools and the rest are in Lee District. The two Mt. Vernon high schools have had education problems for some time as reported by the media from time to time. Where is Dan Storck, the 11-year School Board member, to let such failures continue?

♦ **Seniors Prepared for College:** There are 26 Fairfax County High Schools. Of that total, West Potomac High School ranks 15th with only 39 percent of the students prepared for college and Mt. Vernon High School ranks at the bottom with one other high school with only 20 percent of seniors prepared for college. The American College Test (ACT) measures academic achievement in English, math, reading science and writing (optional). “The ACT standards relate to test scores to the types of skills needed for success in high school and beyond.” Again, where is Dan Storck, to help ensure that all high school students receive a quality education no matter what FCPS they attend to give

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 10

students a chance for success after high school?

❖ **Family Life Education (FLE):** This is a reminder that Dan Storck voted against an overwhelming parent opposition to changes in family life education and transgender identity and without having essential information such as whether the FCPS changes aligned with Virginia Department of Education Standards, budget implication, staffing changes, etc. to make informed decisions particularly on controversial issues. And, what is worse, Dan Storck's vote to change FLE deleted the opt out provision for parents. Without such provision, FCPS would be taking over parent's responsibility for their children family training with a one size fits all approach. No one in FCPS has the expertise to effectively deal with the huge diversity among families because of nationality, culture, religious beliefs, family values, etc. Thanks to the School Board member's leadership from another district who made the motion to include the opt out provision in the FLE, the responsibility for children family life is left to the parents where it belongs. The opt out provision requires the Superintendent of

Schools to ensure that all parents who have children in FCPS receives an opt out form and to report back that the parents have received the form. Also, to provide a link where parents can view the lessons.

Dan Storck has been a FCPS Mt. Vernon board member for a number of years, so why are there schools in Mt. Vernon still not delivering quality education to all students no matter what school they attend? Keep Dan Storck's above poor record in mind when you go to the polls in Nov. 3 to elect a Mt. Vernon supervisor. Let's hold the elected officials accountable for their actions and inactions.

Frank Medico
Mt. Vernon

Funding Public Schools

To the Editor:

Mary Kimm's editorial and Mr. Tillet's letter to the editor correctly attribute the school budget shortfall to the State Legislature's chronic under-funding, shifting obligations to the county, and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

ANTHONY STACY

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
MT. VERNON DISTRICT




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A Fresh Voice for Our Schools

- **Help our Mount Vernon District schools** become the best in Fairfax County and the Commonwealth.
- **Support students** through access to programs and limited class sizes. *Endorsed by Class Size Counts.*
- **Support teachers** focusing on what they do best—teaching our children.
- **Engage parents** and bring back common sense to decision making.
- **Build partnerships** that strengthen our schools and communities.
- **Tackle challenging issues** including the Fairfax County Public School's forecasted \$100 million budget deficit by improving the fiscal and academic integrity of our schools.

- **Public Servant:** Career devoted to advocating for effective and efficient government.
- **Budget/Financial Oversight:** Currently employed by Booz Allen Hamilton. Former Chief of Staff for The Nature Conservancy's Philanthropy Department.
- **Community Involvement:** Advisor to local non-profit organizations and helped launch two new Habitat for Humanity chapters.
- **Education:** Master of Public Administration from Syracuse University; certified Project Management Professional.
- **Husband and Parent:** Married with two young children that attend Belle View Elementary School and a local preschool.



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We Can Do Better Opposition to I-66 tolls inside the Beltway.

BY STATE SEN. DAVID
MARSDEN (D-37)

DEL. DAVID BULOVA (D-37)

Having both been raised here in Northern Virginia, we have seen first-hand how the chronic congestion problems on I-66 have affected our economy and quality of life. Like most people in our area, this is personal.

Traffic on I-66 has stolen countless hours that could have been spent with family or at work. That is why we were proud to support the bipartisan transportation package

passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2013 that is now generating billions for infrastructure improvements in our region.

However, the way revenue is generated does matter, which is why we feel compelled to express our current opposition to the Virginia Department of Transportation's plan to toll I-66 inside the Beltway.

While legitimate concern has been raised with regard to the cost to commuters, there is a much deeper principal at stake. No one likes the idea of tolls.

But like water and sewer service, there should at least be a strong link between who

pays and the services delivered. The idea of tolling I-66 inside the Beltway without a solid plan for creating new infrastructure that directly benefits the toll payers simply fails to meet this basic test. Likewise, we are concerned that this project violates the concept of first do-no-harm.

A recent study by Fairfax County found that while those using parallel roads won't be affected in the direction of rush hour traffic, those who go the opposite direction will see significant increases in traffic.

Even if this can be absorbed in the short-term, we have serious doubts about whether this is sustainable in the long-term. The days

of one-way rush hour traffic are quickly going the way of the dinosaur as areas like Tysons, Herndon, Chantilly, Reston, and Centreville continue to develop.

VDOT's actions mean that those who are using these local roads will see their commutes lengthened.

This will include neighborhoods both inside and outside of the Beltway. We applaud VDOT for coming up with some promising and creative solutions — including the active traffic management system recently implemented outside of the Beltway. But the current plan to toll I-66 inside the Beltway without increased capacity is the wrong way to go. It is a matter of principal.

COMMENTARY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 11

surging higher needs populations (English language learners, children living in poverty or requiring special education services). Mount Vernon residents are keenly aware of these challenges.

Our school populations mirror the economically and socially diverse nature of our community. Nineteen schools exceed 20 percent free and reduced meals, 16 exceed 20 percent English language learners, and 15 exceed 20 percent in both categories. Ten schools special education populations greater than 15 percent. Unlike the state, the county recognized poverty and English language learners when they developed the needs based staffing formula. These programs have proven successful. Next week, the state is expected to officially announce that five of our schools, previously labeled accredited with warning are now fully accredited. More work must be done.

I urge decision makers to see the faces of our community's children and the impact cuts will have on their ability to achieve their potential. We cannot continue to cut our way to excellence.

To accommodate the projected shortfall, FCPS is considering cutting the signature programs (academic programming, arts and athletics) that placed Fairfax County at the top of the list of U.S. school systems. Possible cuts to needs based staffing, the elimination of non-special education pre-school, summer school for elementary and middle schools could have detrimental effects on the progress realized in serving our high needs populations and reverse the trend towards full accreditation for all of our schools.

The seventh period in secondary school provides students the opportunity to explore electives in the arts, sciences and careers. Electives enable students to explore their passion, gain experiences, identify possible careers and often keep students engaged in learning. The elimination of these programs would disproportionately impact communities that are not able to self-fund. Today, our PTAs and Booster organizations subsidize after-school buses, enrichment activities, professional development and even a science resource teacher at Hollin Meadows.

Continuous program cuts are forcing families and teachers to leave the public school system. Many of our students are being taught by long-term substitutes in overcrowded classrooms.

Challenging times require policy makers to work across party, organizational and jurisdictional lines to restore funding, and developing innovative solutions to ensure each of our schools is an academic center of excellence, e.g. increasing community and business partnerships, exploring approaches to sharing resources (either online or remote access classrooms), developing more opportunities for dual enrollment, early college, experiential learning, and leveraging the natural resources of Fairfax County (historical residences, proximity to the nation's capital, military bases and healthcare systems).

Together we can solve these issues.

Karen Corbett Sanders

The writer is a School Board candidate for the Mount Vernon district.

Candidates On the Record

To the Editor:

Sometimes issues arise during a political campaign that should make voters, regardless of their political leanings, question whether they should vote for a candidate. Such is the case here.

In the 36th District State Senate race, at the Oct. 13 debate, in reaction to Dumfries Mayor Jerry Foreman's comments concerning his success in cutting taxes in Dumfries, his opponent Del. Scott Surovell said this: "Lowering taxes is so '90s." Don't take my word for it; A video of debate highlights is on Mr. Surovell's Youtube page at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tW2svswB4zc>. The comment is at 6:26. Will you vote for a candidate who has clearly stated he won't consider lowering the tax burden on his constituents?

Delegate Surovell stridently opposes permitting home-schooled children to participate in interscholastic activities at their neighborhood high school, even though their parents pay the same taxes as others,

it is easy to verify their academic prowess, and this can adversely impact their prospects for attending an elite college. This seems mean-spirited and punitive.

During the Mount Vernon supervisor candidate debate on Oct. 15, Dan Storck was asked why, as Mount Vernon's School Board member, he voted in September 2014 against amending the "Portrait of a Graduate" to add that graduates of Fairfax County High Schools should aspire to act ethically. In response, Mr. Storck claimed the amendment wasn't necessary because other sections of the "Portrait of a Graduate" addressed the ethics issue.

He then read from the document to support his position, but in so doing, he read the very provision that had been amended to add in the issue of ethical behavior. Will you vote for a candidate who, as a School Board member, voted against including in the "Portrait of a Graduate" the aspiration that graduates of our high schools should act ethically?

In 2008, while chairman of the School Board, Mr. Storck voted to spend up to \$130 million of our tax dollars to acquire a Taj

Mahal for the school administration while students were being educated in trailers. This resulted in a unanimous rebuke from the Board of Supervisors. In 2007, Mr. Storck voted for a 67 percent raise in pay for himself upon re-election, and abstained from a vote on a 60 percent raise earlier this year that would have been defeated had he opposed it. In these trying economic times, we need a supervisor not so eager to spend other people's money. Jane Gandee is that person. As a small business owner, she signs her employees' paychecks. She will responsibly spend our tax money.

Mr. Storck has been our School Board member for 11 years. According to ACT, not one high school in our district can claim that more than 40 percent of its graduates are prepared for college. At Mount Vernon High School, the figure is 20 percent. Has this pathetic performance earned Mr. Storck a promotion? Decidedly no. This is an important election. Voters should disregard political party labels and vote for the best candidate.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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.

ONGOING

The Mount Vernon Estate has released "The Winter Patriots," a video presentation about George Washington crossing the Delaware River on Christmas Day 1776. Buy the film for \$4.99 or rent for \$2.99 at mountvernon.org/winterpatriots.

Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "Keeping Organized as a Caregiver: What Works?" Share experiences, gain support and get information without having to travel. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Band musicians are invited to join the **Mount Vernon Community Band**. Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no

auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or www.mvbands.com.

Alzheimer's Association support groups

provide a place for people with Alzheimer's, their caregivers, family members, and/or friends to share valuable information, caregiving tips and concerns throughout the Alzheimer's journey. Groups are facilitated by trained group leaders and are ongoing, free and open to the community. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900 before attending a group for the first time to verify meeting information, obtain directions or other information about the group. A complete list of all groups in the National Capital Area region can be viewed at www.alz.org/nca.

Training Courses. The American Red Cross in the National Capital Region will host training courses in CPR, First Aid, and AED in the Alexandria and Fort Belvoir offices. These classes offer a two-year certification. Classes range from \$90-\$110. Advance registration is required. To register for a class or find another class in your area, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross.org/takeaclass.

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Open House Sunday 2-4pm Belle Rive 3900 Picardy Court, Alexandria VA Beautiful, impeccably maintained 5 BR, 3.5 BA brick home w/deck overlooking woods w/winter river view. Located in quiet cu-de-sac w/sunlit interior, high ceilings & 2-car garage \$1,095,000 Jeanne Atkins MLS # FX8773280



Manors of Mt Vernon 8307 Centerbrook Place, Alexandria VA Great Price Reduction = Value! 4 br, 4.5 ba, 2-car gar., 3,600+ sq.ft. center hall colonial tucked away in cul-de-sac and central to all commuter routes, bike trail, D.C., OT, 495, MD \$974,000 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # FX8760765



Open House Sunday 1-4pm Mason Hill 1907 Windmill Lane, Alexandria VA Beautiful French Country House in Mason Hill. Gourmet Kitchen with SS Appliances, Quartz, 2 Sinks, Kitchen Island. 5 Large Bedrooms with 4 Full Baths. 2 Patios and 2-Car Garage. \$859,000 Greg Doherty MLS # FX8751957



Open House Sunday 1-3pm The Woodlands 8129 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA Luxurious 1-owner home in Mount Vernon area. Easy commute down G.W. Parkway. 5 Br, 4.5 Ba has open floor plan. 2nd large family room on lower level. >>Just Appraised for \$950K<<< \$896,000 Peter Rickert MLS # FX8769051



Open House Sunday 2-4pm Old Town 124 Waterford Place, Alexandria VA Perfect Old Town Location – End Brick TH w/3 br, 2 updated baths, loft, hardwoods on 3 levels, eat-in kitchen, lovely private patio completes the picture – steps from shops, etc. \$809,000 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # AX8769463



Old Town Commons
810 Montgomery St, Alexandria VA Trendy, sophisticated 3 level TH. 3 BR, 2 BA with gourmet kitchen, exposed brick wall, wide plank hardwood floors, patio, rooftop terrace, 2 parking spots. 5 blocks to Metro. \$719,900 Karen Leonard MLS # AX8762027



Wellington Manor 1136 Arcturus Lane, Alexandria VA Charming house in a great location. Precious 3 BR, 2 BA, two level home surrounded by patio, gardens and manicured lawns. Close to shopping, restaurants and G.W. Parkway. WW School. \$649,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX8762034



Cameron Station 5014 Grimm Drive, Alexandria VA Wow! Gorgeously renovated & stately townhome; 3 levels (all w/gleaming hardwoods), 3 beds (all on 1 lvl), 2.5 baths, brand new kitchen/island/stainless/Caesarstone, 50K in upgrades! \$610,000 Lyssa Seward MLS # AX8748007



Williamsburg Manor North 2408 Apple Hill Road, Alexandria VA Brick rambler w/3 bedrooms, 2 renovated baths, new kitchen, redone hardwoods, located near bike trail, shops, restaurants and all commuter routes, D.C., OT, MD, 495, 95, etc. \$549,900 Bonnie Rivkin MLS # FX8762757



Amberleigh 6606 Briarleigh Way, Alexandria VA Upgrades galore and only $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the Springfield Metro. Three finished levels with 2 br & 2.5 ba. Freshly painted and ready to move in. \$384,900 Liz Bucuvalas MLS # FX8772284



**New Listing
Masons Passage**
7847 Seafarer Way, Lorton VA Luxury 3 brs, 2.5 baths townhome on premium lot, faces and backs to trees. Low HOA fees; updated baths, gas fireplace, custom drapery, hardwood flrs, NEW carpet, NEW upper & lower deck. Gourmet kit w/cherry cabinets & upgraded apps. \$352,500 Katharine Kratovil MLS # FX873380



Bucknell Manor 6850 Radcliffe Dr, Alexandria VA Charming 3 level duplex in great close-in location available for a new owner! Gleaming hardwood floors, updated kitchen and baths, new windows, nice yard, steps away from Metro Bus \$323,900 Karen Leonard MLS # FX8769007

Alexandria 310 King St. | Alexandria, VA 22314 | 703.518.8300



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Candidates for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Sharon Bulova (D)

Incumbent
Town of residence: Fairfax
Age: 67

Family: Married. Between my husband and I we have: four adult children and seven grandchildren.

