



PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Opening Day for Farmer's Market

The drizzly Opening Day still welcomed a steady stream of customers to the Farmer's Market.



Another sign of spring is the return of the McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmer's Market. Opening Day was on May 4. The Farmer's Market will be open every Wednesday from 8 a.m.-noon, through Dec. 16, in the parking lot of the Sherwood Hall Regional Library.



John Lawrence, R.N., works for INOVA Mount Vernon, which is across the street from the Farmer's Market. During the month of May, the hospital will have a booth offering screenings and information about strokes. May is National Stroke Awareness Month.



The Sarpong Family, of Alexandria, shopped for farm fresh greens. Vendors come from no farther than 125 miles to sell at the market.



Booths were filled with pesticide free herbs and produce, jellies, dairy products and eggs, breads and pastries, honey, meat, and plants.

In Compliance, In Advance

School Board members respond to Obama transgender bathroom guidance.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

When a student in Fairfax County Public Schools identifies as transgender and they bring it to the attention of their school staff, the school brings in the student's parents and together they work out a tailored bathroom plan: where to use single-stall facilities on campus that will make the student feel most comfortable.

That's the current practice in the school system with a population that exceeds 186,000 students, according to School Board At-Large member Ryan McElveen.

McElveen believes it's also in compliance with new national guidance released Friday, May 13 by the Obama administration, that transgender students should be allowed to use the bathroom of the sex with which they identify.

The bathroom issue was already a controversial topic a year ago, when the previous board voted in favor of adding "gender identity" to its nondiscrimination policy. Even though, as McElveen and others admitted, the policy change would not change anything in practice in the schools.

"We knew it was the right thing to do at the time," McElveen said in an interview after Friday's announcement. "[The guidance] clarifies we were on the right path then."

Opponents voiced concerns for

the privacy and safety of their students. They worried about other students taking advantage of the bathroom policy to harass their children. But so far, McElveen said, he hasn't heard a single case of someone identifying as transgender then getting into a bathroom and causing trouble.

After the board's policy change, they appointed a special consultant to review the school system's policies and practices regarding discrimination and transgender students. The consultant is meant to compare FCPS with best practices in other schools around the country and report back as to how closely Fairfax County complies.

The consultant's work is ongoing, McElveen said, without giving an estimated completion date. "We continue to work to ensure we're in compliance, that all our students are afforded the same respect and dignity based out our policies."

Fairfax County Public Schools didn't release a formal response to the guidance. And when contacted, Chairman Pat Hynes declined to speak on behalf of the entire board.

"It's my personal opinion," Hynes said in an email, "that the board's decision of last spring to include gender identity in the FCPS non-discrimination policy is in line with the guidelines just issued by the Obama administration."

SEE ALREADY IN, PAGE 22

"We knew it was the right thing to do at the time."

— School Board At-Large member Ryan McElveen

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From left, Del. Dave Albo (R-42), Tom Harvey, Judy Harvey, Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) and Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) present a General Assembly resolution honoring Tom Harvey's mother Ruth Harvey and Hollin Hall Automotive.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

From left, Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), Paul Blunt, Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) present a General Assembly resolution honoring Blunt's father Kenneth and Traveler's Motel.

Lawmakers Report on Assembly at Chamber Breakfast

Diversifying the economy, expanding Medicaid and school funding discussed.

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) introduced himself as a rare breed, an elected official in northern Virginia who happens to also be a Republican.

Albo and four other Virginia senators and delegates agreed on at least one topic during the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce May Business Breakfast, held May 12 at the Belle Haven Country Club: the need to diversify Virginia's, and Fairfax County's, economic base.

Albo referenced pre-Recession northern Virginia as a leader in internet and telecommunications, among other industries.

In looking to diversify the new economy, Albo said he thinks "the hero in this could be Fairfax," with a brand new translational medicine facility scheduled to open on the old Exxon property off Gallows Road.

Albo said Virginia is investing \$35 million in the project, that will require matching. With a new hub of medicine and technology in place, he said, the regional economy can get "back where we were, as a leader."

Albo had a differing viewpoint from Gov. Terry McAuliffe's blanket restoration of 260,000 convicts' voting rights by signing a single sheet of paper. Albo said he planned

to file a suit calling for more restraint and analysis of cases one by one.

The 42nd District delegate additionally addressed the ongoing debate of voting to expand Medicaid. With the federal government footing 90 percent of the bill, it would offer an Obamacare standard to cover low income or poor individuals aged 19 through 64.

"How come streets aren't paved, class sizes aren't smaller," Albo recalled from correspondence with constituents. "If we expand Medicaid, none of those things is going to happen. Yes, it's a wonderful thing to do, no, we can't afford it."

State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) is among the Democrats who have spoken out strongly in favor of expanding Medicaid, however the chamber's question-and-answer format for the breakfast didn't facilitate a debate on the subject.

Surovell instead spoke about the new

proffer law, which he said keeps new projects closer to their funding source. He also briefly explained his hope to expand the Metro Blue Line that has yet to be endorsed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Surovell answered another question that asked about changing the Local Composite Index, the tool that helps decide how much money goes back to schools each year.

Though he said the "aging formula has its inequities," he also said it would be nearly impossible to change it, due to the way it supports other smaller jurisdictions in the Commonwealth.

Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) reminded the audience that in this year's budget the Assembly passed, there is \$16.8 million more than expected going back to schools who are "struggling for every dollar."

Sickles also touted the \$76 million added for mental health services and updated

waiver program for individuals with disabilities to acquire services.

One application of the waivers is supporting individuals who were once residents of the Northern Virginia Training Center off Braddock Road in Fairfax.

Following the resolution of a lawsuit against the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state was forced to close the majority of its regional training centers in favor of placing people into small group homes in the community. All staff and residents have vacated the Northern Virginia Training Center as of March 2016.

"It has proven to work," Sickles said regarding group home services. "We're staying on the path to do that."



Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) explains how the new proffer law will require projects funded through proffers be related to developments in the same area as the funding source.



Inova Mount Vernon Hospital CEO Deborah Addo accepts a special General Assembly resolution recognizing the hospital from (from left) Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), Del. Paul Krizek (D-44), Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) and Del. Dave Albo (R-42) at the May 12 Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce business breakfast.



Del. Dave Albo (R-42) believes the hero in diversifying the economy of Fairfax County going forward could be Fairfax and the new Inova Translational Medicine center scheduled to open on the former Exxon property off Gallows Road.

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Let's face it, Fairfax County is struggling.

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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.

FARMERS MARKET OPEN

The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market is open for the year at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 8 a.m.-noon every Wednesday, through Dec. 16. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; dairy products and eggs; herbs; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets for more.

SEPT. 10-21

2016 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Online registration will open July 5. Registration forms will be mailed to previous participants in late June and will be available at community and senior centers, senior residences and event venues. The registration fee of \$12, which covers multiple events, remains the same. Three events have an added fee, ten pin bowling, golf and orienteering. Deadline for registering is Aug. 27 (by mail), Sept. 3 (online). Call 703-830-5604 or email nvso1982@gmail.com for more. To volunteer, call 703-403-5360.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety of service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

FRIDAY/MAY 20

Bike to Work Day 2016. Join more than 17,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. Register or locate specific start/end times for all pit stops at biketoworkmetrodc.org.

Scholarship Application Deadline.

The board of directors of the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association has announced a call for applications for the 2016 Jackson Casey Memorial Scholarships, awarded annually to two graduating seniors (one male, one female) who at some point in their athletic careers participated on a Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association team. Each applicant is asked to submit a 1,200-word essay describing the life lessons they've learned through participating in athletics. Apply at fhyaa.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-noon. The Stratford Landing Citizens Association will hold a community yard sale.

TUESDAY/MAY 24

School Tour. 10-11:30 a.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. 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.

Business Networking. 6-7:30 p.m. at Burtons Grill, 6452 Old Beulah St., next to Wegman's. Join Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce for business networking. Bring plenty of business cards. Free for members of the Chamber and their guests, \$10

for others. Call 703-360-6925 or visit www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 31

Nomination Deadline. Each year, the Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Awards recognize county individuals and groups that dedicate time and energy to benefit the environment and support county environmental goals and initiatives. Award recipients are selected by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/awards.htm> for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 4

Whitman Annual Yard Sale. 8-11 a.m. in the Walt Whitman Middle School Parking Lot, 2500 Parkers Lane. The community is invited to participate as well. Sellers may bring gently used items and set their own prices. All profits are the sellers' to keep. Reserve a parking space for \$15 each and tables for \$5 each. Send requests to parentsforwhitman@gmail.com no later than June 2, 2016.

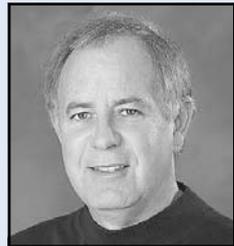
SUPPORT GROUPS

Family Support Group. 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the

month at Gartlan Center, 8119 Holland Road. Opportunity for discussion, information and support for families with members experiencing symptoms of mental illness. Professionally facilitated. Program varies, may include guest speakers, movies. Pre-registration is appreciated, but not required. Free. For more information contact Nga Nguyen at 703-799-2726, TTY 711.

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. **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 can be viewed at www.alz.org/nca.



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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alex./Wessynton \$794,900
3008 Doeg Indian Ct.
JUST LISTED! Spectacular, updated 5 BR, 3.5 BA contemporary w/well over \$300,000 of improvements. Kitchen & baths gutted and remodeled. Replacement windows. Hardwood floors refinished. Bsmt remodeled w/3rd full bath, Huge Rec Rm w/bar and double wine cooler. Huge picture windows look out over beautiful deck & stunning landscaped yard. Community pool, tennis, walking paths & water access thru a boat launch. This is a 10!



Alex./Wellington Manor \$745,000
1114 Arcturus Lane
Lovely, updated 2 level brick rambler w/4 BRs, 2.5 BAs on a large stunning lot in Wellington Manor - Wayneswood Elementary - Kitchen gutted & completely redone - Baths, roof, HVAC, windows all updated as well. 4 BRs on main level - Lower level has a large family rm, half bath (which can easily be expanded to a full bath), den, & large workshop. Walk to Shopping, 3 mins to G.W. Pkwy, 8 mins to Alex., (N) 10-12 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S) - GREAT BUY!