Education: AAS Degree in Business Management from Northern VA Community College, attended business classes, UVA evening program, previously held Real Estate license

Offices held, dates:
Elected Braddock (then called Annandale) District Supervisor in 1987. In February 2009 elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Re-elected in 2011.

Occupation and relevant experience: I am a full time Chairman. Prior to elected office I held positions in business.

Community involvement: I came to local government through my work as Civic Association president of Kings Park West. I have been a member of the Annandale Rotary, how serving as an honorary member. I am a founder of Faith Communities in Action and collaborated on two community history projects: A Look Back at Braddock and the Asian American History Project.

Website: <http://sharonbulova.com/>

Email address: sharonbulova@gmail.com

Twitter handle: <http://twitter.com/sharonbulova>

Name three favorite endorsements: FEA (Fairfax Education Association), Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I love local government and feel strongly about community engagement. In my roles as Braddock Supervisor and now Chairman I have been committed to making sure our community is at the table with local government to participate in resolving issues and addressing our challenges. A major challenge right now is the sluggish recovery we are experiencing from the Great Recession. My goal is to strike the right balance between maintaining taxes that are affordable to our residents while investing what is needed to ensure a world class school system, safe streets and neighborhoods, compassionate human services, a clean environment and quality of life services like libraries and our fantastic park system.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have the experience, the commitment and the enthusiasm to serve as Fairfax County's chairman. I believe I have the collaborative skill set needed to lead our Board and our community on an even, positive course.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Education continues to be my highest priority. It is however, not my only priority. It is critical that we continue to be the safest jurisdiction of our size in the U.S. and that we maintain the quality of life our residents value. Beginning in January our newly elected Board will engage in a multi-year Lines of Business process to examine all of our services in order to identify opportunities for efficiencies and savings. We have invited the School Board to participate with us in this process. I am hopeful that, working together, we will find new ways to economize on resources and improve on the delivery of services to families and students.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I am a full time Chairman. I work well over 40 hours per week plus countless hours of community and regional activities.



Glenda Gail 'for Rail' Parker (I)

Town of residence:
Alexandria, Fairfax County

Age: 68

Family: Three grown children, four Grand-children

Education: MBA with a certificate in Software Engineering Administration

Offices held, dates:
Elected to Vice-Chair, Independent Greens of Virginia (2007 to Present); elected to COG TPB CAC (2007-2010)

Occupation and relevant experience:
Governmental Budget Analyst, Businesswoman
Community involvement: Fairfax Federation Civic Association Committee, Public Safety Chair (approximately 2009-2010)

Website: www.GailParker.US

Email address: ggailparker@cox.net

Twitter handle: @ggailparker

Name three favorite endorsements:
Independent Greens of Virginia

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The Independent Green Party Green New Deal will get us on the right track. The Green New Deal means double-digit job growth in Eco jobs for the economy. Solar jobs. Wind jobs. Geothermal jobs. Rail jobs. The Green New Deal means Bike share for Fairfax County. Bikes, like rail, increase the value of our homes, businesses, and communities. The Green New Deal will bring Electronic VRE signs for commuters. The Green New Deal means New Tracks, More Trains, More often to More Places. The Green New Deal is solar panels, and geothermal heating and cooling for every public building. Renewable energy makes money for taxpayers.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

My advocacy for Rail and renewable energy. Investments in Green Energy make money. The solar age is here and we want on-board! It is past time to bring the Green Revolution to Fairfax County.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

The infrastructure budget has too many subsidies to big oil, big asphalt, big auto, fossil fuels. Giving a half a trillion dollars in taxpayer subsidies annually worldwide to big oil is fiscal lunacy. Cut and reprioritize the infrastructure budget to invest in free solar energy and geothermal energy. Work harmoniously with the School Board to place money where it will do the most good, fund education costs and teacher salaries rather than administration costs. Build Rail: Rail will grow revenues by growing the economy. Rail increases the value of our homes, businesses and communities. Every \$1 invested in Rail returns \$20 to the community!

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

The new salary voted by the Board will allow me to devote full time to BOS duties.



Arthur Purves (R)

Town of residence: Vienna

Age: 66

Family: Married 42 years, two children, seven grandchildren

Education: BA, MS, MBA University of Pennsylvania

Offices held, dates: N/A

Occupation and relevant experience: Computer Programmer

Community involvement:

-President, Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance since 1996

-Member, Fairfax County Meals Tax Task Force (2014)

-Member, Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Committee (2013)

-Treasurer, Fairfax Committee 100

-Member Fairfax Branch, NAACP

-Past member of three Fairfax County Public Schools advisory committees

-Scoutmaster

Website: votepurves.org

Email address: Arthur@votepurves.org

Twitter handle: [agpurves](https://twitter.com/agpurves)

Name three favorite endorsements: Del. Tim Hugo and Loudoun Supervisor Eugene Delgaudio

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Only 59% of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) seniors are prepared for college, and the percent prepared varies from 75% for Langley High School to 20% for Lee and Mt. Vernon High Schools. In a quarter of a century FCPS has made no progress in closing the minority student achievement gap: only 35% of Hispanic and 20% of African-American FCPS seniors are prepared for college. Even if you don't go to college, being prepared for college makes you better qualified for a good job. The solution is better instruction in the basics; not more money. As county chairman I would hold the school board accountable for achievement when the school board makes its annual \$2B budget request.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

The incumbent chairman:
For 16 years has raised real estate taxes three times faster than household income, which is unaffordable, especially for seniors;
Does not hold the schools accountable for achievement;
Is indifferent to the disproportionate incarceration of Hispanics and African-Americans in the county jail;
Sat silent for 17 months while the police department refused to disclose the details of the shooting of an unarmed civilian by a police officer on August 29, 2013;
Neglected maintenance of the now unsafe and unreliable Metrorail system to build the Silver Line;
Since 2000 cut staffing of libraries and parks by 112 positions while adding 145 clerks to handle public assistance applications, for a total of 354 public assistance positions.
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics job growth in Fairfax County was close to last of the 342 largest U.S. counties last year. I will grow jobs by cutting taxes; using the chairman's pulpit to advocate for higher achievement, including Hispanic and African-American achievement, through better curricula; being transparent; and making Metrorail repairs my highest transportation priority.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

For FY2017 the county and schools want to increase spending by \$240M while revenues are projected to increase only \$20M without a real estate tax hike. This predicament demonstrates the need for new leadership. Seventy percent of the spending increase is for raises (3.5% for county and 4% for school employees), Cadillac health plans, and pensions with retirement at 55. My opponent would raise real estate taxes 9%, pushing the typical homeowner's real estate tax from \$5,700 to \$6,200. She raised real estate taxes 8% last year. For 16 years the supervisors have been increasing taxes three times faster than household income. Since 2000, while school enrollment has increased 22%, the school budget increased 100%. County and school spending for health and pension benefits increased \$700M since 2000; that is \$400M more than needed to keep up with inflation, population, and enrollment. For 16 years the average annual raise for 30,000 county and school employees has been 4%. To pay for these raises and benefits, the supervisors have been increasing real estate taxes three times faster than household income. The revenue from the tax hikes was not enough to pay for the raises and benefits, so park and library staffing was cut and class sizes increased. And now teachers and police cannot afford the \$6,000 real estate taxes that were increased to pay for their own raises and benefits. To make Fairfax County affordable again, we need to cut taxes by reducing benefits and giving smaller raises, as is the case with private-sector employees.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

I can retire and be a full-time chairman.



Getting In Private Schools

Navigating the application and increasing the chance of getting an acceptance letter.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Although the school year just started, the application process for the 2016-2017 school year is underway at more than 80 local independent schools. From open houses, school tours and applicant interviews to transcripts, essays and teacher recommendations, the process can be arduous, say parents, especially with application fees that can soar higher than \$100 a piece.

Making sure a child's abilities and interests are in line with a school's offerings and requirements can narrow down the list.

"Parents need to be realistic about their child's strengths and weaknesses and learning style," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment management, Norwood School in Potomac, Md. "Have an open and honest conversation with schools during the application process. Schools will tell you whether they can or cannot meet any special needs your child might have."

practical considerations of all sorts should help parents whittle down their list of schools. "Do they want a big or small school? How far are they willing to travel each day? Does the school offer academic support if their child needs it? Can they afford their tuition?" asks Mary Herridge, director of enrollment management, The Madeira School in McLean.

Getting to know a school's culture and paying attention to the school's mission can also help families choose a school.

"School structure, single sex versus co-ed, dress code, religious affiliation, teaching pedagogy and parent involvement all influence school culture," said Mulligan. "Each school has a distinct and intentional mission statement. Sometimes that distinctiveness may be subtle so parents should also look at school mottos, belief or promise statements and portraits of a graduate, too."

"Nowadays, in school literature and marketing materials, all schools say they're good at certain things and offer certain things like small class sizes and low student teacher ratios, but nothing can replace going and

ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS say that

SEE GETTING IN, PAGE 28

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DAN STORCK

Board of Supervisor, Mt. Vernon District

SCOTT SUROVELL

House of Representatives, District 36



VOTE TUESDAY, November 3rd

Paid for by the Southern States PBA, Inc. PAC Fund, 2155 Hwy 42 S, McDonough, GA 30252. Chris Skinner, president; Dave Soderberg, senior vice president; Donald Scott, vice president; Joe Naia, secretary.



FALL FESTIVAL
Sunday,
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12:30-2:00 p.m.

Petting zoo • Live music • Carnival games
Food trucks • and much more

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We will move inside in case of bad weather.

Live Music by Close2Home

Games for the Kids! Fun for the family! Food Trucks!

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Candidates for Mount Vernon Supervisor

Jane Gandee (R)

Family: Married to Greg Gandee for 35 years; a son, Charles, and daughter, Amy, and three grandchildren.

Occupation and relevant experience:

I am the principle owner of ServiceMaster Restore with five licenses to serve Northern Virginia; Washington, DC; Southern Prince George's County; Montgomery County; and Prince William County, along with a national license. I serve on the Northeast Regional Franchise Council, and throughout my career have served at the local, regional and national level in leadership positions.

Before working with ServiceMaster, I was an administrator at The University of Charleston, Charleston, West Virginia, for over seven years. I hold a Six Sigma Certification and am a continuing education instructor for Virginia, Maryland, and DC, along with other industry specific certifications. The Business Ethics class I teach, has become a favorite for regional insurance and property management professionals.

Community Involvement: I am currently Chairman of the Alexandria Salvation Army; Member of the National Capital Area Command Board of the Salvation Army; Vice President of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce; Board of Directors of the Chamber's Education Partnership, and the Legislative Committee. I am on the Fund Development Committee for Rising Hope Mission Church which works with the homeless in the US 1 area; a Board Member of the Northern Virginia Republican Business Forum; a member of the Administrative Council of Cranford United Methodist Church; and a member of Hollowing Point Garden Club.

Name three favorite endorsements:

My favorite endorsements are from the people of Mount Vernon who would like me to represent them as Supervisor. Here are three of these endorsements:

Jay and Sue McConville from Wayneswood: "Jane is a business leader, a volunteer organization leader, and an experienced, successful and energetic supporter of our community."

Sabrina Campbell from Yacht Haven: "Mount Vernon will be in good hands when we elect Jane. She has a proven track record for making things happen."