OPEN SUNDAY 1-4

Alex./Wessynton \$679,900
3301 Wessynton Way
Beautiful Contemporary Split on one of Wessynton's premiere lots backing to over 10 acres of pristine forest, teeming with wildlife and spectacular views. Roof, furnace, A/C, HWH, double pane windows replaced. Great, Great Value at this price. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Alexandria. Community pool, boat ramp and walking trails.



Alex./Riverside Estates \$649,900
8425 Mount Vernon Highway
Beautiful home w/over 4,000 sq ft & 2 level addition in lovely Riverside Estates. Great rm on main lvl w/gas fpl & wet bar. Adjacent family room w/wood-burning fpl. An office adjoins the gorgeous 20' x 32' master bedrm addition w/vaulted Douglas Fir ceiling & skylights. Library/studio on upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replaced 2011. Close to Fort Belvoir.



Alex./Sedgewick Forest \$559,000
4015 Gibbs Road
Large, lovely, updated 4 level split on a beautiful .46 acre lot - Large kitchen w/granite counters & ceramic tile floors - 3 upgraded baths - 2 fireplaces & upgraded DBL pane windows throughout - 2nd lower level offers utility rm, workshop & storage rm. Large double carport overlooks beautiful bkwd w/large shed/workshop w/electric power - 7 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N) - Great Home & Property!



Alex./Stratford Landing \$609,900
8720 Bluedale Street
Tremendous value in this remodeled and meticulously maintained 5 BR, 2.5 BA Split - Upgrades include: Kitchen, Baths, DBL Pane Windows, Roof & HVAC. Freshly painted interior, beautiful hdwd floors & a large deck overlooking a gorgeous, landscaped yard. - 15 minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & 10 mins to Old Town (N), along scenic G.W. Pkwy - Great Home!



Alex./Riverside Estates \$524,900
8412 Wagon Wheel Road
Beautifully maintained & updated Split w/4 finished levels - 5 BRs, 3 BAs, gas fireplace, sunroom addition, garage, deck overlooking lovely fenced backyard w/garden space & large shed. Roof & newly insulated attic & expanded concrete driveway in 2013 - Baths 2011, Kitchen 2010 - Double pane windows added in 2013-5. Minutes to Fort Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N), 25-35 mins to Ntl Airport, Pentagon and D.C. Turn Key & Great Price!



Alex./Sulgrave Manor \$479,000
8802 Adrienne Court
Lovely and charming 3 level split on a stunning .53 acre wooded lot and cul-de-sac. 3 BRs, 2 updated BAs, beautiful hardwood floors. Vaulted ceiling between living and dining rooms - scenic view of the wooded backyard and patio through a wall of windows. Large single garage - all this serenity, yet only 30 minutes south of D.C., 7 minutes (N) to Fort Belvoir.



Alex./Riverside \$544,900
8332 Wagon Wheel Road
Riverside Estates' most popular Colonial Model—5 BR, 3.5 BA w/3 finished levels, 2 FPLs, 1-car garage on a lovely lot. 5 large spacious BRs, refinished hdwd floors on main & upper levels plus new carpet on lower level. Freshly painted interior, new windows, siding & gutters. 6 mins to Fort Belvoir, (S), 15 mins to Old Town (N), & 27 mins to National Airport (N). This is a Gem!



SOLD

Alex./Riverside Estates \$519,000
8504 Wagon Wheel Road
Totally updated 5 BR, 3 BA Split - Updates: Kitchen w/Silestone, ceramic tile, SS, baths, furnace, A/C, HWH, replacement DBL pane windows, roof, 6-panel interior doors, refinished Hdwd floors, freshly painted interior. Large carport & shed plus stunning, large, fenced backyard. Ft. Belvoir 5 mins (S) & Old Town Alex, 15 mins (N). Phenomenal Value!

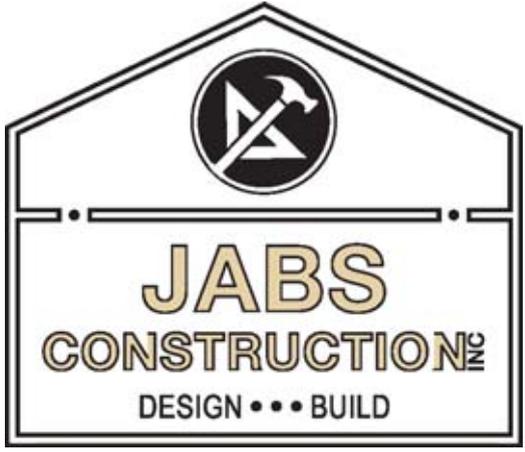


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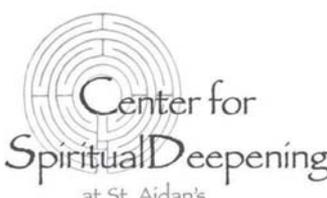
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NEWS

Female Firefighters Share Experiences

Offering to bring balance into gender issue.

BY TIM PETERSON
 THE GAZETTE

For five-year veteran firefighter-paramedic Alisha Reakoff, her “gender has been a non-issue” in her experience with the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department.

Reakoff stood before a crew of reporters and cameramen Wednesday morning, May 18, at Fire Station 8 in Annandale, where she’s assigned.

Behind her stood other female firefighters, paramedics and technicians, and male supporters from around the county.

Reakoff said they came out because they were “disheartened how the department is being portrayed publicly.”

Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department spokesman Willie Bailey said Reakoff contacted him about hosting the public statement at the end of last week. He attended the event but there was no comment or presence on behalf of Chief Richard Bowers, who Bailey said is out of town this week.

Following the death of firefighter-paramedic Nicole Mittendorff, comments from users claiming to be firefighters bullying Mittendorff on the message board Fairfax Underground came to light. Bowers launched an investigation into the bullying.

A sexual harassment suit against the department has also been filed by a female firefighter.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova announced Tuesday, May 17 that the supervisors would be directing the county executive to enlist a third party consultant to investigate the work environment of the Fire & Rescue Department.

The focus of the investigation, Bulova said in a statement, would be on “Equal employment issues, workforce morale, mental health assistance and communication issues. County staff will develop a more formal scope of work for this study. Fire and Rescue Chief Richie Bowers fully supports this initiative.”

But, as Reakoff repeatedly asserted to reporters at the short press event, she and her group weren’t there to discuss the depart-



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON
 THE GAZETTE

Firefighter-paramedic Alisha Reakoff, a member of Fire Station 8 in Annandale, wanted to tell positive stories about her experience with the Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department in light of an investigation of cyberbullying and the suicide of Nicole Mittendorff.



Twelve-year veteran EMS Technician Alyssa Vance of Frederick, Maryland praised the Fairfax Fire & Rescue Department for helping develop a custom work schedule for her to be able to care for her children.

ment or investigations, just their personal experiences.

“We’ve worked hard to earn the respect of citizens,” Reakoff said. “We want to see positive come back into the light.”

Reakoff said from the time she entered basic training with an all-male staff, through her employment with the department, she

SEE FIREFIGHTERS, PAGE 22

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Majestic poolside haven features an outdoor pool, hot tub, patio, screen porch, deck & gardens. Light-filled interior with 7 bedrooms & 6.5 baths, chef's kitchen, artist's studio & more.



YACHT HAVEN ESTATES \$1,395,000
4609 Dolphin Lane
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BOULEVARD ACRES \$1,395,000
8236 West Boulevard Drive
Grand colonial just steps from the Potomac River. Over 5,000 finished square feet with 5 bedrooms & 4.5 baths, chef's kitchen, game room, 3 main-level living rooms, gym & outdoor fireplace.



BEVERLY HILLS \$939,000
3305 Old Dominion Boulevard
Remodeled Cape Cod with breathtaking interior designed by premier local design group. 4 bedrooms, 2 full & 2 half baths, open-concept kitchen & family room, screen porch & deck.



KIRKSIDE \$939,000
2206 Traies Court
Totally turn-key, renovated colonial with 4 bedrooms & 3 full baths, including spa-like master bath with walk-through shower & air tub. Stunning chef's kitchen & sunroom with heated floors.



HUNTER'S MANOR \$849,000
1610 Noral Place
Spacious colonial on quiet cul-de-sac. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, sunny eat-in kitchen, office, formal living & dining rooms, cozy family room, expansive deck and welcoming front porch.



VILLAMAY \$899,000
1218 Villamay Boulevard
Stately Georgian colonial in beautiful Villamay. 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 9-foot ceilings and gleaming hardwood floors throughout. Gorgeous "secret garden" backyard and pool.



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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Taking Ownership of Their Health and Fitness

Nine women buy Curves franchise.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE GAZETTE

Curves, an international health and fitness franchise, has been in Alexandria for more than a decade. Until April of this year, the Alexandria Curves hosted its variety of 30-minute workouts and weight management programs from the Belle View Shopping Center. However, in the wake of the original owner's plan to sell or close down the club, a group of nine of its members banded together to buy the franchise. Last month, that Curves re-opened less than three miles away from its original location, in the Hollin Hall Shopping Center off Fort Hunt Road.

"As we transition to a member-owned women's fitness club, we moved to the Hollin Hall Shopping Center to take advantage of the stable, community-oriented environment they provide," said Cheryl Ellsworth, the president of Hollin Hall Curves. "This is very much in keeping with our club philosophy. We love our fresh and inviting new space that has plenty of sunlight, ample parking, and all the amenities of the Hollin Hall Shopping Center."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The new member-owners are (from left) Eileen Kent (in back), Cheryl Ellsworth, Marie Dickinson, Melissa Nielsen, Barbara Williams, Judy Born, Marta Calderon and Bernice Parker. Missing is Mary Ellen Hable.

Vice President Eileen Kent said the new space symbolizes the new, fresh outlook of this beloved Alexandria Curves.