Nikki Bono, Mount Vernon: "Having been a teacher in the community for almost a decade, I am concerned about where our schools are heading if we don't make a change. I believe Jane can be the champion for that change, making our schools go from good to great."

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Fairfax County and businesses need to be allies in promoting economic development. I hear regular and distressing stories about business people who walk away from projects because of their frustrations with the inability to get their projects up and running. They quit altogether or go to a neighboring county and take the jobs and commercial real estate revenues with them. Business owners often share with me the negative experiences they have had with Fairfax County as they try to build

their business. I will create a better business climate by streamlining planning and zoning processes. With my experience building a successful business in Fairfax County we can attract good businesses to our area and help them thrive.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent?

Leadership is different than experience gained from elected office. My leadership whether in business or with community organizations has always led to high achievement and positive results. My opponent has been elected to the School Board for the past 12 years but he has not been a leader. Our schools are worse off now than they were 12 years ago.

Mr. Storck sat in a School Board meeting and did nothing to allow hundreds of parents to have their say on a recent controversial school decision. I will always listen to the people of Mount Vernon. Mr. Storck recently voted against an amendment to the FCPS "Portrait of a Graduate" that highlighted the importance of ethical behavior. Fortunately he was in the minority and the amendment passed. If our country ever needed a renewed focus on ethics, it is now. In the last 12 years while he has been on the School Board our schools have declined. He was chairman of the School Board twice, yet the downward trend continued. With looming school deficits, Mr. Storck abstained from a vote to give the School Board a pay increase, his NO vote would have killed the raise but it passed adding more costs to the school budget.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Let's be clear about the school budget. The Board of Supervisors transferred more funds to FCPS during the past budget cycle than any time in history. The difference between what was requested by the School Board and the final funding was about 2.4 percent of the total FCPS budget. In the current economic climate every part of the County budget had to absorb some cuts. Top funding priorities have to be maintaining our excellent school system, funding public safety, and maintaining the libraries, parks, rec centers, and other public amenities that give us a good quality of life in Fairfax County.

I believe I owe it to the citizens of Fairfax County to look them in the eye and say your family's money is being spent prudently, efficiently and effectively before I vote for more money from their household income for the County budget.



Dan Storck (D)

Town of residence: Fort Hunt

Age: 62

Family: Wife of 39 years, Deb, and three adult children.

Education: Masters in Business Administration (MBA) specializing in Management and Finance from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (1981)

Bachelors of Science (BS) in Business Administration, Finance Major from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio (1975)

Offices held, dates: Fairfax County School Board Member, Mt. Vernon District, 2004 – present; Fairfax County School Board Chairman, 2007-2009

Occupation and relevant experience: Business Owner & Fairfax County School Board, Mt. Vernon District Member

Community involvement: For over 25 years, I've been a leader in the community in a variety of roles including as President of Good Shepherd Housing, a coach, WPHS PTA President, and more.

Website: www.danstorck.org

Email address: info@danstorck.org

Twitter handle: @DanStorck

Name three favorite endorsements: Proud to have the support of our fire fighters, our teachers and the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

People who know me know that I am very passionate about our schools, they are the cornerstone of a strong Mt. Vernon District. Job creation, public safety, development, and our future depend on long-term public investments for funding quality schools.

Yet, the truth is that there is not one single issue facing our community. The job of the Supervisor is to balance many issues, navigate the often complex machinery of government, and make the right calls to keep the district moving forward and improve the quality of life for our residents.

I will fight every day to fully fund Mt. Vernon's schools, but also create new jobs, finish the revitalization of Route 1, empower our seniors to age in place, protect our environment and expand the Yellow Line to Hybla Valley and beyond.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Jane is a worthy candidate for Supervisor, but I believe my consistent leadership in a diverse set of roles within our community sets me apart.

Time and time again I have produced results for our community. When I was President of Good Shepherd Housing, I led the way in expanding access to affordable housing to our most vulnerable neighbors. As School Board Member, I built or funded 5 new and 18 Mount Vernon-related school additions/renovations, while my initiatives saved taxpayers millions of dollars, improved student health, and vastly increased the number of students' taking advanced courses and getting job-ready skills certifications to help them find good paying jobs.

I am proud of my 25 years of service to the com-

munity. I've built key relationships within the Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County, and the Washington Metro area that make me best suited to tackle the challenges and pursue the opportunities before us.

3. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system. A significant budget gap looms for the next budget cycle, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top county priorities and how will you assure funding and manage the budget? What ideas do you have for increasing revenue? Name two areas/items you would cut or reduce.

Our schools must remain a top priority to attract development, encourage economic growth and improve our quality of life. Our school funding is currently \$2-6,000 less per student than most area school systems and less than we spent a decade ago.

Growing our businesses and diversifying our sources of revenue are critical. I'll fight to get greater than 21% of our tax dollars back from the state.

We also must do more with what we have. I've done that by building a middle school years ahead of schedule and \$35 million under budget, while my "Smart Services, Smart Savings" initiative saved taxpayers over a million dollars.

As your Supervisor, I will use my MBA, finance skills, detailed budget knowledge and well-earned reputation for bringing folks together to leverage efficiencies and savings in our budgets. I'll do an intensive line-of-business review to focus priorities and cut costs. And throughout, I will fight for Mt. Vernon's fair share.

4. How many hours a week of outside employment do you anticipate while serving on the Board of Supervisors?

For the past 12 years, I've worked two full-time jobs – as the business partner of my healthcare company and as your school board member. I regularly leave home before 7am and return around midnight. I've maintained this schedule because I have a passion for our community, am committed to bringing folks together and am willing to do the hard work to get things done.

As Supervisor, I'll maintain that same level of commitment to our community while ending my daily business involvement so that I can be your full-time Supervisor.

The needs we have are too real, the challenges we face too many and the opportunities too great to treat this position as a 9-to-5 job. And I don't work that way either! As your Supervisor, I will continue my daily community engagements – from Board, community and association meetings to community activities and events. I'll also continue my tradition of holding office hours throughout the district on evenings and weekends.



Voting Notes, Early Voting

An earthquake, hurricane, early snow, or just one of those cataclysmic traffic days could make it hard to vote on Election Day, Nov. 3. On that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting begins is underway, and is a good way to ensure you have your say in this critical local election.

Virginia Law allows voters to vote absentee 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. If you qualify, you can vote early in-person.

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

You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

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, Fairfax County School Board at Large (vote for 3); District School Board member; 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

It's also worth noting that new, more restrictive voter identification regulations took effect last year. Voters arriving to the polls without required 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. Photo ID requirements also apply to absentee voters who vote in-person in all elections.

In-Person Absentee

Fairfax County Government Center

• Fairfax County Governmental Center Location, Conference Room 2/3, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA 22035. Through Oct. 30: ex-

tended hours: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturdays: Oct. 24 and Oct. 31: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Satellite Voting

Weekdays through Oct. 30: Monday - Friday, 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturdays, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31: 9 - 5.

Satellite Locations:

Mount Vernon Governmental Center - 2511 Parkers Lane, Conference Room A, Alexandria, 22306

Franconia Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Community Room B, Alexandria, 22310

Mason Governmental Center - 6507 Columbia Pike, Conference Room, Annandale, 22003

West Springfield Governmental Center - 6140 Rolling Road, Community Room, Springfield, 22152

School Board Candidates for Mount Vernon District

Karen Corbett Sanders

Town of residence: Mt. Vernon
Age: 54
Family: Husband Daniel, Daughters Sara (21) Annelieske (18)
Education: Boston University MSIM (1990) (distinguished Alumni 2011), University of Notre Dame BA (1982), Groveton HS (1979)
Offices held, dates: None
Occupation and relevant experience: As Verizon, Vice President (retired) served on Boards of Directors and Operating Committees of International Companies (\$2 billion/yr); As Booz, Allen & Hamilton, Senior Associate, provided strategic and program planning advice to Fortune 100 companies and government clients including the White House, DoD and national research labs.
Community involvement: PTA President, West Potomac HS, Belle View ES, Chair, Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee, Member, Student Services Advisory Committee (County & WPHS), Orchestra & Band Booster Boards (Carl Sandburg MS and West Potomac HS), Odyssey of the Mind Coach & Regional Board Member, Girl Scout Leader, CCD Teacher, Inova Children's Hospital Quality Board Member, Inova Mt. Vernon Hospital Development Council Chair, Re-use of Original Mt. Vernon HS Task Force Chair.
Website: www.karen4schools.com
Email address: karen@karen4schools.com
Twitter handle: karen4schools
Name three favorite endorsements: 1) The students (and parents) who's lives I've touched, 2) the Teachers' Organizations and 3) the Federal and local policymakers I will work with to ensure our schools receive the necessary resources.



and with the business community. The community can count on me to listen to its concerns and advocate for our students.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Proposed budget cuts to needs based staffing for high poverty schools, summer school, athletics, the arts, and non special ed preschool programs could increase the economic divide, opportunity gaps and harm student and teacher retention efforts. I will fight to restore state and federal funding shortfalls, focus budget cuts on areas with limited student impact, eliminate/ consolidate duplicative County/School system programs. I will increase our business and community partnerships to supplement cuts and create opportunities for Mt. Vernon's students.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

Explore innovative public/private partnership solutions to eliminate the waitlist for early childhood education. Expand early identification and intervention efforts for at-risk students, explore wrap-around services for those schools with the highest needs populations; and increase parent engagement.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Prioritize student success and teacher retention. Budget cuts should focus on minimizing impacts on these priorities and identifying synergies for cost savings in areas that are duplicative between the FCPS and the County.

Diversify revenue base to include restoring state level funding and fees for buildings and grounds use and increasing business and community partnerships.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A strong school system is essential to Mt. Vernon's economic renewal. Strong Schools attract businesses and new families to move here and attend our schools. FCPS adds value by educating students that are work force or college ready, capable of adapting to a rapidly changing economy and as civic minded individuals will contribute back to the community.

Anthony Stacy

Town of residence: Alexandria, VA
Age: 47
Family: Wife, Deanna; daughter, Summer (3rd grade); son, William (pre-school)
Education: Master of Public Administration, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University; Bachelor of Arts, Business Admin, Malone University
Occupation and relevant experience: Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton (current); Chief of Staff Anthony Stacy, Philanthropy, The Nature Conservancy; Program Director, Government Performance Project, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University; Assistant Director of Communications, Speaker of the House, Ohio House of Representatives; Young Political Leaders School, Teacher and Curriculum Lead, Bucharest, Romania
Community involvement: Advisory Board, C&O Canal Trust; Co-founder, Greater Salem, Ohio Area Habitat for Humanity; Founder, Malone College Habitat for Humanity; personal budget and financial counselor
Website: www.anthonyschoolboard.com
Email: anthonyschoolboard@gmail.com
Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts; former U.S. Senate candidate Ed Gillespie; State Senator Dave Albo



3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Every child has the potential to learn, so the Fairfax County School Board cannot allow current fiscal mismanagement to hinder academic quality. We need to focus our resources where they are needed the most and eliminate inefficiencies in the system to better support low income communities and ensure that our academic programs are producing measurable results.

4. How will you address the achievement gap? Honors and AP classes do an effective job in preparation for higher education and should be maintained, but we must strengthen the standard curriculum. Our children should receive an education that is tailored to their specific needs and enhance their ability to be prepared to function as productive adults. We can better partner with the business community to provide mentorships and opportunities to better guide our students in setting academic goals and achieving practical skills.

5. What steps would you take to manage the budget gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Five years ago, the FCPS was supposed to hire an Auditor General. It was not until political pressure was applied by the state legislature, the Board of Supervisors, the media and the public that FCPS finally hired an Auditor General last month. It is critical that we perform a line item review of the 400-page FCPS budget and assess for measurable results. We need to see the results after these steps are taken to determine the best course of action. We must earn the confidence of the Board of Supervisors and the taxpayers before we can demand more money for the school system. I will not balance the budget by eliminating athletics and the arts. I will not balance the budget on the backs of our students by increasing class sizes. The current school board has already taken this approach three times and has mismanaged the \$2.6 billion budget, causing a significant budget deficit.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools? The quality of FCPS schools affects business development. Employers desire locations where their employees' children can attend a quality school. Our local schools must improve if we want economic expansion in this part of the county. Home values are also affected by the quality of the local schools. The future direction of our economy and health of our communities, especially in the Mount Vernon District, hinges upon the health of our public schools.

My experience extends across the top levels of four sectors – private, public, higher education, and non-profit. As Project Director of the Government Performance Project, I graded state, city, and county governments (including Fairfax County) on how well they were managed. I led daily operations The Nature Conservancy's Philanthropy Department, responsible for finance and personnel. Finally, I have children in the public schools for the next 14 years, Class of 2025 and 2029. There are currently only three Fairfax County School Board members with children in the FCPS. Parents need more representation on policies that will affect all of our children.

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Of the 17 schools accredited with warning during the 2014–15 academic year, 7 are in the Mount Vernon District. Families shouldn't feel compelled to take their children out of the public school or move to another part of the county because of the quality of our local public schools. Improving the quality of all of our schools to be the best in the county and the Commonwealth is my top priority. My goal is for all of our children to have an education that at a minimum provides them with the skills to enter the workforce upon graduation or pursue higher education. My approach will be focusing on strengthening the curriculum for all students, greater accountability from administrators, greater autonomy for teachers, and working with parents on methods to support their children's education outside the classroom.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent; why should voters choose you?