"With the new structure, we felt as if we needed to have a fresh start in a new environment," Kent said. "We found that the Hollin Hall location was perfect for our new start and our needs. Everyone loves the new space. It is bright, inviting and is located in a community that has been very gracious in welcoming us to the area."

Since 1992, Curves franchises around the world have been helping women seeking

healthier lives with more time-efficient workouts and by building communities of women. The Hollin Hall Curves is one example of such a committed community. Where a relocation and major transition may hinder a lot of organizations, the membership of this one has remained mostly intact and stronger than ever.

"We have approximately 225 members and are delighted that virtually all of our members have made the short trip from the old club at Belle View to the new location at Hollin Hall," Ellsworth said.

On April 23, the new owners hosted a grand opening of the revamped Curves. Everyone was welcome, from existing members to Curves' new neighbors. The afternoon event included healthy snacks, prizes and camaraderie.

"The grand reopening was a total blast. We had about 65 or so people stop by," Kent said. "Many were members, but we were very happy to see potential new members come in to see what Curves is all about. We put flyers in many of the other Hollin Hall

shops and we hope that piqued some interest. We provided healthy snacks (cheese and fruit), beverages and raffled off prizes. It was interesting to see members in real clothes, as opposed to workout outfits."

Kent said that there will be promotions throughout the year, encouraging fresh faces to sign up as members. As growth continues, she added that the nine owners of Hollin Hall's newest addition have one simple goal in mind for the club: to remain dedicated to the continued and improved health of its members.

"Our goal is to grow our club and continue to provide a proven exercise program that is specifically for women," she said. "We want to encourage our members to maintain a healthy lifestyle and become as physically fit as possible."

Both Ellsworth and Kent encourage local women to look into Curves membership. It offers a full spectrum of classes and programs.

"We will be providing the same excellent 30-minute circuit workout, along with our weight management program, Jillian Michael's workouts, Zumba, and classes concentrating on 'body basics' — legs, core, arms and body balance," Kent said.

Ellsworth said all of the owners are grateful for the welcome it has received from Hollin Hall, as the neighborhood has made the move as seamless as possible.

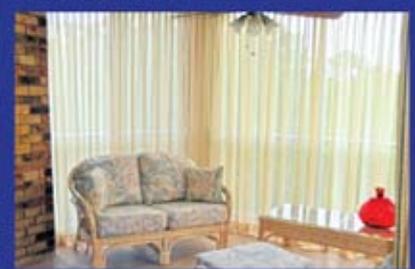
"We want to thank the Hollin Hall community for the warm welcome that they have extended to us," Ellsworth said.

For any woman interested in Curves membership at Hollin Hall, please visit the club online at <https://www.facebook.com/HollinHallCurves/> or call 703-721-2044. The fitness center is open every day from 7:30 a.m. through 8 p.m., with a two-hour closing every afternoon for lunch between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Help Odyssey of the Mind Team

Having succeeded at the Virginia State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament on April 16 at Menchville High School in Newport News, Va., the West Potomac High School team advances to the World Final Odyssey of the Mind Competition from May 25-28 at Iowa State University. More than 800 teams will be competing from more than 25 countries. The cost of the trip is more than \$1,000 per student; to help support the team, visit www.gofundme.com/va4354.

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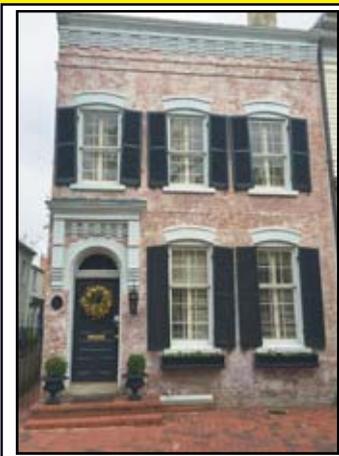
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Christine Garner
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Alexandria

400 Madison St. 3 Condos Open in Alexandria House • Condo 2108 - 3 BR, 2 BA. Lifetime water views of D.C. 91-ft. balcony. Offered at \$1,185,000. • Condo 509 - 2 BR, 2 BA. Fully renovated. Lovely E-S-W views, 81-ft. Balcony. Offered at \$648,000. • Condo 505 - 1 BR, 1 BA. 2 new appliances. Perfect Pied-à-terre. Offered at \$380,000. All Alexandria House amenities convey and include garage parking, 24/7 concierge, 2 stop lights to D.C., steps to Metro and Old Town.

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Lib Willey 703-362-7206



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Alexandria/Rosemont **\$1,049,000**

27 W Myrtle St. 3 level remodeled Cape w/1-car gar. Streaming natural light. Open fir plan. 3 BR, 3.5 BA. Summer entertaining a breeze w/bkyrd flagstone patio, deck & front porch w/pergola. Over 2,800 s.f. Features incld eat-in gourmet kit w/prof gas range, den, DR & LR w/gas fpl. Upr lvl Master BR w/Palladian windows & cath. ceiling. Mstr BA features dble vanities, sep whirlpool tub & ceramic tiling. Fin W/O LL w/2 rms suited for in-law suite/guests/ofc or den. Full BA. Wine cellar. Hardwood flrs, Recessed lights & freshly painted.

Sandy McConville 703-402-1567



COMING SOON

**Alexandria/
Land of Herbert**
\$585,000

3 Herbert St. Updated 3 lvl 3 BR 2.5 BA townhm. 1-car gar. Small enclave. Open fir pln. New HardiPlank siding. LR w/3-sided gas fpl. Custom built-in banquette. Gas cooking. Silestone cntrotps. Master Ste. Luxe BA w/sep spa shwr, soaking tub, dble vanities, cherry cabinetry & granite. Hall BA w/custom shower/tub enclosure & mirror. Hdwds, recessed lights, crown molding & more. Deck & patio. Cts to "The Avenue" & commuting routes.

Sandy McConville
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OPINION

In Search of Diversified Revenue

Fairfax County residents can expect to see meals tax question on November ballots.

Local governments pay for almost all of local services, including schools, by taxing a single industry, property owners.

In Fairfax County, property taxes pay for 65 percent of the budget. In Arlington, which has more revenue options as an urban county, property taxes pay for 57 percent of everything. In the City of Alexandria, property taxes pay for 58 percent.

EDITORIAL It costs more every year to provide a consistent level of services, and the sources of revenue available to local governments in Virginia are very limited, forcing an outsized reliance on property taxes. The reason is that localities in Virginia have only the power explicitly given to them by the General Assembly, and the General Assembly allows very few options for localities to collect revenue.

Alexandria and Arlington already have a 4 percent meals tax on top of the 6 percent sales tax, and it's evident that the robust restaurant scene in both areas has not suffered as a result. Would-be diners do not drive to Fairfax County to avoid the tax. But whether Fairfax County can collect a meals tax will be up to voters in November, pending the Board of Supervisors putting the question on the ballot.

A meals tax is not a silver bullet, but it does add one more source of revenue. A 4-cent meals tax is roughly equivalent to the 4-cent increase in property taxes that Fairfax County residents will face this year. But the property tax is levied on people with no relationship to their ability to pay. The meals tax is related to spending, a more progressive approach, and will also collect taxes from non-residents.

This is one of the wealthiest regions in the country, and the highly educated population

has high expectations. Schools, public safety, recreational facilities, transportation, human services and other services and facilities cannot be allowed to atrophy because real estate values are flat. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was correct to provide what Chairman Sharon Bulova called a "booster shot," mostly to schools but also to other needs in the county.

What is needed for the future is access to other, more diversified forms of taxes. While it is a pipe dream given the disposition of the General Assembly, what is really needed is to give localities a portion of the income tax. In the meantime, locals will have to press the state to pay for its fair share locally, and to allow increases in cigarette taxes and other possible sources of revenue.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County Could Eliminate BZA

To the Editor:

I agree with Mr. Spiegel's letter on "Evaluating Appointees" and do also have high hopes that Supervisor Storck does follow through with his stated commitment of appointing people to committees, boards, etc. that adhere to rules, regulations and codes.

Also in the May 12 Gazette there was an article regarding raising the meal tax. I offer the following as a potential way to help address both issues.

Do away with the Board of Zoning Appeals

(BZA) and their staff. Their random enforcement of zoning codes is total anarchy. We the Fairfax County residents are left in complete disillusionment as to what zoning codes apply and when. The BZA chairman, Mr. Ribble stated in the Feb. 24, 2016 BZA meeting "We can do whatever we want," when talking about zoning code enforcement. This shows a complete lack of respect for existing, approved by the Fairfax County residents, rules codes and regulations. I believe that this attitude would or should be inconsistent with Mr. Storck's "Statement of Commitment."

For example my case SP2015-MV-145 the BZA, under Mr. Ribble's guidance, permitted my neighbor to leave in place a storage shed

that by zoning code, due to its height, would be required to be located 12.5 feet from my property line, to reside 1.2 feet from my property line. Since then the neighbor has added to the roof line and reduced the distance to my property line to 8 inches.