My experience extends across the top levels of four sectors – private, public, higher education, and non-profit. As Project Director of the Government Performance Project, I graded state, city, and county governments (including Fairfax County) on how well they were managed. I led daily operations The Nature Conservancy's Philanthropy Department, responsible for finance and personnel. Finally, I have children in the public schools for the next 14 years, Class of 2025 and 2029. There are currently only three Fairfax County School Board members with children in the FCPS. Parents need more representation on policies that will affect all of our children.

How to Vote

Election Day is Nov. 3, and on that day, virtually every state and local office is on the ballot. In-person absentee voting is underway. 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. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov.

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, School Board At Large (vote for three) Soil and Water Conservation Board (vote for three), School Bond for \$310 million, Public Safety Bond for \$151 million.

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. Acceptable forms of identification include: 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 issued by U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia,

or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; Valid college or university student photo identification card, from an institution of higher education 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.

Any registered voter may apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth.

For More Election Information: Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm> 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

School Board Candidates At-Large

Omar Fateh

Town of residence: Annandale

Age: 25

Education: MPA from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: Former Campaign Finance Analyst at FEC, Former Academic Advisor/Assistant Instructor at Northern Virginia Community College

Community involvement: Co-organize youth basketball league, Assist in developing tutoring programs at local mosques

Website: www.fatehforschoolboard.com

Email address: fateh4sb@gmail.com

Twitter handle: Fateh4sb

Name favorite endorsements: Fairfax Education Association

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

The achievement gap. Our minority and economically disadvantaged students continually score 20-30 points below their peers on standardized tests. The dropout rate among economically disadvantaged students has nearly doubled in the last four years. First, standardized test scores should not be the main indicator of student progress or potential. Second, rather than having teachers teach to the tests, it is important for the School Board to give teachers the freedom to identify their students' strengths and interests. Finally, we must get parents involved, and to place responsibility on the students to succeed as well.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The qualities that separate me most from the other candidates for School Board include the perspective I bring as a member of some of the County's many underrepresented communities (including the Somali and Muslim communities), as a former Fairfax County Public Schools student, and also as a former advisor to countless area students at Northern Virginia Community College.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Many parents in Fairfax County must work multiple jobs, and are not able to provide the full support needed by their children, such as attending school meetings and checking their children's work. It is critical for us to get parents as involved as we can, in part by meeting them on their terms and as much as possible. I will ensure that I am easily accessible to the entire community. Having worked with my local mosque to develop a tutoring program for our County's youth, many people within our community are willing to donate their time and efforts to help both academically, and in developing them as professionals.

Increased funding is necessary to meet the needs of an ever-expanding student body.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

To begin addressing the issue in earnest, the School Board first needs compassionate representatives willing to understand and serve the needs of the full range of County students with new energy and ability.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Board members must also better engage their fellow elected officials to seek additional funding. The majority of the Board of Supervisors wants to fully fund our schools, but the dollars simply are not coming in from Richmond. We need to work with state representatives to bring back our tax dollars. We must work first and foremost to provide additional funding. We must get both Boards on the same page, and put education— in other words, our children— first in Fairfax County.



Jeanette Hough

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 36

Family: Husband, Charlie (Oakton graduate '97); Ryan (4th grade), Keri (2nd grade), Ethan (Kindergarten), Vader (rescue puppy)

Education: B.A. in Economics; University of Virginia, Masters in Physical Therapy; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Occupation and relevant experience: Physical Therapist (Senior Therapist – mentor and leader role)

Community involvement: Volunteer in children's elementary school, local homeless shelter, church, and with meals and holiday gifts through Our Daily Bread, volunteer with kid's sports and activities, Manna Meal coordinator, PTA member

Website: jeanetteforschoolboard.com

Email address: Jeanetteforschoolboard@gmail.com

Name three favorite endorsements: Class Size Counts, Former Congressman Tom Davis, Congresswoman Barbara Comstock

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Responsibility to the community defines my call to serve. That responsibility comes with engaging the community members, being fiscally responsible and setting clear priorities. Authentic engagement includes holding office hours and citizen town halls throughout the year, not just showing up to ribbon cuttings and planned events. Our community deserves more transparency with FCPS' \$2.7 billion operating fund. I will prioritize reducing large class sizes, not with one-time fixes the way my opponents have, but with long-term planning. I will prioritize competitive teacher salaries. Our teachers' salaries have fallen behind compared to surrounding counties. Instead of making it a real priority, the Board raised their own salary by 60%.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents, why should voters choose you?

My opponents either do not have children or have not had children in FCPS for a long time. As the mother of children in graduating classes of 2023, 2025, 2027, I bring a unique insight into our school system. I bring an Economics degree when we face a shortfall of over \$70 million for FY17 due to failing to enact budgeting best practices.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

Part of the growing divide comes from parallel decisions made by the Board of Supervisors. It is imperative to have a new School Board that can build trust with the Board of Supervisors. With a better relationship, the two Boards can work together for our community and all of our children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Under current leadership, the achievement gap continues to be substantial. We cannot keep electing the same people and expect a different result. We need to provide a rigorous curriculum to all students and allocate resources for objective gains. We need to work with the community to provide wraparound services and empower parents to help their children at home.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS' projected shortfall is 2.5% of the operating budget. The current School Board took five years to hire an auditor general and has refused to do a line of business review. My top priority is to ensure clear metrics and objectivity so we base cuts on educational impact and effectiveness, not on bias and popularity. We also need to look at FCPS' contract procurement practices. I will bring leadership to the Board so we cut waste and inefficiency, not proven programs.



Manar Jean-Jacques

Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 31

Family: My family is originally from Egypt and my wonderful husband, Thierry, is from Haiti. We have been married for 7 years and we have two children, Thomas is 2 and Mary is 8 months.

Education: I hold a B.A. in Sociology from George Mason University

Occupation and relevant experience: I work at the Refugee Processing Center as a contractor for the Department of State. Since starting there 8 years ago, I have been known as a solution-driven, out-of-the box thinker with creative solutions. In addition to my analytical skills, I bring a parent's perspective to the board. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the best education for children in FCPS.

Community involvement: I participate in local volunteer opportunities through my church, I spent time on the ground in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina assisting in disaster relief efforts and I spent time helping at an orphanage in my husband's hometown of Port-au-Prince, Haiti after the devastating earthquake in 2010.

Website: www.ManarForFairfax.com

Email address: Manar@manarforfairfax.com

Twitter handle: @Manar4FFX

Name favorite endorsements: I have an official endorsement by the GOP and Arab Community Radio.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

As a first generation American, I cherish the importance of a government that listens to its people. I feel called to serve in my local government because the current school board is unresponsive to its constituents. I plan on involving the community in all board-related matters through regular town halls, PTA meetings, setting special time aside to meet with teachers and making myself readily available to the residents of Fairfax County via office hours, email and phone.

2. Why should voters choose you?

The incumbent at-large candidates either have children that have already graduated from FCPS or do not have children at all, the only way they take their decisions home with them is in their pockets. As a mom of two future FCPS students, my priority is ensuring the highest quality education for FCPS students so that our children have the best opportunities to thrive and be successful. I understand the frustration parents have with class size disparity, the need for more rigor in the classroom and the need for parents of this next generation to be respected and recognized as the primary educators of their children ... that is a perspective needed on the school board and it is one that the incumbents cannot offer.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

It is important to keep rigor, class size disparity and staffing formulas at the heart of the conversation with the community. Working together, we can create solutions that address our county's challenges and needs. It is the responsibility of FCPS to educate all students in the county and shape them into productive members of the community.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Coming from an immigrant family and working daily to bring refugees to the U.S., I understand what education means for those seeking a better future for themselves and their families in the U.S. I am very concerned that the needle hasn't moved on closing the minority achievement gap in years, despite \$65 million being poured into projects targeting the issue. The current board continually changes the name of these projects (Excel, PSI, Momentum, etc), making it nearly impossible to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE



Ryan McElveen

INCUMBENT

Town of residence: McLean

Age: 29

Family: Married
Education: M.A. in International Affairs, Columbia University; B.A. in Anthropology and East Asian Studies, The University of Virginia

Offices held, dates: School Board Member, At-large, January 2012-Present

Occupation and relevant experience: Assistant Director, John L. Thornton China Center, The Brookings Institution

Website: www.ryanforschoolboard.com

Email address: voteryanmc@gmail.com

Twitter handle: @RyanLMcElveen

Name three endorsements: Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax County Democratic Committee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

I will remain a voice for the voiceless who don't know how to best resolve their concerns with the school system. One of my first actions on the Board was to push for the creation of a system to allow community members to submit YouTube video testimonies to be shown at our meetings. We became the first public Board in the country to implement this kind of feedback mechanism. I will continue engaging with the community in a transparent manner and with an open mind while working to improve our communications.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

I have a track record of bringing significant and positive change to the school system in a short amount of time. I have focused on three major initiatives — improving school food (including the creation of a fresh food pilot kitchen and the system-wide study of our Food and Nutrition Services program), the internationalization working group (to help guide our work on implementing world languages and study-abroad opportunities), and the alumni networking action group (which has helped us map a path to create an FCPS alumni association). In my next term, I hope to see all of these efforts through to implementation.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

FCPS is a tale of two counties, and this unquestionably has emerged as one of our biggest challenges. In Fairfax, more than half of our elementary schools sit above the socio-economic tipping point, proving that Fairfax has moved beyond localized poverty. To address this divide, the School Board must maintain its long-standing practice of targeting these communities with needs-based funding. Co-location of school and human services facilities, as has been piloted in Mount Vernon, is another way to tackle this community issue without spending significant additional county resources.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Our Board has remained steadfast in our support of needy students and those who speak other languages at home by directing budget resources to these at-risk populations. We have made expanding early childhood opportunities one of our priorities, because we know that investments in the education of students at an early age pay dividends later in their educational careers (thus saving our system money). We must continue working with the county to creatively fund and house these programs.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to

SEE QUESTIONNAIRES, NEXT PAGE



School Board Candidates At-Large

Ilryong Moon

INCUMBENT
Town of residence: Fairfax

Age: 58
Family: Father of 2 FCPS graduates

Education: Harvard, B.A.; William and Mary Law School, J.D.

Offices held, dates: At-Large School Board Member, 07/1995-12/1995 & 2004-present; Braddock District School Board Member 1996-1999; At-Large Planning Commissioner 2000-2003.

Occupation and relevant experience: Attorney since 1984; Member, Board of Directors, American Youth Philharmonic Orchestras, 2000-2010; Member, Board of Directors, Montessori School of Northern Virginia, 1994-1995

Community involvement: Youth soccer coaching, Fairfax-Falls Church Regional Council of the United Way, Police Chief's Diversity Council.

Website: www.moon4schools.com
Email address: moon@moon4schools.com
Twitter handle: @Moon4Schools

Name three favorite endorsements: My family, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, and Democratic Party

QUESTIONS:
1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

We should prepare our students for global competition. They will not only lead our country in the future, but must be able to compete with the students from the other nations. I want Fairfax County to be the best place to live, work, and raise children. We need good teachers and must support them. We should challenge our students to do their best, meet their individual needs, and provide them with a broad curriculum, including in STEM and foreign language education.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents; why should voters choose you?

Experience and unique perspectives. I have served on the school board for 16 years, including 3 years as chairman and 2 years as vice chairman, and also chaired budget, governance, personnel, and policy committees. Furthermore, I bring unique perspectives as an immigrant grown up in poverty, an English language learner, an attorney, and a small business owner.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

All students should have resources per their needs. We should work more closely with the parents to help their children succeed. For the parents with language, cultural, or employment barriers, we should reach out to them more proactively. All students should have adequate access to digital devices and internet capability. We must also work with the County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on housing issues not to concentrate high poverty students on certain areas.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

Adequate resources, closer work with families, and high expectations for all students are needed. I support needs-based staffing. Resources should follow students' needs whether in opportunities, special education, or learning English as a second language. We need to equip, train, and educate parents to help their children succeed. Also, everyone should have high expectations for all students. We should expand early childhood education opportunities, working with the County, State, private sector, and community organizations.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

A community consensus on the school funding level should be built. I support the superintendent's work with the budget task force to gather commu-



Burnette G. Scarboro

Town of residence: Alexandria (Fairfax County)

Age: Over 21
Family: Luther, husband; Children – Syreeta, Seneca and Stefanie

Education: Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC; NOVA Community College; and George Mason University, Fairfax, VA.

Offices held, dates: No elected office held

Occupation and relevant experience: Fairfax County Public Schools – Family Engagement Representative; African Heritage Early Literacy Project Leader. Co-founder South County Youth Network a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Member, Lt. Governor's Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success

Community involvement: Northern VA District PTA Director; Member, VA State PTA Board; Member, Chairman Bulova's Ad Hoc Police Review Committee; Coordinator, West Potomac-Mount Vernon School-Community Coalition

Website: www.burnette4schoolboard.com
Email address: friendsofburnette@gmail.com
Twitter handle:

Name three favorite endorsements: Dr. Larry Bussey; The Faith Community; and Mattie Palmore, Community Activist

QUESTIONS:
1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

My desire to have equitable education for all students drives me to run, along with character education in all school pyramids.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponent(s) and why should voters choose you?

Voters should choose me because I am embedded in the school system as an employee; family oriented and believe that students and families should not be judged by their geographical location.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

First, we need to address the increase in families placing their children in private schools or homeschooling; second, the economic divide is a direct correlation of the type of businesses in a community, i.e., fast food establishments vs. Fortune 500; and, third – work on changing the mindset of judging others by zip codes.

4. How will you address the achievement gap?

The achievement gap should not exist. The history of public education clearly shows that that public education was not designed for people of color. The achievement gap came on the scene when schools were integrated. I can only address the problem when all stakeholders understand why the problem exists.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS and the BOS must work together to develop strategies to bring more businesses into the area and reduce the reliance on real estate taxes. Teachers know where cuts can be made and that is the group that I would begin my inquiries.

6. What value does FCPS add for taxpayers who do not have children in the schools?

A school system with a stellar reputation is sought by businesses and former school graduates to return and give back to the community. Taxpayers want to see "more bang for their bucks." Elect me to the school board and you'll see the plan in action!



Theodore J. "Ted" Velkoff

INCUMBENT
Town of Residence: Chantilly

Age: 61
Family: Wife, Dr. Patricia Velkoff; Daughters Catherine (South Lakes H.S. 2007), Elizabeth (Chantilly H.S. 2009)

Offices held, dates: At-Large member of the Fairfax County School Board, January 2012 to present. Have served as Vice Chairman of the Board, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Budget Committee.

Occupation and relevant experience: Senior Software Architect at Integrity One Partners, Reston VA; previously with Lockheed Martin and IBM in Manassas, VA. M.A., Computer Science, Indiana University; M. Music, Conducting, Indiana University; B. Music, Composition, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Community involvement: PTSA President, Chantilly H.S.; PTA Treasurer, Chantilly H.S., Rocky Run M.S., Poplar Tree E.S.; Treasurer, Pleasant Valley Preschool, Girl Scout Troup 2829. Volunteer, stage manager and occasional human prop, Fairfax Ballet.

Website: http://www.tv4sb.org
Email address: ted@tv4sb.org
Twitter handle: @TedVelkoff

Name three favorite endorsements: Supervisor John Foust, Senator Chap Petersen, Delegate Ken Plum.

QUESTIONS:
1. What is one issue that defines your call to serve, why does it matter, and how will you tackle it?

Eliminate high stakes testing and replace with authentic assessments. We must restore the joy of teaching and learning that comes from projects, inquiry and communication. Recently inaugurated Portrait of a Graduate defines success not in terms of what students know, but what they can do with what they know.

2. What distinguishes you from your opponents and why should voters choose you?

I am proud of the work accomplished by the board of which I have been a member for the past four years. We hired a visionary and transformational leader in Dr. Karen Garza. We made much-needed changes to student discipline practices; solved the high school start time problem; and instituted full-day instruction in elementary schools on Mondays. My opponents have seldom, if ever, attended school board meetings or work sessions, and appear to have been motivated solely by disagreement with one action of the board last May. I have been an effective member of the school board by building relationships and brokering agreements on potentially contentious policy decisions.

3. How will you address the growing economic divide in county schools?

We need to expand innovative programs in schools throughout the county, especially those in economically challenged communities. We must insist on rigorous instruction for all children in all schools, whether wealthy or poor, gifted or disadvantaged. I am deeply opposed to the punitive accountability measures imposed by the state and federal government, which are counterproductive. I am just as deeply committed to the principle that we in FCPS must do everything we can to meet the needs of all children.

4. How to address the achievement gap?

The most important thing we can do is to achieve universal pre-school in Fairfax County. Nobel Prize economist James Heckman has demonstrated that high quality pre-school yields a 7 to 1 return on investment in less remediation and discipline issues over the career of a student.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS



QUESTIONNAIRES CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE AND THIS PAGE

Manar Jean-Jacques

evaluate the effectiveness of the programs. I would begin addressing the achievement gap by engaging teachers in the conversation and seeking their expertise.

5. More than half of the county budget is devoted to the local school system with a significant budget gap looming, both for FCPS and Fairfax County. What steps would you take to manage the gap and to fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

If elected, I would like to put a motion before the board to vote on giving back the 60% raise they voted themselves in the midst of this budget gap. I would also like to look at outsourcing FCPS jobs that do not directly impact the education of children inside the classroom. Outsourcing gives businesses in the community an opportunity to thrive and frees up money that we would have been paying into pensions to now be redirected back into the classroom.

Ryan McElveen

fund the needs of the school system? What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

FCPS cannot remain the system it is today at current levels of funding, and we won't realize that we've hit the breaking point until it's too late. It is well past time to diversify local revenue streams.

Beyond Fairfax, the School Board must take advocacy to the next level by coalition building with similar, like-minded districts and umbrella organizations throughout the state to push for a change to our state funding mechanisms. Additionally, both Boards need to continue exploring legal recourse to obtain the education funding guaranteed by the Virginia constitution.

Ilryong Moon

nity input. Both the School Board and the Board of Supervisors need to know where the community stands. We should also review our programs, practices, and operations to find savings. My priorities are to increase teacher salaries, lower class sizes, and challenge all students to do their best and prepare them for the postsecondary education and employment.

Ted Velkoff

and Fairfax County. What are the top priorities and what could be cut?

Because Virginia's antiquated form of government concentrates power in Richmond and marginalizes Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors and School Board are pitted against each other by design. The Supervisors control school revenue; the School Board controls school spending. The County Executive proposes a revenue-based budget; the Superintendent proposes a needs-based budget.

The County Executive has told FCPS to "live within its means." In accordance with that budget guidance, the Superintendent will have to cut \$72M from the operating budget. The School Board has closed similar gaps by increasing class size and limiting employee compensation. This year I will not support a budget that is balanced on the backs of our employees.

Questionnaires have been edited for length. Full questionnaires are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com click on Elections.

Neither Peter Marchetti nor Robert Copeland, both candidates for Fairfax County School Board At Large, returned their questionnaires for publication.

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Top Restaurants for Carb-Loading Before Big Race

The Marine Corps Marathon is this weekend—here are a few top spots for getting your starch on.

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

For many area athletes, it's all over but the shouting — and the running of 26.2 miles during Sunday's Marine Corps Marathon. In advance of the big race, runners will need to load up on carbs of all kinds in order to have enough fuel to propel them all over the District of Columbia with 30,000 of their closest friends. Here are three top picks.

Hard Times Café, 1404 King St.

Admittedly, a chili joint may not sound like quite the appropriate venue for a big pre-race meal, but Hard Times turns the tables a bit with its chili mac. The "mac" is the important part here — spaghetti serves as the base for your chili of choice. If you're new to Hard Times, ask for a taster — and if you're running the next day, maybe lay off the spiciest varieties. The Texas and vegetarian chilis may be your best bets; your non-running friends might be willing to give you a bite of their Cincinnati or Terlingua concoctions so you can see what you're missing.

While spaghetti is of course the traditional carb of choice for these sorts of events, it's not the only one of import on Hard Times' menu. If you're looking for something a little different — but still marathon-friendly — give their "chili taters" a try. Again, choose

your favorite chili, this time served atop a bed of tater tots. Cheese, sour cream, tomatoes, and the like are optional, but you'll be running 26.2 miles the next day. So why not?

Thai Peppers, 2018 Mt. Vernon Ave.

When it comes right down to it, Thai food makes for an excellent prerace meal. It might not seem so at first — some of the dishes can be spicy or too heavy in advance of a long stretch on your feet the next day — but give Thai Peppers' menu a closer review. Pad Thai. Drunken noodles. Fried rice. A plethora of entrees served with jasmine or brown rice. There are starches everywhere you look if you only know what to look for.

For a filling, hearty meal that won't weigh you down, give the Pad-Pak-Ruam (a mixed-vegetable dish) a try with your choice of protein (chicken, beef, pork, shrimp, or tofu). If you're craving something with a little more octane, you can't beat Thai Peppers' curries. Their Pa-Nang curry certainly stands out, and isn't quite as spicy (and therefore more run-friendly) than some of the other varieties.

Bugsy's Pizza, 111 King St.

Known best for its sports bar and deep-dish pizzas, Buggy's has quite an array of pasta options, as well — perfect for someone looking to go the distance the next day



PHOTO BY HOPE NELSON/THE GAZETTE

Bugsy's Pizza may be known more for its pies and sports bar than its pasta, but give the spaghetti with tomato basil cream sauce a try.

and fuel up in the classic Italian manner. From alfredo to marinara, parmigiana to primavera, Buggy's knows its way around all of carby greats.

One of the menu's standouts is the spaghetti with tomato basil cream sauce. At first blush, a cream sauce may seem a bit heavy the night before a race, but this one is heavy on the tomato and basil and lighter on the cream. The result is a flavorful melding of tomato-based tang and a smooth undertone

that really sets the dish apart. For a non-dairy-based meal, consider one of the linguines (the restaurant offers several seafood varieties as well as a vegetable version), which will give you all of the starch and protein with less of the guilt.

See you at the finish line!

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

Whimsy & Wonderment'

Set for Nov. 7-8

BY KIM ALLEN KLUGE
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

How does one create parody in music, especially in instrumental music where one doesn't have the benefit of using words and language? How does one create satire, sarcasm or

MUSINGS FROM THE MAESTRO

the macabre in music? Stravinsky and Prokofiev were masters in this arena, and I have always felt a strong kinship between their music and Danny Elfman's scores to the Tim Burton movies. So I wasn't at all surprised when I heard Elfman mention that these two composers were the strongest influence on his music. Recently when speaking with Richard Kraft (Elfman's agent) I learned that Stravinsky's "Soldier's Tale" was absolutely Elfman's favorite piece of music. This was merely an intuition on



my part when I programmed these pieces a year ago.

If you listen closely to these composers you can hear that they all delight in creating simple melodies and then slightly distorting them to create the desired effect of parody, sarcasm or the macabre. They manipulate these simple melodies through changes in the metric accents (by putting the em-PHA-sis on the wrong notes), or by slipping in a surprise repetition of a musical motive (creating musical em-PHA-sis-PHA-sis), or by using an unusual range of an instrument or striking juxtapositions of instruments (very high trumpet against extremely low clarinet). They delight in creating melodic caricatures — skewing the melodies a bit to give them a fresh sound — but a sound that often shocked audiences. Prokofiev and Stravinsky were

the "bad boys" of music in the early 20th century. Elfman and Burton would undoubtedly be flattered to have the same designation today.

See you at the concerts!

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Apple Brandy Distilling. Through Oct. 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Distillery, 5513 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the process of apple brandy distilling. Admission to the distillery is included in the cost of admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which is \$9-17. Visit www.mountvernon.org/distillery.

Coopering Demonstrations. Through Oct. 23, 1-5 p.m. at George Washington's Distillery, 5513 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Master cooper Marshall Scheetz will be on-site for coopering demonstrations. Watch as broad axes, planes, and drawknives are used to craft barrel staves, which are then heated and bent into shape, and held together with hoops or bands. Admission to the distillery is included in the cost of admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon, which is \$9-17. Visit www.mountvernon.org/distillery.

Athenaeum Invitational Exhibition. Through Oct. 25, 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.

"Artifact" Exhibit. Through Oct. 25, 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.

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

"Seven Deadlies." Through Oct. 31, 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 envy, and pride. Free. Visit www.convergence.org for more.

Sugar Shack's Halloween Goat Scavenger Hunt. Through Oct. 31, at various locations. Sugar Shack is hiding 31 goat figurines around Alexandria. Each of the small goats are worth 12 donuts, and there will be five larger goats worth bigger swag packs. Hints will be posted daily during the second half of the month. Most goats are hidden in local shops, restaurants, and parks. Free. Call 703-577-9023 for more.

Immanuel Pumpkin Patch. Through Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill, 3606 Seminary Road. At this fundraiser find pumpkins, gourds, baked goods, hearty soups, and autumn crafts. All profits go to charity. Free admission. Visit www.icoh.net for more.

"Skeletons: Exploring Under the Surface." Through Nov. 1, Thursdays 12-6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays 12-9 p.m.; and Sundays 12-6 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Experience 2D and 3D artwork in a wide range of mediums that digs deeper and discover what is "under there," literally and figuratively. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org for more.