Doing away with the BZA and the staff would save millions of dollars thus reducing at least in part the need for the meal tax increase. The zoning inspectors could stay and if a violation is noted by them the Sheriff could enforce adherence to the Fairfax County resident approved codes. If the codes need changing, let the residents approve the changes, not random decision-making by some elite appointed as

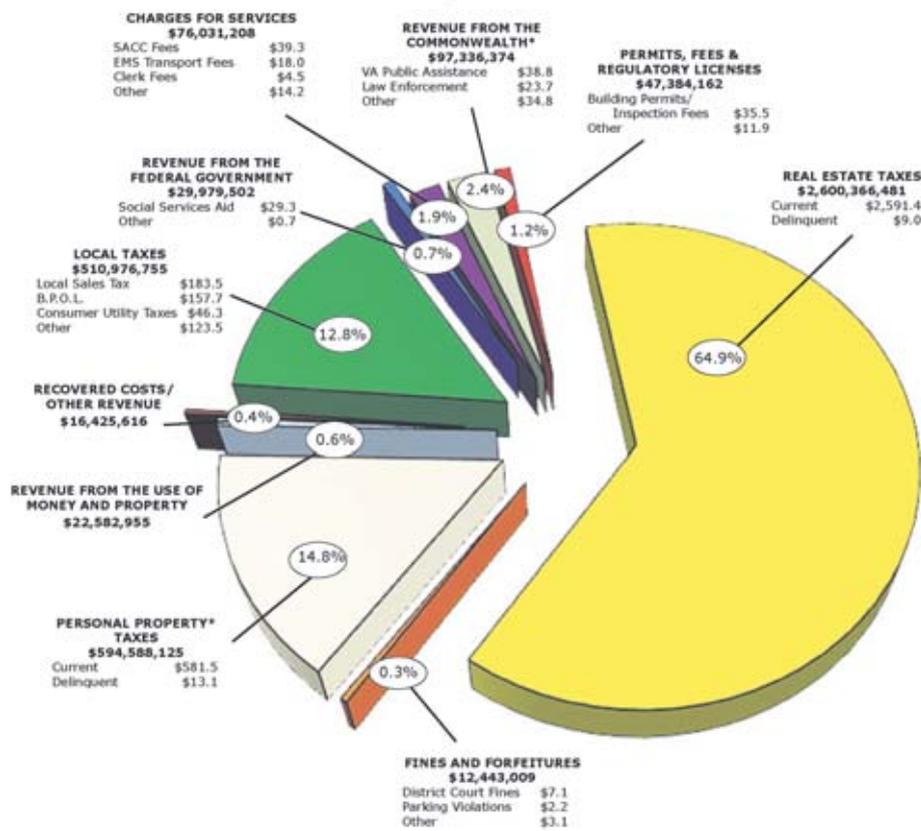
SEE LETTERS, PAGE 12

FY 2017 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

("WHERE IT COMES FROM")

(Subcategories in millions)



FY 2017 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS** = \$4,008,114,187 **

* For presentation purposes, Personal Property Taxes of \$211,313,944 that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 are included in the Personal Property Taxes category.

** Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.

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\$1,995,000 Susan Gray Chambers 703-203-9900 MLS # FX8632686



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Open House Sunday 1-4 pm Malvern Hills 501 Canterbury Lane, Alexandria VA
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Open House Sunday 2-4 pm Wayewood 8716 Eugene Place, Alexandria VA
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Fred Marcellus 703-629-0297 MLS # FX9652732



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Mount Zephyr 8433 Richmond Avenue, Alexandria VA
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OPINION

A Vivid 'Starlight Express'

BY ANGELA HOU
THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

“Starlight Express” was perfectly interpreted in West Potomac High School and vividly created the imaginary stories that happen among trains.

The play chronicled a dreamy and compelling painting: Rusty, the American steam engine who longs to enter the race and win; his poppa, the retired American champion steam engine; Pearl, the newest first class observation coach who instantly catches Rusty’s attention and eventually falls in love with him; and Electra, the bossy guy who is always being competitive and mean to Rusty. “Insisting on your dreams” seems to be the theme in the play. Dealing with the unconventional train figures was a challenge to the performers, but they

CAPPIES REVIEW interpreted the characters vividly and brought them into real life.

Rusty (David Jarzen) is a hard-working and positive figure since people can see his growth and progress through the whole show. With an emotional, traumatized glance and beautiful voice, David revealed the kindness and efforts Rusty held with in his heart and the talent Rusty showed in the final race. Furthermore, when Rusty was bullied by Electra, he still insisted to stand up and showed his faithfulness to his dreams with a powerful song. The small detail indicated David’s deep understanding of his character. In addition, he



PHOTO BY LAURA MARSHALL

From left: Madison Harden, Grace Perkins, Lena Harmata

had a beautiful voice and amazed the audience every time when he sang.

Meanwhile, Pearl (Emily Carbone) was beautiful and kind and eventually became Rusty’s lover, indicating her care of Rusty. Emily interpreted Pearl’s love to Rusty by her vivid body gestures and moving words. While talking with Rusty, Pearl’s kindness created a romantic and dramatic atmosphere in the play. Furthermore, when Rusty is injured, Emily’s acting made the audience see the development of their relationship and their deep love.

Through the show, music and dance played important roles and created the joyful and bright atmosphere in the imaginary world. In addition, the fact that all of them are doing roller skating, impressed the audience with their professional roller skating skills.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 10

sembly. With no BZA, BZA staff dollars would be saved and the residents of Fairfax County would have a clear understanding of what the codes are. Everybody wins.

Gregory J. Maley
Alexandria

For All or None

To the Editor:

A Constitutional issue recently arose that is worthy of mention. On April 22, 2016, Gov. Terry McAuliffe issued an Order in which he stated he was restoring the voting rights of over 200,000 convicted felons who had served their sentences and probation periods. Republican members of the Virginia legislature have expressed their intention to take court action to challenge the legitimacy of the governor’s Order.

In my opinion, the legislature has the better of the argument. The first WHEREAS clause of the Order cites Article II, Section 1 of the Virginia Constitution in stating that that section “requires that all those convicted of a felony be deprived of their civil right to vote unless they have their civil rights restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority ...”. However, the last sentence of the Order states the following: “Nothing in this Order restores the right to ship, transport, possess, or receive firearms.”

Article II, Section 1 of the Virginia Constitution states the following in pertinent part: “No person who has been convicted

of a felony shall be qualified to vote unless his civil rights have been restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority.” This provision of the Virginia Constitution does not allow “cherry picking” of a subset of the civil rights that must be restored by the Governor in order to also restore the right to vote. “His civil rights” means all of his civil rights, not some of them. The Governor’s Order expressly excludes civil rights having to do with shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving firearms. Clearly, the Governor’s intent was to restore voting rights while preventing those convicted of violent felonies from being able to possess a firearm. This is what happens when a Governor tries, in a sweeping manner, to restore voting rights to hundreds of thousands of convicted felons without looking at each case individually, which has been the past practice.

Unless the Governor has restored all of the civil rights of each convicted felon, in my opinion, such an Order is ineffective to restore voting rights. I believe this is the principal argument that will be made by opponents of the Governor’s Order. I also believe it is a winning argument.

Governor McAuliffe: do your job. Review each record one by one. Weed out those convicted of violent felonies and restore all the civil rights of the rest, including the right to ship, transport, possess or receive firearms.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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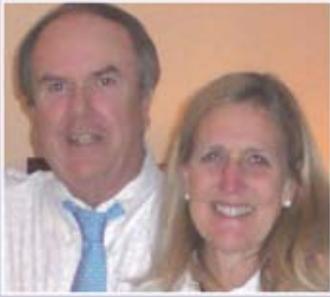
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Unique Opportunity.

Walk to Mt. Vernon Yacht Club from this custom rambler on a sunny corner lot in a premier riverfront commu-

nity. Open floor plan, fireplaces, huge solarium with soaring ceiling and sunken hot tub, three spacious family rooms, oversize 2-car garage, and half-acre of beautiful landscaping and decks make this home perfect for entertaining indoors and out.



9300 Old Mt. Vernon
\$1,289,000

One of Mt. Vernon's most majestic properties!

One of area's most admired homes! Truly exceptional estate on

approximately one acre grounds in the heart of Mt. Vernon. Superlatives include: Three luxuriously finished levels, 7 Br's, 5.5 baths, stunning main level master suite, stately room sizes, elegant finishes + oversize garage. Vacation at home- custom salt water pool and hot tub!



9419 Mt Vernon Cir
\$1,299,000

One of Area's Most Distinctive Properties!

Custom estate caliber home with classic French Provincial flair. Premier location in Mt Vernon on the Potomac-the only community in the area with a

private marina for the exclusive use of its' residents. Imposing residence with many custom touches including open foyer with double curved stairway, custom white brick exterior, high ceilings, spacious room sizes and oversize garage. Columned veranda overlooks pool and gorgeous grounds.



8708 Plymouth Rd
\$1,499,000*
Nearing Completion!

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!



Wakefield Homes
Pre-Construction Opportunity!
8717 Plymouth Rd.
\$1,399,000*

\$10,000 Toward Closing Costs!
(using approved lender)

- New Melson II Model- 3,525 sf plus 2 or 3 car garage

- 1/2 Acre Lot in Plymouth Haven
- Open floor plan - High ceilings
- Upgrades throughout
- Finished recreation room & bathroom in basement
- Maximum opportunity to customize



8637 Curtis Ave
\$479,900

Spacious Colonial at reasonable price!

Exceptional curb appeal! Three level Colonial in prime Mt. Vernon location for remarkably reasonable

price. Beautifully landscaped lot, stone entry walk, & front portico. 5 BR, 3.5 BA. Newly finished hardwoods on main two levels. Spacious living room with fireplace, large dining room & open kitchen with glass doors to rear deck. Concrete driveway with extra parking. Incredible Value!



9300 Old Mansion
\$750,000
Riverwood
Backs to park!

9408 Brambly Lane
\$1,095,000
Builder's Showcase!



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Opposing Discrimination on the Basis of Religion

BY DONALD S. BEYER JR.
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-8)

Last week I stood with Members of Congress of different faiths and an array of leaders from interest groups and religious organizations to introduce the Freedom of Religion Act.

Our bill would make it illegal for the United States to bar an immigrant, refugee, or traveler from our country on the basis of religion.

While this is the practice of the U.S. government, it is clear from current proposals to incorporate discrimination into U.S. immigration policy that we must codify this fundamental American value. Discrimination on the basis of religion would undermine the principle of religious liberty upon which our nation was founded.

The Freedom of Religion Act is a rallying cry to cut through messages of prejudice and restore the notion of America as a country that welcomes everyone from all walks of life and all faiths. For centuries, American shores have represented hope and freedom from religious oppression. The Constitution bans religious litmus tests for Americans who seek to hold higher office. And the opening phrase of the Bill of Rights bans both the establishment of a national religion and limitations on the free exercise of religion.



U.S. Rep. Donald S. Beyer Jr. at the press conference last week introducing the Freedom of Religion Act.

A religion-based immigration or travel ban would betray the promise of freedom that gave birth to our country and would hurt our national interest. Many of the recent proposals from candidates on the campaign trail have been specifically directed at Muslims. However, as Gen. David Petraeus — who commanded coalition forces first in Iraq and then in Afghanistan before becoming director of the CIA — wrote recently, “Anti-Muslim bigotry aids Islamist terrorists ... As policy, these concepts are totally counterproductive: rather

than making our country safer, they will compound the already grave terrorist danger to our citizens.”

At a time when we need strong global relationships to address major international conflicts and tensions, discriminating against those who come to America because of their religious beliefs would hurt our economy, our standing in the world, and our diplomatic relations.

Over 100 organizations, which include advocacy groups from a wide variety of faiths as well as civil liberties and civil rights

groups, support the Freedom of Religion Act. It is also cosponsored by 102 Members of Congress, including a single Republican, though we continue to seek the support of every representative in both parties.

Policies driven by bigotry and panic are as immoral as they are unwise. Northern Virginia and the United States are both strong because of our remarkable diversity. Together with the coalition supporting the Freedom of Religion Act, I will continue to fight discrimination and to speak out with appeals to hope rather than fear.

Krizek Tours DMV Lorton Center

Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) recently visited the Department of Motor Vehicles’ Lorton Customer Service Center to learn more about the agency’s operations and spend time with constituents. Joined by DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb, Krizek greeted employees at the office located in the Gunston Plaza Shopping Center.

In addition to traditional services, DMV partners with other state agencies to make DMV a one-stop shop for government services. DMV issues certified copies of vital records at all 74 customer service centers and five mobile offices. Virginia-born customers needing birth certificates can visit their local DMV for on-the-spot service, rather than visiting the Division of Vital Records in Richmond or ordering certificates for mail delivery. DMV also issues Virginia marriage, divorce, and death certificates.

In a partnership with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginians can obtain fishing and hunting licenses as well as submit registration documents for boats and boat trailers. For citizens traveling on toll roads, E-ZPass transponders can be purchased at DMV customer service center in Northern Virginia. DMV also accepts voter registration applications.

Of particular interest to Krizek was DMV’s automated testing system that offers knowledge testing



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

DMV Commissioner Richard D. Holcomb and Del. Paul Krizek check out the license plate display at DMV’s Lorton Customer Service Center. Krizek is pointing at the Family and Children’s Trust Fund of Virginia’s “Kids First” plate. Krizek served as a volunteer trustee for eight years.

in 24 languages. The web-based application reduces the need for translators to assist customers in the testing process.

In addition, online testing is available to Virginia school systems allowing students to take their driver’s license knowledge test in a supervised setting in classrooms. Currently, Fairfax County offers classroom testing at Centreville and Westfield high schools. Through a partnership with the Department of Education, DMV is recruiting more high schools to test students.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Water Tables

Burgundy Farm Country Day School recently added a set of water tables to the Outdoor Classroom and Discovery Playground on campus. Kindergartener Sammy Cohen of Mount Vernon pumps the water at the top. The water then flows down other bridges and tables along paths that change as students move gates and dams. All Burgundy students, in junior kindergarten through 8th grade, will be able to learn different lessons from the physics of the water’s movement.

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Food Trucks to Look Out For in Alexandria

City Council has permitted trucks in several places around town.

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

With the Alexandria City Council's decision last week to allow food trucks at designated areas on West Street, King Street, and Eisenhower Avenue, some new menus may be rolling into town over the coming weeks and months. Here are three to put on your radar.

Lemongrass Truck (@LemongrassTruck)

Vietnamese-inspired Lemongrass is no stranger to Alexandria — it took part in the weekly food-truck event at the Patent and Trademark Office just last Thursday. But Alexandrians would consider it a victory indeed to play host to Lemongrass more frequently at each of the city's newly legal locations.

Peruse the menu for just a moment and you'll see that Lemongrass offers several ways to enjoy three proteins: slow-roasted pork, lemongrass chicken, or tofu. If you're aiming for a lighter lunch, give the salad a try, but if you want a stick-to-your-ribs meal that will leave you full but not stuffed, the

vermicelli noodles are a sure winner. Served cold, the noodles are a perfect complement to the hot protein, and the addition of pickled vegetables on the side makes a meal that sings. Don't overlook the Sriracha when picking up your order — fill a plastic container to the brim with the spicy red sauce and take it to go.

NuVegan Café To Go (@NuVeganCafe)

Carnivores of the world, don't dismiss this one straight out of hand. The food that comes from the inside of the NuVegan truck could addict anyone (even if you don't plan on forgoing meat forever — or the rest of the day, for that matter). NuVegan takes soul food to another level, and diners are the better for it.

First things first: See whether the fried "chik'n" sandwich is on the menu for the day, and if it is, order it immediately. Whether you're vegetarian or not, this sandwich will surely knock your socks off. The breading is crispy, the faux meat is juicy and rich with flavor — put this in a bun and you've got a full lunch already. But don't stop there: You'll want to try a side, and the vegan mac and cheese will have you



questioning the ingredient list. The creaminess of the cheese sauce makes it hard to believe that there's no dairy in this meal, and combined with the al dente elbow macaroni, it's comfort food at its finest.

The Big Cheese (@bigcheesetruck)

Sometimes, all you really want in life is a grilled-cheese sandwich. And when that craving strikes, the Big Cheese food truck is at the ready.

Admittedly, some food trucks can be too cute by half — they can offer too many frilly, fancy items that are big on style but low on substance. The Big Cheese doesn't fall prey

to such pitfalls; instead, it offers variations on a theme, and gives diners something interesting to taste along the way. To wit: The Irish stout sandwich, a hearty helping of Irish stout cheddar on sourdough bread. Also in style at the moment: The lemon fig, a chevre combined with lemon fig preserves served between slices of multigrain bread. It's springtime on a sandwich.

Keep an eye on these trucks' whereabouts via their Twitter accounts, which are updated often, and bring your appetite when they wheel into the neighborhood.

Hope Nelson operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Just Between Friends Kids Pop-Up Sale.

Through May 21, 12 p.m. at Landmark Mall, 5801 Duke St. Clothing, books, DVDs, toys, puzzles, games, baby equipment, and more. Free to attend. Visit www.easternfairfax.jbfsale.com.

Art Exhibit: "The Hand Speaks."

Through May 22, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Associates Gallery at the Torpedo Factory Art Center presents work of Kara Hammond and Drew Parris in an exhibit entitled: "The Hand Speaks." Recently juried into the Torpedo Factory, Parris is primarily self-taught in the medium of graphite drawing. His subjects, often family and friends, offer the viewer an emotional connection to his work. Hammond will feature new ink wash drawings each a story unto themselves. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Mount Vernon Historic Plant Sale.

Through May 22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. At the Mount Vernon Historic Plant and Garden Sale, historic trees, shrubs and plants as well as a wide variety of annuals, perennials, heirloom

tomatoes and herbs — each carefully nurtured in the Mount Vernon greenhouses—will be available for purchase. Admission is free.

Visit www.mountvernon.org.

May Artists Showcase.

Through May 28, gallery hours at Broadway Gallery Fine Art & Framing, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Find paintings of several local artists, celebrating the colors of Spring. Free. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net.

Exhibit: Ethiopian Crosses.

Through May 29, gallery hours at St. George Gallery, 105 N. Alfred St. With their elaborate lattice work and geometric patterns, Ethiopian Crosses have a variety of form, and are a decorative artistic emblem. Free. Call 703-299-9495 for more.

"Black Pearl Sings!"

Through May 29, 8 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Black Pearl Sings! is about two women in Depression-era Texas: an ambitious Library of Congress musicologist, searching for the African roots of slave songs, and the discovery of the musical gifts of an African American woman. Tickets are \$55-60. Visit www.metrostage.org for more.

"Surrealism: A Photography Exhibition."

Through May 29, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans and Union 206 Studio present a surrealist photographic exhibition pushing the conventions of reality. Free. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

Lisa Kellner: "Always Into Now."

Through May 29, gallery hours at The Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Kellner's site-responsive Paintings in Space use the room as a canvas. She creates organic, ethereal forms from silk. Viewers experience the intimacy of being absorbed with a room-sized painting. This is the first exhibition as part of the Target Gallery's New Media Invitational and is funded, in part, by March150 participants. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Exhibit: "A Retrospective Exhibit of Florals and Still Life."

Gallery hours at Goodwin House Alexandria Art Center, 4800 Fillmore Ave. Artist Concetta C. Scott presents her work. Call 703-578-1000 for more.

Nancy McIntyre: "The Rhythms of Time."

Through June 5, gallery hours at The Art League, 105 N. Union St. Nancy McIntyre's silkscreens and paintings focus on different scenes and subjects over varying periods of time, from five minutes to four decades. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts: "Horizons."

Through June 12, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Artists' interpretations of separations between sky and earth, landscapes, seascapes, sunsets, sunrises. Jewelry, sculpture, clothing, and wall pieces are some of the items that will be exhibited and for sale. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Judith Seligson: "A Gap Frame of Mind."

Through June 12, gallery hours at The Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. The abstract works in

this show reflect Seligson's interest in the importance of what lies between objects, events, words, shapes and thoughts. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

"Nature's Palette: Paintings of the Potomac Valley Watercolorists."

Through June 16, gallery hours at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. The exhibition brings together watermedia floral and landscape painters from the area. Free. Visit www.potomacvalleywatercolorists.org or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring.

Multiple Exposures Gallery: New Photography by Soomin Ham.

Through June 19, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Photographer Soomin Ham exhibits new work. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

Multiple Exposures Gallery: New Photos by E. E. McCollum.

Through June 19, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. McCollum's work explores familiarity, simplicity, and the commitment to place in a series of photographs made over the course of a year at a small, suburban pond. Working in black and white, McCollum brings a sense of intimacy to a small landscape. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

The von Brahler Ltd. Gallery: "Circuitous Roots."