Sheila Harrington: "Each Day is a Celebration." Through Nov. 1, during gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Artist Sheila Harrington is inspired by the

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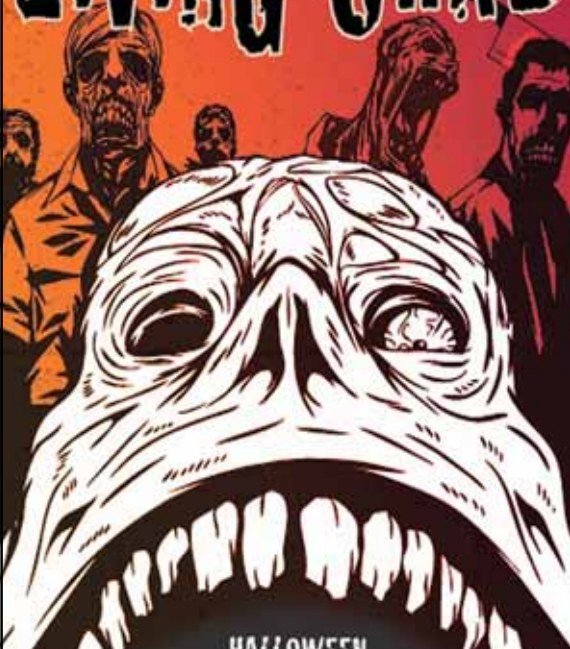
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ENTERTAINMENT

cyclical, seasonal changes of life, how human beings respond, and the juxtaposition of the natural and man-made. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

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 to view some of the area's attractions. Tickets are \$28 roundtrip and \$14 one-way for adults. Children under 12 are \$16 roundtrip and \$8 one-way. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com/.

"Superstition and Belief." Gallery hours at The Art League, 155 N. Union St. Artists explore myth, religion, belief, fantasy, and dreams. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

"Painting the Line, Drawing the Paint." Through Nov. 8 at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive. This show that will include works by Ann Schlesinger, daughter of Jim and Rachel Schlesinger. Free. Visit www.nvcc.edu for more.

"Safari." Through Nov. 15, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Resident fiber artists display work inspired by the wild. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.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 children younger

than 5. To view the historic stereoview images as well as the modern 3-D anaglyphs, visit www.mountvernon.org/3D.

Young at Art Juried Art Show.

Through Nov. 20, 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 an 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.

"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.

PHOTO '15.

Through Nov. 29, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 155 N. Union St. Senior Curator and Head of the Department of Photographs at The National Gallery of Art Sarah Greenough will jury the "PHOTO '15" exhibit. Thirty-one fine art photographers will display their work. Admission to the gallery is free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

"Nature's Journey."

Through Jan. 2, at American Horticultural Society, 7931 East Boulevard Drive. Darlene Kaplan will exhibit more than 60 of her original oriental brush paintings in a one-person art exhibition. Free.

Visit www.darlenekaplan.com for more.

"George Washington's Thanksgiving Proclamation."

Through Jan. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This exhibit will detail the history of Thanksgiving at Mount Vernon. On October 3, 1789, Washington issued his Thanksgiving proclamation, designating for "the People of the United States a day of public thanks-giving." Admission to the exhibit is included in Mount Vernon ticket prices. Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, and free for children ages 5 and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org/thanksgiving.

VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital Art Show.

Through Jan. 31 at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital, 2660 Duke St. The artwork is on display in waiting areas and examination rooms as a part of Del Ray Artisans' Gallery Without Walls program. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for more.

"Ancient Art of Movement."

1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Carmen Shippy, retired professional dancer, teaches a series designed for ages 50 and above. Movements are designed to strengthen core muscles and increase flexibility. Adjustments will be made for those with physical limitations. First lesson in the series is free for non-center members. To continue lessons, a yearly membership to all Senior Center programs is \$48. Call 703-765-4573 to sign up.

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.leafendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Alexandria Cars and 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 with the National Kidney Foundation for a program highlighting a different artist each month for a year.

Civil War Sundays.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

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Photography Workshop. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery on 105 N. Union St. Photographers and enthusiasts of all skill levels are invited to share work, ideas, and questions at this free workshop held on the last Sunday of each month, except December. No reservations. Call 703-683-2205.

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

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint our live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

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

THURSDAY/OCT. 22

“Alexandria Surrenders to the British.” 7 p.m. at John Strongbow’s Great Hall, 710 King St. Have dinner followed by a discussion of Alexandria’s submission to the British at the end of the War of 1812. Free. Call 703-329-3075 or email herald@medievalmadness.com to register.

The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Players Series. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum: Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Attend a concert titled “Music for Brass Ensemble” featuring members of The U.S. Air Force Ceremonial Brass led by Technical Sgt. Christine Purdue. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 23

Brewing History: Beer Tasting, Tour and Dinner. 6:30-9:45 p.m. at The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about beer-making in Colonial America with a mansion tour, beer brewing demonstration, beer tasting and four-course dinner. Tickets are \$100. To register, visit www.mountvernon.org.

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Watch “Harvest of Empire,” a documentary that exposes the direct connection between the long history of U.S. intervention in Latin America and the immigration crisis we face today, as part of the Immigration Film Festival. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.immigrationfilmfest.org or www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

Short Film Screenings. 7 p.m. at Virginia Tech School of Public and International Affairs, 1021 Prince St. As part of the Immigration Film Festival watch “I am Ayotzinapa,” about Mexican artists commemorating missing students believed to have been kidnapped by government militias; “Ger Kler: A Journey of Untold Strength,” about a young team of students documenting the migration from refugee camps in Burma and Thailand to the U.S. Three other short films will also be screened. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.immigrationfilmfest.org or www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

Ghost and Graveyard Special Halloween Tour. 7-9 p.m. at



PHOTO BY DAVID McCLISTER

Musician Webb Wilder will open for Dave Alvin & Phil Alvin with The Guilty Ones on Oct. 31 at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are 29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Alexandria Colonial Tours will end its special one-hour Halloween tour in the very room where the “Female Stranger” died at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com for reservations.

Taste for Giving. 7-10 p.m. at Patent and Trade Office, 600 Dulany St. A selection of Alexandria’s restaurants will offer tastes from their menus, beer (Port City Brewing Company) and wine (North Mountain Vineyards), music (Megan and the Dads), and both live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$75. Visit www.tasteforgiving.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-24

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Elementary school-aged children and younger may participate in the hunt and will receive a toy pumpkin. The event will also feature Halloween crafts, food and drink, ghost stories and a costume parade. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$12 for children participating in the hunt. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org or contact John Christiansen at 703-548-1789 or contact@leafendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 24

Heritage Craft Sale. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. The Belles Craft Sale and Marketplace Café features handmade items, a “select treasures”

sale, and a bake sale/cafe. Free to attend. Visit www.heritagechurchva.org for more.

Library Bicycle Ride. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Alexandria Library is hosting its third annual bicycle tour of all Alexandria Library locations. Bring your bike and join library staff for a leisurely 2-hour loop. Free. Registration required at www.bit.ly/alexlibrarybiketour.

Behind the Scenes: Curator’s Tour at Carlyle House. 10-11 a.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Join a guided tour of the Carlyle Mansions with curator Helen Wirka. Wirka will take visitors on a private tour of the museum focusing on selected objects in the collection and their history, use and how they tell the story of John Carlyle, his family and friends like George Washington. Tickets are \$20. Call 703-549-2997 for more.

Family FieldFest. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Multi-Purpose Athletic Field, 1820 Limerick St. The first-ever Family FieldFest will have activities for children and adults, including pumpkin carving, face painting, live music and free demonstrations from local companies with a focus on healthy and sustainable living. Free. Visit www.VolunteerAlexandria.org for more.

International Festival. 12-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. The international cuisine area will feature Thai, Ethiopian, Armenian, Afghan, American and more available for purchase. Guests are invited to come dressed in ethnic clothing and otherwise showcase heritage. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Hallowe’en Pumpkin Hunt. 1:30

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MVCCT Presents 'Mary Poppins'

Mount Vernon Community Children's Theatre will give six performances of the classic Disney musical "Mary Poppins." On Oct. 30, Nov. 6, and Nov. 7, there will be a 7:30 p.m. performance; a 1:30 p.m. performance on Oct. 31, and 3 p.m. performances on Nov. 1 and Nov. 8. The play will be performed on the Bryant Alternative High School stage, 2709 Popkins Lane. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the door and online at www.mvcct.org.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Visit These Houses of Worship

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mass Schedule

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

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and 3:30 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Children are invited to search the grounds for toy-filled pumpkins. Guests will also find crafts, a sticker station, temporary tattoos, refreshments, ghost stories, and more. Tickets are \$12 for children in advance, \$15 at the door. Tickets for adults are \$5. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

Raven's Night. 5 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. "Raven's Night" is a Halloween costume party featuring belly dance performances, a dinner concert, live music and more. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

Fearless Fifteeners Young Adult Author Panel. 5 p.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. Six young adults authors: Maggie Lehrman, author of "The Cost of all Things;" Sharon Roat, author of "Between the Notes;" Marci Lyn Curtis, author of "The One Thing;" Kim Liggett, author of "Blood and Salt;" Cordelia Jensen, author of "Skyscraping;" and Lauren Gibaldi, author of "The Night We Said Yes" will discuss their books. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com for more.

David Brock in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Organist and Alexandria native Davide Brock will perform music by St. Paul's Organist-Choirmasters Grant Hellmers and that of Handel, Pachelbel, Bach, Rodeckleing and more. Free. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-25

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pioneer Farm in George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Celebrate the beginning of autumn

with the family at Mount Vernon with activities including wagon rides, apple-roasting and a straw bale maze. The event is included with purchase of admission to Mount Vernon; tickets are \$17 for adults, \$9 for children, \$16 for seniors and free for children 5 years and younger. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 25

600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. 1 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. St. Crispin's Day, is the 600th Anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. The Oxford University Society, DC Chapter will host a screening of Kenneth Branagh's 1989 film, "Henry V." Historian Ed Furgol will discuss King Henry V, and the importance and historical significance on Agincourt. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Doggy Trick or Treat. 1-3 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. Pick up a goody bag and a map of over 25 participating businesses at The Dog Park, then lead your pet around Old Town to find treats. The Dog Park will also host a costume contest for individuals and groups—groups can be all dogs, or dogs with humans. Winners receive gift certificates to The Dog Park. Free. Call 703-888-2818 for more.

Mad Science! 1-3:30 p.m. at The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 South Fairfax St. This 45-minute tour starts every 30 minutes and features historic medicines with surprising side effects. Admission is \$6 for people age 5 and up. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

19th Annual Del Ray Halloween

Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue, south of Bellefonte Avenue. Awards will be given for Best Pet Costume, Best Decorated Business, Best Decorated Home, and Best Decorated Stroller. Awards will be presented in a brief ceremony after the parade, along with refreshments and goodie bags for the children. Adults, children and dogs are all welcome to join. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com for more.

New Dominion Chorale Concert. 4 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 4915 East Campus Lane. New Dominion Chorale, under the direction of Founder and Artistic Director Thomas Beveridge, will open its 25th season with a performance of Gioachino Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle." Ticket prices are \$30 (general admission), \$25 (seniors), and \$15 (youth ages 5-25). Group tickets are available for groups of 10 or more at \$20 per ticket. Visit www.newdominion.org for more.

"The List" Screening. 5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. "The List" is about Kirk Johnson, a young American fighting to save thousands of Iraqis whose lives are in danger because they worked for the U.S. to help rebuild Iraq. Tickets are \$6. Visit www.immigrationfilmfest.org or www.IMFilmFest.eventbrite.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 27

AARP Alexandria Dinner Club. 4-8 p.m. at Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St. AARP has reserved the private room at Clyde's at Mark Center for members and their guests to enjoy dinner together with a 20 percent discount. Email VRasmussen@aarp.org for more.

Tree Selection and Care. 7-8:30

ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. Kirsten Buhls, extension agent for Alexandria, will be speaking on Tree Selection and Care. Topics will include the benefits of native trees, planting trees to reduce your energy costs, improving soil, correcting drainage issues, and removing underperforming plants. Free. Visit www.mgnv.org or call 703-228-6414 for more.

OCT. 27-DEC. 27

Green Spring Gardens Art Show. Gallery hours at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Carol Higgs works in batik, oil, watercolor, and collage. Painter Joan Wolfe works with acrylic and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein use watercolors. Free. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 28

Daniel Bennett Group Concert. 7 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Jazz group from New York celebrated the release of "The Mystery at Clown Castle." Free. Visit www.danielbennetgroup.com for more.

Symphony Orchestra League of Alexandria's Sixth Annual Uncorked. 7-9 p.m. at a private residence, West Alexandria. Attend an evening of wine and cheese pairings, catered by River Bend Bistro to benefit Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$50. Contact Genevieve Moorhouse at 703-401-5902 or gmoorhouse@mcnearney.com.

"Slave Labor in the Capital." 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Bob Arnebeck, will give a presentation titled, "Slave Labor in the Capital: Building Washington's Iconic Federal Landmarks." Admission for members of the Arlington Historical Society is free, \$5 for nonmembers. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 29

Doggy Howl-o-ween Costume Contest. Registration begins at 5 p.m. at Jackson 20, 480 King St. Celebrate Halloween and the finale of the Doggy Happy Hour series with Doggy Howl-o-ween, where up to 50 contestants compete in a costume contest benefitting the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA). Guests can purchase Halloween-themed cocktails and light fare. Complimentary doggy treats and fresh water bowls will be available for all canine friends. Registration is \$15. Visit www.jackson20.com for more.

Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Treaty of Ghent Ball on April 18, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors. Visit www.alexandriava.gov.

MacMaster and Leahy Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Fiddlers and husband-wife-duo Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy make a stop on a nationwide tour. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Players Series. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. Attend "An Evening of Music for Jazz Combo" featuring members of the Airmen of Note led by Technical Sgt. Tedd Baker. Free. Call 202-767-5658 or visit www.uasfband.af.mil for more.

OCT. 29-DEC 13

Mike McConnell Exhibit. During gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Mike McConnell was a commercial illustrator who recently dedicated himself to fine art. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 30

Boo! It's Halloween. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Public Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children 2-5, accompanied by an adult, are invited to participate in a Halloween-themed storytime with songs and other early literacy activities. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/

branches/mw.

Trick or Treating at Mount Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Take part in a scavenger hunt stopping at 12 locations on the estate. All trick-or-treaters are invited to join in the children's costume parade around the mansion at 5 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the best "George" and "Martha" costumes. Admission is \$10 for ages 10 and up, \$5 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Ancestors and Good Spirits: Rhythm and Roots Players. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate West African culture

through music. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Bark or Treat Halloween Canine Cruise. 7 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company invites guests and their costumed dogs to cruise around the Potomac River on this 60-minute ride, set to some classic Halloween tunes. Halloween doggie treats will be provided and a photographer will be on hand. Tickets are \$16 for adults \$10 for children and dogs ride for free. Visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

The David Bromberg Band. 8 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Bromberg Band celebrates the release of their latest

album "Only Slightly Mad." Tickets are \$49.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 30-31

Poe in Alexandria. 8-9:15 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Actor David Keltz re-creates Edgar Allan Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before he died. The program always includes a story or two such as "The Black Cat," "The Cask of Amontillado," or "The Tell-Tale Heart," along with well-known poems "The Raven" and "El Dorado." Tickets are \$15. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

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ALEXANDRIA ROTARY FOUNDATION

ENTERTAINMENT

OCT. 30-NOV. 8

“Mary Poppins.” Various times as Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. Mount Vernon Community Children’s Theatre presents “Mary Poppins.” Tickets are \$12. Visit www.mvcc.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Ghosts and Goblins

Archaeological Tours. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. On Halloween Alexandria Archaeology is hosting an Open House at the Shuter’s Hill archaeological site located on the property behind the George Washington Masonic National Memorial. Alexandria archaeologists will be on hand to conduct site tours and show the latest finds at this late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century plantation site. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov for more.

Trick or Treat with the Boo-tiques.

11 a.m.-6 p.m. at various places in Old Town Alexandria. Dozens of shops of the Old Town Boutique District will be giving out treats to guests of all ages. Free. Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com.

Murder Mystery Dinner.

7 p.m. at The Grille at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. The Grille at Morrison House hosts “The Morrison House Murder Mystery.” Celebrate Halloween with a 1920s themed dinner and show where guests will participate in a murder mystery theater experience. Themed costumes are encouraged. The evening will start with live piano music and a cocktail hour, followed by a three-course dinner, with a choice of red or white wine and optional cocktails. Tickets are \$100 and include dinner, show, one cocktail, and one glass of wine. Visit www.thegrillealexandria.com for more.

Dave Alvin and Phil Alvin with Webb Wilder and The Guilty Ones. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Webb Wilder will open for Dave Alvin and Phil Alvin and The Guilty Ones. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Del Ray Artisans Halloween

Costume Party. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. at The Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This adults-only party will feature music, food and more. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 1

Art Show and Reception. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artists Carol Higgs, Joan Wolfe, and Erik and Caroline Hottenstein will celebrate a new exhibit opening Oct. 27. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

“Naked Mountain: The Delights and Challenges of Owning One of Virginia’s Natural Area Preserves.” 1 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Marcia S. Mabee will explain how Naked Mountain, a 284-acre property in Nelson County, Virginia came to be and the discoveries and obligations inherent within the preserve that continue to this day. Free. Visit www.vnps.org.

“PHOTO ‘15” Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 155 N. Union St. Celebrate the exhibit juried by Senior Curator and Head of the Department of Photographs at The National Gallery of Art Sarah Greenough. Thirty-one fine art photographers, who will display their work, will also be on hand. Greenough will give a juror’s talk and two awards will be presented. Free. Visit

www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

Book Club Meeting. 2:30 p.m. at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub at 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave. National Women’s History Museum’s monthly book club will read “A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation” by Catherine Allgor. Free, but reservations required. Visit www.nwhm.ticketleap.com/nwhm-book-club-dolley/.

Exhibit Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Celebrate former illustrator Mike McConnell’s new exhibit. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

U.S. Army Band Concert. 4:15 p.m. pre-concert talk, 5 p.m. performance at Christ the King Anglican Church, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The U.S. Army Brass Quintet & Friends will perform. Free. Call 703-535-6815 for more.

“Just Earl: The Life and Journey of Earl Francis Lloyd.” 6 p.m. at The Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. The Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame Project is producing the play, “Just Earl: The Life and Journey of Earl Francis Lloyd” written and directed by McKenna Dilworth of The Morning Bishop Theatre Playhouse, Inc. The play focuses on the life of the first African American to play in the NBA, his childhood in Alexandria and the life lessons he learned along the way. Tickets are \$35. Call 571-217-9951.

All Saints’ Day. 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Grant Hellmers, Organist-Choirmaster of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, will direct the choir in an All Saints’ Sunday Choral Evensong. Free. Visit www.stpaulsalexandria.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 5

An Evening on John Singer

Sargent. 7 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Richard Ormond, former Director of London’s National Maritime Museum and former Deputy Director of London’s National Portrait Gallery, is also one of the world’s leading authorities on his great uncle and artist John Singer Sargent. Ormond will share anecdotes about and insights into the world of this leading portrait painter of the late 1800s. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Damon Fowler and Delbert McClinton. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Guitarist Damon Fowler opens for The Delbert McClinton Band. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com.

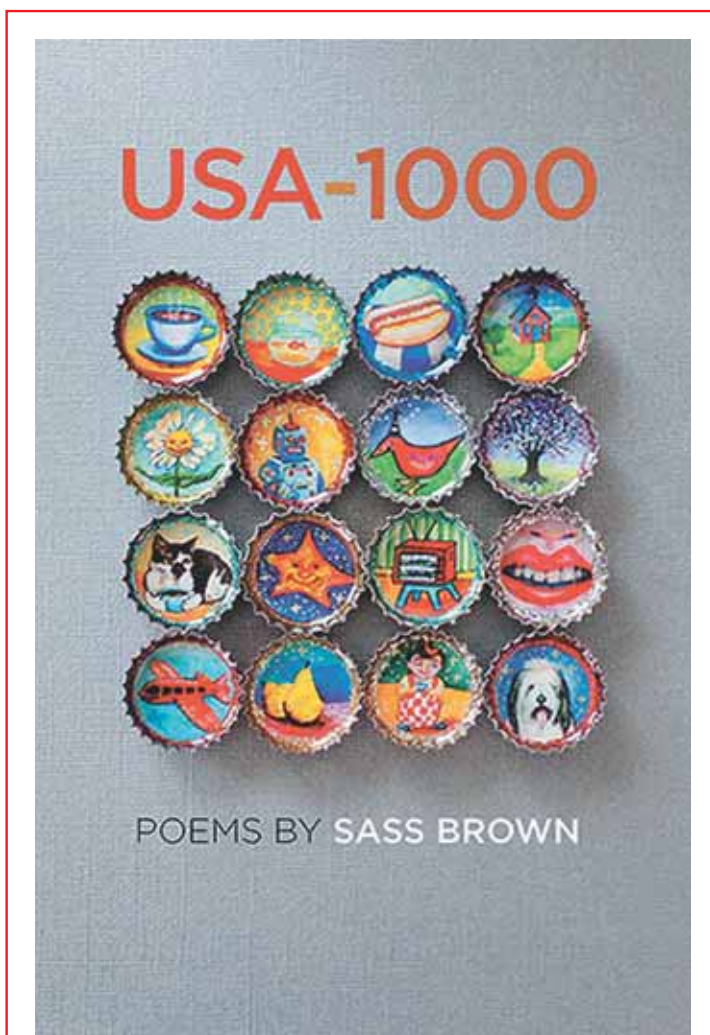
THURSDAY-SATURDAY/NOV. 5-7

Duncan Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6:45 p.m. on Thursday; 10 a.m.-5:45 p.m. on Friday; and 10 a.m.-2:45 p.m. on Saturday at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Thousands of donated books, DVDs and CDs will be on sale. Free to attend. Visit www.friendsofduncanlibrary.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 6

ACPS 2020: Every Student Succeeds. 5:30-8 p.m. at Jefferson Houston School, 1501 Cameron St. In honor of the launch of “Every Student Succeeds,” Alexandria City Public Schools is inviting the community to a celebration featuring circus performances, live music, food and more. Free. Call 703-619-8003 for more.

“Under \$100: Affordable Masterpieces” Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate the opening of an exhibit showcasing artwork for \$100 or less. Patrons can own and take



Poet and Artist Celebrate ‘USA-1000’

Poet Sass Brown will celebrate the release of “USA-1000,” a compilation of poetry on loss and longing in pop culture, on Thursday, Nov. 12, 6-9 p.m.. Sculptor Lisa Schumaier, who created the cover art for “USA-1000” using recycled bottle caps with tiny paintings inside, will also be on-site for the party. This event, part of The Torpedo Factory’s 2nd Thursday Art Night, will include a reading, book signing, open studios, and refreshments. The Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 N. Union St. Admission is free. Visit www.sassbrown.com, www.keenthings.com, or www.torpedofactory.org to learn more.

home art when purchased. Free admission. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Art on Tap. 7-10 p.m. at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Craft beers from local breweries have been paired with a work of art from an Art League instructor. Local restaurants have chosen a brew/artwork coupling to serve as their muse to create a complementary appetizer. Tickets are \$35, \$45 after Oct. 3. Visit www.theartleague.org.

The Recessionists. 8 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. An improv group accepts suggestions from the crowd for scenes and games. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

NOV. 6-26

“Under \$100: Affordable Masterpieces.” During gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans showcases artwork for \$100 or less. Patrons can own and take home art when purchased. Free admission. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 6-8

Alexandria Film Festival. AMC Hoffman Center 22, 206 Swamp Fox Road and Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The Alexandria Film Festival brings together short and feature length films of all genres from emerging and established, local and international filmmakers. Last

year, the festival brought more than 60 films and 50 filmmakers to Alexandria from as far as Sri Lanka and Uruguay. All ticketed events will be held at the AMC Hoffman Theater 22, with Beatley Central Library offering free programs to the public. Visit www.alexandriafilm.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 7

“Beyond the Battlefield.” 10 a.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Lee-Fendall House will offer “Beyond the Battlefield,” a guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town. Participants will see locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. Stops on the tour will include locations to be featured in the upcoming PBS drama, “Mercy Street,” which airs in January 2016. Advance tickets are \$15, or \$20 on the day of the program. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

Fort Ward Museum Veteran’s Day Tours. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Two 90-minute tours will be conducted by Fort Ward staff member Kevin Moriarty, who will portray a Union army veteran reminiscing about his military service at Fort Ward during the Civil War. Participants will learn about Civil War veterans organizations, the history of Fort Ward, army life in the Civil War Defenses of Washington, and the design and construction of Civil War

forts. Highlights include the reconstructed Officers’ Hut and ceremonial entrance gate, and the fort’s fully restored Northwest bastion. Free. Call 703-746-4848.

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.

SCAN’s 14th Annual Toast to Hope. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. “Toast for Hope” is an opportunity to support Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN). Tickets start at \$75. Visit www.scanva.org.

Kitty Donohoe and Kristin Rebecca. 7 p.m. at Focus Alexandria/Church of St. Clement, 1701 N. Quaker Lane. Ann Arbor-based songwriter and Michigan Emmy recipient Kitty Donohoe is joined by Maryland based songwriter Kristin Rebecca. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. Visit www.focumusic.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 7-8

“Whimsy & Wonderment.” 8 p.m. on Saturday at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive; 3 p.m. on Sunday at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra presents the music of Danny Elfman and classical music that shaped Elfman’s style. Tickets are \$20-80 for adults, \$10 for students and \$5 for youth. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 8

Ruffled Wreath Workshop. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Create a Christmas wreath with felt ruffled rosettes. Adults only. Tickets are \$22. Call 703-642-5173 for more.

The Navy Concert Band. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Navy Concert Band will perform at part of the “Music in the Gallery Series.” Hear traditional and modern music for woodwinds and brass. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Capitol Steps Benefit. 5 p.m. at U.S. PTO Madison Auditorium, 600 Dulany St. The Capitol Steps Benefit is a performance featuring satire based on headlines. Tickets are \$80. Visit www.ucmagency.org for more.

Pianist George Winston. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. This concert by solo pianist George Winston will be accompanied by a food drive benefitting Carpenter’s Shelter. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

MONDAY/NOV. 9

Dance Class: The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. class and 7:45-8:30 p.m. dancing at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Ballroom dance professional Gary Stephans teaches the Fox Trot, Waltz, Tango, Swing, Salsa, Meringue, Rumba, Cha-Cha, and Samba. Tickets are \$15. Contact garystephans@me.com or 703-505-5998.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Volunteer Awards Celebration. 6 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. The 21st annual Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria celebration will honor Gene Steuerle, for The Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Achievement Award; and Isabella Lovain, for The Youth Volunteer Service Award. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org for more.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MAPLE

West Potomac running back Daiimon Cleveland, seen earlier this season, scored five touchdowns against Annandale on Oct. 16.