Through June 30, gallery hours at 7931 E. Blvd. The von Brahler Ltd./Gallery,

announces the Opening of an Exhibition, "Circuitous Roots: A Celebration of Art" at George Washington's River Farm on the Potomac, home of the American Horticultural Society. The exhibition will honor artists represented by VBG over three decades, as well as Liberal Studies' Artists from Georgetown University, Anna Katakina, Nan Morrison, Anne Ridder, Robert Murray and Rana Ryan. Free. Contact Robert F. Murray at 703-798-8686 or vbghome@aol.com.

"Who The Wounded Are."

Through July 11 at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. "Who These Wounded Are: The Extraordinary Stories of the Mansion House Hospital" is about people who lived and worked at this site in Alexandria and their real life stories that inspired the PBS show, "Mercy Street." Tickets are \$2-12. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

Art Exhibit: "Streets Meets Glass."

Through Aug. 15, business hours at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. The exhibit features the work of two Del Ray Artisans artists, Joshua Oliveira and Betsy Mead. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

Starting April 7. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. The Potomac Riverboat Company offers baseball enthusiasts the chance to avoid the crowds and take a leisurely cruise from Old Town Alexandria to Nationals Park along the scenic Potomac River. Admission: one-way \$20; round-trip \$25

ENTERTAINMENT

Monday-Thursday; round-trip \$28 Friday-Sunday. Visit www.baseballboat.com for more.

Historic Alexandria Attics and Alleys Tours. Saturdays, May-October, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Attics and Alleys is a three-hour walking tour featuring the rarely seen spaces of four sites—the Lee-Fendall House, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, and Carlyle House Historic Park. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

Lauren Bruce Art Show. 4-8 p.m. at Victoria at Home, 1125 King St. Lauren Bruce displays her oil paintings. Champagne and snacks will be served. Visit www.victoriaathome.com for more.

Lecture: "What Do You Mean?" 7 p.m. at Charles Houston Recreation Center, 901 Wythe St. Listen to a panel of preservation experts discuss the meaning of "cultural significance" with respect to local, national and international places. Free. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

Demonstration: Dejan Jovanovic. 7-9 p.m. at The Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Torpedo Factory Art Center resident artist Dejan Jovanovic (Studio 15) will share information about how he uses 3D printing with his jewelry design during this presentation with DC ACM SIGGRAPH, a special interest group for graphics in D.C. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Santa Fe's Grammy award nominee Ottmar

Liebert and Luna Negra come to town to celebrate their new release "Waiting + Swan" featuring music by Bob Marley. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 20

Garden Talks with Master

Gardeners: Lovely Annuals & Perennials. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Master Gardeners show how soil preparation, mass plantings and the right flower selection can give a lush flowering garden from spring to fall. Tickets are \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 202 9101 or call 703-642-5173.

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

Eames Armstrong: "Spell." 7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. D.C.-based performance artist Eames Armstrong premieres "Spell" at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. This experimental new performance looks at how we mark time, language that is unspoken, and the everyday rituals that permeate our lives. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Reception: "Streets Meets Glass." 7-9 p.m. at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, 4101 Eisenhower Ave. Celebrate this exhibit which features

the work of two Del Ray Artisans artists, Joshua Oliveira and Betsy Mead, who combined their art mediums for this exhibit. Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GWW.

Beer Dinner. 7-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant and Rhino Brewing Company host a dinner featuring beer-battered crab and chocolate fudge torte. Tickets are \$95. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Mount Vernon Swing Band performs live music conducted by Owen Hammett. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Live Piano Concert. 8 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 1427 W. Braddock Road. A program of piano sonatas, the "Appassionata" Sonata, Opus 57 by Beethoven and the Piano Sonata Opus 1 by Brahms. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-998-6100 Ext. 103.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 20-21

GospelFEST. 6-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Former Mayor William D. Euille, Master of Ceremonies, will guide the audience through the history of Gospel music through the ages. Songs for the "Alexandria - gospelFEST" will showcase a variety of Gospel music styles, including spirituals, contemporary, traditional, choral, call and response, and praise workshop music. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.alexandriava.gov to register.

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Hodge Podge Yard Sale. 7 a.m.-1:30



PHOTO BY PHILIP FRYER

Performance artist Eames Armstrong (pictured here performing "Perdita") will debut "Spell" on May 20 at the Torpedo Factory at 7 p.m. This experimental new performance looks at how we mark time, language that is unspoken, and the everyday rituals that permeate our lives. Free, but reservations requested. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

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Enjoy 3-4 br/4 bath/2full/2half, tile & hardwoods on 3 levels, large eat-in kitchen with dining, rec room off kitchen. Plus spacious upstairs family room with vaulted ceiling, woodburning fireplace, matching Anderson atrium doors, mbr with walk-in attic/closet, & oversized full bath. Updated double pane gas windows throughout. Organically based front and rear yards and garden with front sitting area, three landscaped, fenced and walk out patios. Easy stroll or glide to Potomac River/Bike Path. Amazing commute to DC, Belvoir, Old Town, Pentagon via GW Parkway! Bus stop to Metro at front door. Plus 11Y express during morning and afternoon rush. Wow! Sold as-is with no known defects.

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Commission to buyer agents



ENTERTAINMENT

p.m. at Pohick Episcopal Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Pohick Episcopal Church, the colonial church of George Washington & George Mason, will hold its annual "Hodge Podge" Yard Sale. On sale will be furniture, collectibles, household goods, books, clothing and more. All proceeds will benefit the ministries of Pohick Church, which serves the southern Fairfax and northern Prince William County areas. Free to attend. Visit www.pohick.org for more.

Seminary Ridge Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1000 St. Stephens Road. Email mandmbower@aol.com for more.

Garden Container Potting Workshop. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Bring a 16-inch (or smaller) container to Green Spring Gardens, where horticulturist Judy Zatsick will give a short talk on successful container gardens. Tickets are \$12. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 287 5801 or call 703-642-5173.

Daisy Scouts: Flower Garden Journey. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how seeds grow, plant seeds and take some home. Tickets are \$10 per Girl Scout. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 274 6501 or call 703-642-5173.

Soldier-Led Tours. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Dressed in Union uniform, Museum Curator Brian Briones will present an orientation to the Defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest

of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. Learn about the fort's history, how a Civil War fort was built, soldier life in the Washington area, and weaponry of the period. In addition to viewing many of the fort's preserved earthen remains, participants will visit the reconstructed Officers' Hut, furnished as a typical quarters in the Defenses of Washington, the fort's reconstructed ceremonial entrance gate, and the fully restored Northwest bastion of the fort. Tours are 90 mins. Free. Visit www.fortward.org for more.

Lauren Bruce Art Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Victoria at Home, 1125 King St. Lauren Bruce displays her oil paintings. Champagne and snacks will be served. Visit www.victoriaathome.com for more.

Beneficial Insects. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Beneficial insects play triple roles as pollinators, predators and parasites to help you maintain a healthy yard and garden. Learn how to distinguish friend from foe and how to attract beneficial insects. Free. Advance registration is requested at mgnv.org.

Book Signing: "Rediscovering God in America." 1-2:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Newt and Callista Gingrich will be signing copies of their updated and redesigned book "Rediscovering God in America." Free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Junior Scouts: Gardener Badge. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Identify wildflowers, create a bookmark and make a bouquet. Tickets are \$12 per Girl Scout.

Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 274 4501 or call 703-642-5173.

"Chasing Rainbows." 3 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Sopranessence performs "rebooted" classical music. Tickets are \$37, \$34 for seniors and military, \$15 for children. Visit www.sopranessence.org for more.

Wine on the Water. 6-8 p.m. at Alexandria's Waterfront between Founder's Park and Blackwall Hitch. Attendees will be able to view wooden boats built by the Alexandria Seaport Foundation's apprentices, listen to live island music and enjoy silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$60 until May 13, \$70 after that. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org.

Ladies Night Out Workshop. 7-9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. Learn about blind contour drawing and complete your artwork with watercolors. The workshop fee is \$45 (art supplies included). Visit www.metamorphosisae.com/mama/classes.

Raise a Glass, Raise the Chimney. 7-10 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. According to local legend, Robert Downham, then-owner of the Lee-Fendall House and local liquor wholesaler, lost his license after news spread around Alexandria of his entertaining President Woodrow Wilson with lavish amounts of alcohol at a dinner party. Celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Prohibition party. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org for more.

Delbert McClinton. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Live music with Amy Black. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 22

Silkscreen Printmaking Demonstration. 2-3 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Nancy McIntyre is a painter and printmaker who presents her solo exhibit, "Rhythms of Time," this May at The Art League Gallery. She will demonstrate how she uses the silkscreen to create many-layered prints with a painting-like quality. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Opening Reception: New Photos by E. E. McCollum. 2-4 p.m. at Multiple Exposures Gallery - The Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. McCollum's work explores familiarity, simplicity, and the commitment to place in a series of photographs made over the course of a year at a small, suburban pond. Working in black and white, McCollum brings a sense of intimacy to a small, and easily dismissed, landscape. Free. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

In the Company of President James Madison. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. "President Madison" discusses life in 1816. Public questions and opinions related to the salon topics are welcomed and encouraged. Tickets are \$15 per person and \$10 for high school/college students. Visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Diane Schuur. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Schuur performs with Ron Blake (saxophone), Roger Hines (bass) and Reggie Jackson (drums). Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

MONDAY/MAY 23

Art of Ballroom Dance. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. A class to learn to dance or improve your dancing skills: foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, merengue, rumba, cha-cha, and samba. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Container Gardening. 7-8:30 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Learn how to select the right pots and plants, prepare for planting, and keep plants growing in containers healthy. Free. Advance registration is requested at mgnv.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 24

Living Legends Appreciation Event. 5:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Hall, 301 King St. Living Legends of Alexandria invites the public to the opening of "Living Legends of 2016." "Living Legends of 2016" is a portrait exhibit of 14 Alexandrians whose vision, creativity, dedication and hard work have made a difference for their fellow citizens and the community. The exhibition is mounted in the Market Square Lobby and will remain on view through the year. Free. Visit www.alexandrialivings.com.

Missy Higgins With Billy Raffoul. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Live music. Tickets are \$22.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 25

Poetry Reading. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Poetry Reading with Sass Brown and Donald Illich. Free. Call 703-74601702.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Marx. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Live music. Tickets are \$39.50. Visit www.birchmere.com.

Civil Rights Lecture. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. In 1939, Alexandria's 33,000 residents were served by just a single library, named in memory of Kate Waller Barrett, in the 700 block of Queen Street. As was common at the time among public facilities in the South, the library was segregated. While blacks voted and paid taxes to support these services, they were barred from using the library. During the summer of 1939, Howard University graduate and local attorney Samuel Wilbert Tucker decided to take action. Dr. Brenda Mitchell-Powell will recount this landmark episode and assess its impact. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum.

THURSDAY/MAY 26

Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Garden's Horticultural Center and Historic House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour some of the demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who will share stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 historic house. Tickets are \$32. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987.

Alexandria Office of Virginia Cooperative Extension Showcase. 4-6 p.m. at 1108 Jefferson St. Meet the staff and learn about the VCE programs that serve Alexandria, including Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists and services for professional

landscape and pest managers. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

The United States Air Force Band-Chamber Players Series. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 210 S. Washington St. Chamber wind instruments conducted by Maj. Matthew Henry and Capt. Haley Armstrong. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil.

FRIDAY/MAY 27

Film Screening: "Minions." Movie starts at dusk, activities start at 6 p.m. at Four Mile Conservatory Center, 4109 Mount Vernon Ave. Free. Visit www.fourmilemovieseries.com.

Alejandro Escovedo. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Live music by Escovedo with Peter Case. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.birchmere.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 28

Freddie Jackson. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Live music. Tickets are \$45. Visit www.birchmere.com.

MAY 27-JULY 30

"Violent Grace: A Retrospective." Gallery hours at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 29

Justin Hayward. 7:30 p.m. at the Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. This spring, Justin Hayward – the iconic singer-

Convergence Presents 'Violent Grace' Exhibit

"Violent Grace: A Retrospective" is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edward Knippers, opening on May 27. The exhibit is being held in the Gallery at Convergence as a celebration of the release of Knippers' new monograph; "Violent Grace: Paintings from 1968 - Present." In addition to the retrospective, this exhibit features recently completed pieces by the artist. Celebrate the opening reception on June 3 and closing reception on July 22. Admission is free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org.



The Sorcerer's Veil Descending - oil on panel - 8'x10' - 1999

songwriter / lead guitarist / composer of The Moody Blues – presents the 2016 Stage Door Tour. Tickets are \$69.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 1

Summer Pruning of Shrubs and Perennials. 7-8 p.m. at 1724 Hollinwood Drive. Kirsten Buhls will demonstrate summer pruning techniques in the home landscape. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Peter Wolf. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Peter Wolf & The Midnight Travelers perform live. Tickets are \$29.50. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 2

Opening Reception: "Violent

Grace." 6–9 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. This exhibit is a survey of five decades of paintings by Edwards Knippers. Celebrate the exhibit and meet the artist. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

"Lost Alexandria: Remembering the Past." 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See what places and buildings have been demolished in Alexandria over the years in this photographic tour of the City. Tickets are \$10. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

FRIDAY/JUNE 3

Family Fun Night. 6-9 p.m. at Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility, 3210 King St. Pool games include beach ball relays, water basketball, diving for prizes on the "Aqua Challenge" floating obstacle course. Participate in

swimming skill assessments for youth, learn pool safety tips and more. Tickets are \$4. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov.

Farm to Table: Reception, Tour, and Dinner. 6:30-10 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon for a special evening of tours and dinner featuring products cultivated and produced on the estate. Tickets are \$150. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Art Reception: "Respect: Unsung Heroes in Uniform." 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Artists express their point of view, depict something amusing, or honor a loved one. There will be a small memorial section where visitors can reflect, contemplate and remember. Free. Visit www.thedelrayartisans.org or call 703-838-4827.

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First Friday, 7:30 pm

PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Dad"

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

Language Immersion for Young Children

Experts tout benefits of an early start.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

When Martha Davis' daughter Alice was ready for kindergarten, she decided to enroll her in a Spanish language immersion program. Davis, who is the assistant dean for World Languages at Northern Virginia Community College chose Mt. Vernon Community School in Alexandria.

"I know personally the benefits of knowing a second language and I wanted my daughter to experience that," she said.

Davis, also a Spanish professor, says that the benefits of such immersion programs range from boosting cognitive functioning and confidence to accent acquisition and social skills development. "Speaking with a native or near-native accent significantly eases communication, particularly with



PHOTO COURTESY BY CHRIS REYNOLDS

Martha Davis reads a book written in Spanish with her daughters, 6-year-old Alice (right) and 4-year old Jane. Alice is in a Spanish immersion program at Mt. Vernon Community School in Alexandria.

people unaccustomed to interacting with non-native speakers," said Davis. "This in turn can help boost the confidence of the non-native speaker and can provide the encouragement needed to continue language study."

Numerous studies suggest the brain-boosting power of early exposure to a sec-

ond language as another benefit of immersion programs for young children, says Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington.

"Cognitively, kids who learn two languages in preschool and really young children tend to score better on abstract thinking all the way into high school," said Lado. "If you know that in one language there is one word for chair and it includes foot stool and sofa chair and lounge, and in another language you have three different words it makes your brain think more abstractly."

The sooner children gain exposure to a second language, the easier it is to acquire, says Davis who contrasts her daughter's feelings with those of some of her adult students, "who feel that speaking another language is strange or foreign," which impedes their language acquisition," she said.

"I have found that if students can iden-

tify themselves as a speaker of the language of instruction, regardless of their level of proficiency, they enjoy learning the language more and acquire it more easily," said Davis. "This year Alice has begun to sign her name 'Alicia' on her Spanish homework."

Local language immersion programs offer classes for children as young as 10 months old. They use songs and games to teach language in a way that is pleasurable for students. "Starting when they're young helps language develop organically and naturally," said Amanda Michetti of Language Starts, which offers classes to children in Alexandria, Fairfax, Arlington, Reston and Bethesda. "The classes are conversation based with a little bit of reading and writing."

Hilary Javier has three children, ages two, three and four, who take Mandarin Chinese at Language Starts. She wants them to be citizens of the world, and believes exposure to a second language is important in achieving that goal. "You don't have to translate anything into English," said Javier. "They really do understand from picking it up naturally in the immersion setting. There is this special window when they are young to expose them to different cultures they would not never been exposed to, even noticeable in their mannerisms in the classroom."

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For more information: Contact our Membership Chair at membership@hollinmeadows.org

Special thanks to



T.C. Williams senior Calla Zane slides past Mount Vernon catcher Sophia Castillo to score what proved to be the winning run in the bottom of the third inning during their Conference 7 tournament quarterfinal game on Monday.

Mount Vernon pitcher Susannah Anderson struck out six in Monday's 2-1 loss to T.C. Williams.



PHOTOS BY JEFF MCQUILKIN

MV Softball Ends Season with Loss to TC

The Mount Vernon softball team had a chance to break through against T.C. Williams pitcher Jillian Stone in the bottom of the sixth inning, but the Majors left the bases loaded.

The following inning, Mount Vernon's season was over.

T.C. Williams beat Mount Vernon 2-1 on Monday during the opening round of the Conference 7 tournament at Witter Field. The Titans earned the program's first region tournament berth in more than a decade

and advanced to the conference semifinals, while the Majors' season came to a close.

Trailing 2-1 in the top of the sixth, Mount Vernon had the bases loaded with one out but failed to score. The Majors produced a ground ball to shortstop, which led to a force out at the plate, and a strikeout.

TC scored both of its runs in the bottom of the third inning. Center fielder Simone Haskins scored the first run on a wild pitch, and senior Calla Zane scored what proved to be the winning run on a fielder's choice.

Mount Vernon took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first, when second baseman Katherine Hutchinson hit a one-out single and pitcher Susannah Anderson followed with an RBI triple.

Stone, who was born 10 years after TC's last district title in 1989, threw a complete game on Monday and earned the win. She allowed one run on four hits while walking one, hitting one batter and striking out 10 in seven innings.

Anderson suffered the loss for the Majors.

She allowed two runs on four hits in six innings. She walked three and struck out six.

Hutchinson had two hits for Mount Vernon. Anderson and Castillo each had one.

Stone, designated player Brittany Shelley, second baseman Kayla Shelley and pinch hitter Amanda Dorris each had a hit for the Titans.

Mount Vernon entered the tournament as the No. 6 seed.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS BRIEFS

West Potomac Softball Qualifies for Regionals

The West Potomac softball team defeated West Springfield 5-0 on Monday in the opening round of the Conference 7 tournament at West Springfield High School.

The Wolverines earned a 6A North region tournament berth and advanced to the conference semifinals, where West Potomac was scheduled to face Lake Braddock on Wednesday, after The Gazette's deadline.

Wednesday, after The Gazette's deadline.

Sara's strikeout total of 17 is believed to have either set or tied a school record. The William & Mary signee struck out the first nine batters he faced and allowed only one hit, a single, which was the only ball to leave the infield against the right-hander.

West Potomac entered the conference tournament as the No. 4 seed. The Wolverines last reached the conference championship game in 2014, where they lost to West Springfield.

Sara Pitches West Potomac into Regionals

Senior pitcher Jamie Sara threw a one-hit shutout and struck out 17 and the West Potomac baseball team defeated Woodson 2-0 on Monday in the Conference 7 tournament quarterfinals at West Potomac High School.

The victory secures the Wolverines a spot in the 6A North region tournament and set up a conference semifinal matchup with No. 1 seed West Springfield on

Fort Hunt Flag Football

Those interested in Fort Hunt flag football are encouraged to register by May 20.

The season runs from June 7 to July 28. Practices will be every Tuesday starting June 7 at Waynewood Elementary School from 6-7:30 p.m. (1205 Waynewood Blvd, Alexandria, VA 22308). Games will be every Thursday at Waynewood Elementary School.