Mount Vernon Football Falls To South County

The Mount Vernon football team dropped to 2-5, including 0-4 in Conference 7 with a 55-6 loss to South County on Oct. 16 in Lorton. The Majors are No. 21 in the latest VHSL 6A North region power rankings. The top 16 teams make the playoffs.

Mount Vernon will return to action at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 23 with a road game against Woodson.

West Potomac Field Hockey Earns Regional Berth

The No. 5 seed West Potomac field hockey team earned a berth in the 6A North region tournament by defeating No. 4 West Springfield 2-0 on Tuesday in the opening round of the Conference 7 tournament at WSHS.

The Wolverines will travel to face No. 1 T.C. Williams in the conference semifinals at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22 at T.C. Wil-

iams High School's Minnie Howard Campus.

West Potomac RB Cleveland Scores Five Touchdowns

West Potomac sophomore running back Daiimon Cleveland scored five touchdowns against Annandale on Oct. 16, helping the Wolverines beat the Atoms 54-30 at WPHS.

Cleveland produced season highs for carries (23), yards (143) and touchdowns as West Potomac improved to 5-2, including 2-2 in Conference 7. Cleveland now has 91 carries for 528 yards and 10 touchdowns for the season. Justine Annan carried 19 times for 93 yards and a touchdown against Annandale. Quarterback Mark Ellis completed 15 of 27 passes for 204 yards and two scores. He was intercepted once.

CJ Burch had five receptions for 73 yards and a touchdown. Khalil Williams Diggins caught two passes for 75 yards and a score.

West Potomac is tied for No. 8 in the latest VHSL 6A North region power rankings. The top 16 teams make the playoffs.

West Potomac will travel to face T.C. Williams at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24.

MV Field Hockey Falls in Quarterfinals

Majors end season with 2-0 loss to Lake Braddock.

BY JORDAN SMALL
FOR THE GAZETTE

In their second matchup of the season, the Lake Braddock field hockey team beat Mount Vernon on Tuesday to advance to the second round of the Conference 7 tournament and secure a berth in the 6A North region tournament.

The No. 2 seed Bruins beat the No. 7 Majors 2-0 on two goals from junior

midfielder Haley Hopkins. Both teams went back and forth for most of the game before Hopkins tapped in a goal with 13:38 remaining in the game. Just over four minutes later, Hopkins scored again.

Goalies senior Katherine Thompson and junior Ciara Weets combined for the shut-out.

"We got the win," Lake Braddock head coach Marie Bounds Bullock said. "It wasn't our best. We came out a little flat, but we picked it up and kept putting the ball in the net."

While the first half was very even, Lake Braddock took hold of the second half and picked up two goals. When given opportunities in the circle, the Bruins were able to

put the ball away.

"Braddock finished in the circle," Mount Vernon head coach Jessica Edwards said. "We didn't finish our shots. They finished their shots and had more of a presence in the circle."

With the loss, Mount Vernon's season came to an end. The Majors finished with a 3-13 record and one conference victory.

"I thought our girls played really well overall," Edwards said. "We had shots on goal and we had corners. Overall it was a pretty evenly matched game. Braddock was just able to put the ball away."

Lake Braddock (11-5-1) will host No. 3 Woodson (8-7-2) in the conference semifinals at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22.

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.

TUESDAY/OCT. 27

"Understanding and Caring for a Person with Dementia." 7-8:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. This class will discuss the different types of dementia, common behaviors, the reasons for troubling behaviors, communication techniques, and services available for caregivers. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults.

SATURDAY/OCT. 31

Free Halloween Cab Rides. 10 p.m.-4 a.m. During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. Visit www.soberide.com for more.

MONDAY/NOV. 9

"Little Known Secrets of Paying for College." 6:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. This workshop will teach parents about financial aid strategies, sources for scholarships, and more. Free. Visit www.thecollegefundingcoach.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

School Open House. 9-11 a.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Childcare available. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

Grist Mill Park Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony.

10 a.m. at 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Grist Mill's athletic field #5 was renamed in 2012 to honor Lt. Col. Smith (Retired), who while working as a civilian employee of the Army was killed when American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon on 9/11. The new synthetic field was a gift from his wife, Ann. Call 703-324-8662.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

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

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

United Community Ministries seeks volunteers to act as food pantry assistants, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office admin/data entry, community outreach, ESL teachers and co-teachers, and teacher aides. Visit www.ucmagency.org/volunteer-at-ucm.html.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** needs a volunteer to maintain a fish aquarium upkeep and instructors for the following classes: Basic Guitar, Italian, Pottery and Ballroom Dance. Call 703-324-5406 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults for more.

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

Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/, or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

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

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Marguerite Chapman has graduated from The Loomis Chaffee School (Windsor, Conn.).

Joshua Thorne was awarded the Hartshorn Award for the 2015-2016 school year by the University of Mount Union (Alliance, Ohio).

Melanie Wiscount has received a Doctor of Education in educational technology from Wilkes University (Wilkes-Barre, Pa.).

Walter H. Archambo III, Aaron L. Busby, and **Craig M. Donovan** have graduated from Park University (Park, Mo.).

Mary Grace Vivian Killmer, a member of the class of 2017 at Wofford College (Spartanburg, S.C.), will study abroad in Vienna, Austria for the fall 2015 semester.

Getting In

FROM PAGE 15

sitting in a classroom and seeing how the teachers teach and how the students react with one another," said Herridge. "Talk to the math teacher. Have a conversation with the coach."

If a school boasts hands-on learning, are students engaged in experiments in a science class or are they sitting behind desks and looking at a chalkboard?

A tour, Herridge said, is crucial for students and parents. "When they see other students and meet the teacher they'll be able to say, 'Yes this is a good place for me,' or '... we can take this school off our list because it doesn't make sense for our family.'"

"Most tours will give you an 'aha' moment that clarifies why independent education is worth the investment," added Benita Cathey, director of admissions, Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria.

Patti Culbreth, head of school, Grace Episcopal School, said, "A look at the curriculum to include the 'specials' offered will give you an overview of the opportunities for your child."

Delve deeper than a tour organized by the school, however. "Talk to parents [of students] who already attend the school," Mulligan. "If you don't know anyone, ask



COURTESY OF SSSAS

Independent schools such as St. Stephen's & St. Agnes in Alexandria require an extensive application process aimed at familiarizing the applicant and the school with one another.

the admissions office to provide a few families you can contact."

EVEN AFTER A FAMILY has whittled down their list of potential schools, the road to admission can still be long. Competition can be fierce, with many schools receiving 10 applications for every available slot. Most require not only an application, but test scores, essays, interviews and letters of recommendation, a process that can baffle many parents.

In preparation for the interview, admissions officials suggest applicants think about their own interests and attitudes toward academics.

"It's a good idea for a student to reflect

on what they love about school, what they like to do outside of the classroom and how they see themselves as part of the school community," said Jon Kunz, director of middle and upper school admission, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "We don't approach it as an interview. It's more of a one-on-one conversation. We want them to be themselves and to be comfortable."

Students should use specific and concrete examples to demonstrate passions and talents. "For example, if a student is passionate about science they might say, 'I started this project on my own and created this amazing invention.' That helps us see their passion," said Linda Stratton director of communications, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School.

"We're looking for students who are intellectually curious and excited about taking advantage of the opportunities here," Kunz added. "We're looking for students who demonstrate a strong sense of character who are respectful and ... who care about the world around them."

Admissions officials also want to evaluate whether applicants have the potential to meet the school's expectations, and scrutinize scores on tests such as the SSAT (Secondary School Admissions Test) and ISEE (Independent School Entrance Examination) and transcripts, looking for strong and consistent academic achievement.

In the face of such a confusing and com-

petitive process, many parents have turned to educational consultants for advice and assistance.

Getting to know the child helps educational consultants identify schools that are a good match. "Does the student do better in a hands-on environment or sitting at desk and the teacher writes on a blackboard?" said Leigh Ann Cahill of Independent School Options, an educational consulting firm in Alexandria. "We have so many wonderful schools in the area. We come up with five to seven schools that are the best fit for the family."

AFTER HELPING families decide where to apply, education consultants sit down with families to review test scores, transcripts, teacher evaluations and other application requirements.

"It's important to have an open and honest conversation with the parent," said Cahill, a former teacher. She stressed that educational consultants cannot sway admissions decisions. Instead, "we look at the areas of strength. Rarely do you have a child who doesn't have any areas of strength."

In the end, everyone's goal is to find the best matches for both the students and the schools. "It's something that the parents don't have any control over," said Cahill. "One thing we really try hard to work with the parent is seeing this as a learning adventure. ... Their child will end up in a school somewhere."

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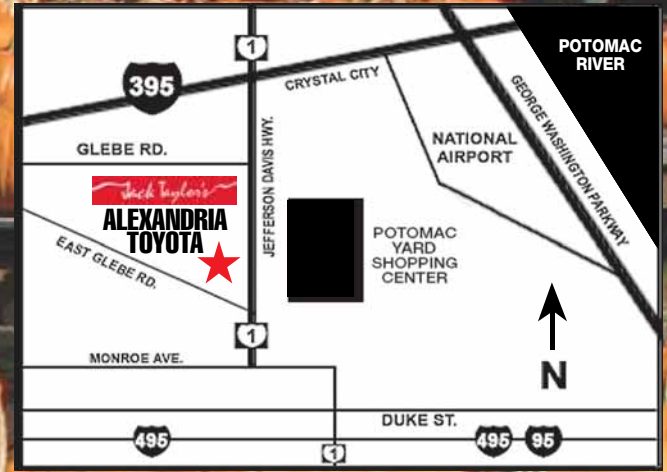
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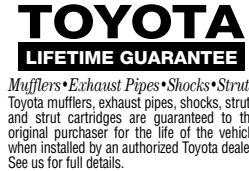
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\$15.00 OFF with purchase of \$100.00 - \$199.99
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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE COMPLIMENTARY MULTI-POINT INSPECTION

Includes: inspect tires, brakes, wipers, lights, belts & hoses & fluid levels.

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TOYOTA GENUINE SERVICE 30000 MILES FACTORY RECOMMENDED SERVICE \$159.99

Synthetic \$10 More

Includes: Change engine oil & filter (up to 5 qts), rotate tires, inspect wear and adjust pressure, measure brake pad thickness & rotor runout, replace cabin air filter (if equipped), replace engine air filter, reset maintenance reminder light (if applicable) and multi-point vehicle inspection.

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Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior.

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9429 Forest Haven Dr **\$699,000**
Amazing Price Reduction! Spectacular Contemporary Near River!
 Cross private bridge into wooded oasis of peace and tranquility! Stunning contemporary custom crafted with soaring cathedral ceilings and expansive glass walls to capitalize on uniquely beautiful environment. Home is in pristine condition and has been updated throughout including magnificent custom kitchen and baths. Prime location just steps from river in Yacht Haven Estates. Uniquely attractive property! **OPEN SUN 10/25, 1-4! GW Pky S past Estate; L-Forest Haven.**



9412 Ferry Landing Ct **\$789,000**
Classic Williamsburg Colonial!
 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! **OPEN SUN 10/25, 1-4! GW Pky S, past Estate; L-Old Mt Vernon Rd; L-Ferry Landing Ct**



9408 Brambly Ln
\$1,140,000
New Home Feel!
 Builder's showcase home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading custom builder. Home has striking open floor plan accentuated by high ceilings & large windows which bring light to every corner of the home. Fab features include 3 luxuriously finished levels, open kitchen-family room, spacious master suite. Treetop views from deck. 3 car garage. Impossible to duplicate at even close to this price!



8708 Plymouth Rd
\$1,499,000
Classic American Four Square Design—Special Pre-Construction Price!
 Best of both worlds—classic American Four Square exterior combined with stunning modern floor plan and amenities. Numerous features include open floor plan, high ceilings, top line kitchen and baths. Prime location on half acre level lot in popular Plymouth Haven. Pre-construction contract provides maximum opportunity to customize and discounted price!



8824 Stratford Lane
\$949,000
Best New Home Value in Stratford
 Brand new Wakefield home soon to be finished on gorgeous quarter acre tract just off the GW Pky in prestigious Stratford Landing! Three finished levels, high ceilings, hand finished hardwood floors, luxurious master suite, gourmet kitchen with 42" cabinets and granite counters, full walk-out lower level & two car garage.



1503 Shenandoah Rd
\$475,000
Amazing Value!
 Fabulous Hollin Hall property—updated and expanded Rambler. Home is pristine condition and features include: magnificent 26x16 glass walled family room, hardwood floors, 2 full baths & 3 bedrooms. Large deck overlooks gorgeous fenced backyard. Prime location in Wayneswood School area. Easy walk to nearby stores and restaurants. Great price!



9312 Heather Glen
\$599,000
Stunning Opportunity!
7107 Richard Casey Ct
\$779,500
Victorian Classic—Exceptional Price!



8720 Plymouth Road
\$1,599,000
Brand New Home!
4008 Roberson Blvd
\$649,900
A True Gem!



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