Cost is \$100, but there is a \$10 sibling discount for the second child registered within the same family. Each player will receive a



PHOTO BY NINA DURON

Learning from Wys

The Gunston Soccer U13 Girls Travel Team was recently selected as one of the winning entries for the 2016 Washington Spirit Adopt A Team Contest. On May 11, the team, along with some U12 players, enjoyed 45 minutes of fun instruction and 15 minutes of autographs / Q&A with a professional soccer player, Kelsey Wys (front), a goalkeeper for the Washington Spirit.

jersey and mouth guard with registration.

Fort Hunt Summer Camp

The Fort Hunt Football and Cheer Summer Camp will be Aug. 1- 5 at Carl Sandburg Middle School from 6-8 p.m. This will be

a fun camp focused on football and cheer fundamentals. Registration will open soon. Cost will be \$75.

Fort Hunt Scholarship

The Board of Directors of the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association has announced a call for ap-

plications for the 2016 Jackson Casey Memorial Scholarships, named in honor of a Ft. Hunt athlete who died in 2011.

"Jackson was a special young man. These scholarships help highlight the joy and fun that sports used to bring to Jackson's life," said Derrick Spearman, president of the FHYAA Board of Directors. "His passion and enthusiasm lives on through the recipients of these scholarships."

The \$3,000 scholarships are awarded annual to two graduating seniors (one male, one female) who at some point in their athletic careers participated on a Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association team. Each applicant is asked to submit a 1,200 word essay describing the life lessons they've learned through participating in athletics.

Applications are now being accepted at on the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Website. The application deadline is May 20. Winners will be contacted by June 3.

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PUBLIC NOTICE BANK BRANCH APPLICATION

Notification is given that Access National Bank, 1800 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 310, Reston, VA 20191 has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on May 16, 2016 as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a staffed branch office at: 2050 Ballenger Avenue Alexandria, VA 22314
Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the licensing manager at the north-eastern district office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 1114 Avenue of the Americas Suite 3900, New York, NY 10036 within 30 days of the date of this publication
May 19, 2016.

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OBITUARY

Siegel, Ralph

On May 11, 2016, Ralph Siegel; beloved husband of Sara Lee Siegel (nee Freeman); devoted father of Janet Siegel (Roger) Levin; dear brother of Victor Siegel; loving grandfather of Jacob Levin.
Funeral services and interment were held at Agudas Achim Cemetery - Alexandria, VA on Thursday, May 12, at 1:30 pm.

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OBITUARY

Roosevelt Blakeney

In the early morning of May 14, 2016, Roosevelt Blakeney, long-time resident of the Mt. Vernon area of Fairfax County, VA, passed after enduring an extended illness. Viewing will be held at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA on Thursday, May 19th from 5:00 - 8:00 pm. The funeral service will be held at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 7920 Holland Road, Alexandria, VA on Friday, May 20th at 11:00am.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Mount Vernon Country Club Inc, has requested authorization from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to restore and stabilize 575 linear feet of North Fork Dogue Creek, utilizing a combination of techniques including bank grading, channel shaping, boulder toe protection and rock sills; and to repair/replace three golf cart crossings, within the Mount Vernon Country Club in Fairfax County.

Send comments/inquiries within 15 days to Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 2600 Washington Avenue, 3rd Floor, Newport News, Virginia 23607.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to members of the NY, nonprofit, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Inc. (ASCO), that eligible ASCO members may vote by proxy ballot on a proposed set of amendments to the ASCO Bylaws through ASCO's official website, www.asco.org/bylaws-vote between April 22 and May 23, 2016. Completed proxy ballots will be delivered to the ASCO President or her designee for to be cast at a special members' meeting to be held on Thursday, May 26, 2016, from 9:30-10:00 AM, Eastern Time, USA, at ASCO Headquarters, 2318 Mill Road, Suite 800, Alexandria, VA 22314. Members with questions can email ASCOBylaws@asco.org or call 571-483-1316

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-05-05

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Custodial Services. Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-05-05 - Custodial Services, will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, June 15, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8343, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPs website at www.acps.k12.va.us, Administration, Financial Services, Procurement and General Services - Current Bids and Request for Proposals. All questions should be submitted before 3:00 p.m., June 8, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPs web site. All responses to this RFP shall be subject to the City of Alexandria's Living Wage requirement. There is a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for this RFP on Monday, May 23, 2016 at 10:00 AM, at the Alexandria City Public Schools Central Office, located at 1340 Braddock Place, in conference room 610, in Alexandria, VA 22314. All Offerors interested in providing the services in the RFP are encouraged to attend. The Conference will include a site visit to the school locations. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPs reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Sharon T. Lewis M.P.S., CPM, CPPB, VCO
Director of Procurement & General Services

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21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Frances Jane Spinn peacefully passed after a battle with cancer on May 8, 2016. She served as a sergeant in the US Army for 2 tours of duty during the Vietnam War. Her name is also inscribed on the wall dedicated to women in the military. She is survived by her brothers William and Richard; nieces and nephews Michael (Carleigh), Katherine (William), Jason, and Alexandria; 8 great nieces and nephews; and many loving neighbors and friends. Services will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society <https://donate.cancer.org/index>. Online condolences can be made at www.everlywheatley.com

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

PTO Seafood, LLC trading as Whiskey & Oyster, 301 John Carlyle Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Michael Anderson, Managing Partner

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

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21 Announcements

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Already in Compliance

FROM PAGE 1
The guidance from Obama also suggests that noncompliance may cost some schools their federal funding. When this was brought up as a possibility during the May 2015 board meeting to change the nondiscrimination policy, School Board representative for the Springfield District Elizabeth Schultz questioned the Constitutional authority of such an action.

Now that it's come up again, She hasn't changed her tune.

"We're in a situation where we 'Jumped the Shark' as a board," Schultz said. "Those who were politically motivated to do so, made a political statement, as did the President, the Attorney General, the Department of Justice, on Friday."

"If the statement is: 'You will comply with blank or else, you will lose federal funding,' then what can't be put in the fill in the blank?" Schultz continued.

If the Obama administration were to follow through with cutting funding to schools, Schultz is critical of the impact it would have on cutting programs for low income students in schools.

"Are you writing a check for transgender bathroom access off the backs of poor hungry kids?" she said. "This has been foisted upon the nation's school districts with little regard for operationalizing and paying for such effort."

At this point, McElveen doesn't anticipate any further board discussion, unless another member asks for some. Or the consultant completes their review.

But Schultz thinks it will continue to be a topic on the forefront.

"We are going to watch a huge diversion of public attention and money, to the wrong things, instead of toward promoting rigor and achievements by the nation's students," she said. "This is problematic in so many ways. It's not something I relish being right about."

Firefighters

FROM PAGE 6
was "never treated differently because of gender. It didn't matter to them."

She also said she wasn't attempting to deny any of the allegations of harassment that have surfaced following Mittendorff's death.

"Like any family, you have some black sheep," she said. But, she added, "the actions of a few should not tarnish" the image of the department as a whole.

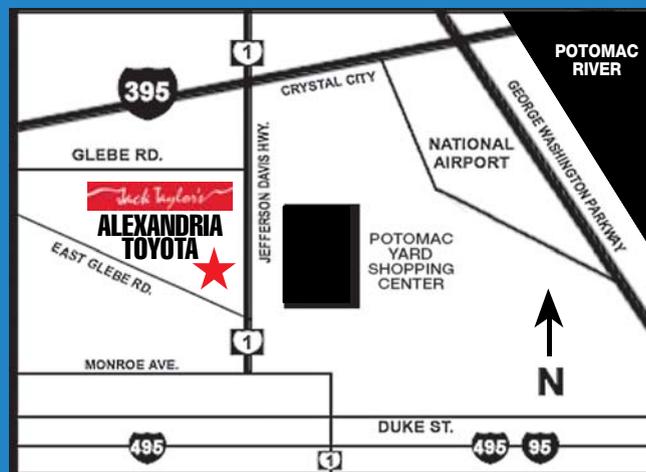
"We like where we work," she said.
Twelve-year veteran EMS Technician Alyssa Vance of Frederick, Md., also took a turn at the microphones. Vance works out of several stations around Fairfax County.

She praised the department for working with her to establish a flexible schedule that would accommodate her needing to raise children.

"I've always found the department very supportive," she said.

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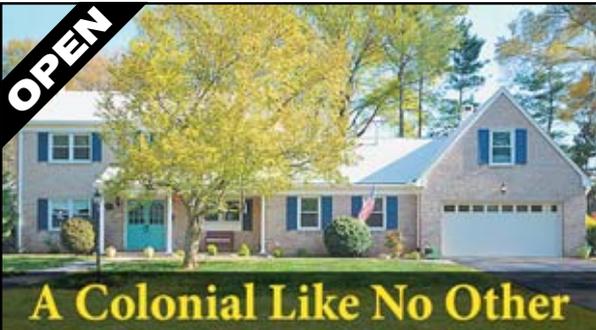
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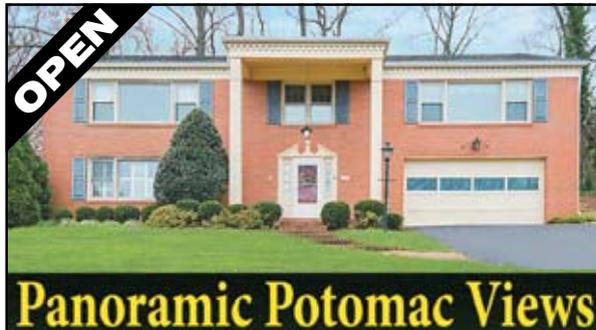
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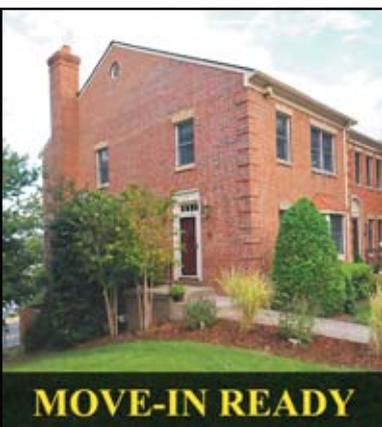


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