

What To Do with Former School Building?

County studying original Mount Vernon High School's 10.6 acre building site and 30 acres of athletic fields.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck with county staff in front of the former high school.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck in the auditorium of the former high school.

PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has begun exploring the revitalization of the Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS), a 10.6 acre building facility and its 30 acres of athletic fields.

During a recent tour of the historic school, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck envisions interim use of a portion of the facility as a South County Teen Center and Pre K education center.

Built in 1939, the OMVHS first served as the area's high school for many years before demographic changes in the area forced the School Board to close it. Years later the School Board eventually transferred ownership and responsibility of the facility to the Board of Supervisors which in turn leased it beginning in 1989 to the Islamic Saudi Academy. The lease continued until June of this year when the Islamic Academy and the board ended their lease relationship.

Now, the supervisors are poised to redevelop it as

a mixed use community center. During his familiarization tour with the county planning staff, Storck said, "In my view it will serve as the centerpiece for our future neighborhood and community needs."

Deputy County Executive Rob Stalzer will conduct a planning meeting involving more than seven county departments and independent agencies. They will set in motion a multi-year effort to revitalize the facility for interim as well as long-term uses for both non-profit and for-profit organizations that will most likely require changes in the Comprehensive Plan, zoning, as well as coordination with the Park Authority and the Neighborhood and Community Services Department.

At the same time, Storck will form an OMVHS Steering Committee to begin advising him and com-

SEE OMVHS'S FUTURE. PAGE 3

Four Arrested at McKenna Protest

Racial justice group calls for Sheriff Kincaid to fire deputies.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Four protesters were arrested Monday morning at a protest outside the Fairfax Courthouse over the February 2015 in-custody death of Alexandria resident Natasha McKenna.

The demonstration, which was organized by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the national organization Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), began around 8 a.m. and included around 20 protesters.

It coincided with members from SURJ delivering a petition to Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid demanding she fire the deputies who handled McKenna's extraction from the jail, which re-

sulted in her death.

McKenna, who was 37 at her death, was diagnosed with mental illness in her youth. As deputies attempted to prepare her for transport to the Alexandria jail, they forced her to the ground, then restrained her limbs in a chair and eventually covered her head with a spit hood. One deputy used a taser on McKenna four times over the course of the incident. McKenna lost consciousness and was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital where she later died.

Cat Clark of Alexandria, an activist and organizer with SURJ, said the petition was delivered, but not acknowledged by Kincaid's office.

When asked to respond to the

demonstration and petition, Sheriff Kincaid released the statement: "Everyone has the right to protest lawfully and peacefully and also petition on issues that matter to them. I hope that regardless of where each of us stands on the issues of the day, we listen and learn from each other."

Because of how they viewed the petition's reception, Clark said the demonstrators decided to spread across Chain Bridge Road from the Courthouse to draw more attention.

"When a naked woman who is mentally ill is shackled to a chair, bag over face, basically tased to death and there are no repercussions of any kind," Clark said, "people need to speak up, hold her

name in the light, stand up for her."

Commonwealth's Attorney Raymond Morrogh completed an investigation of the incident and concluded there were no grounds for criminal charges. The Sheriff's office has completed its own administrative investigation but has not said whether any of the deputies faced discipline.

Demonstrators chanted and held signs reading "Black Lives Matter," "Justice for Natasha McKenna" and "You promised you wouldn't kill me" (which McKenna can be heard saying on a video Kincaid released of the extraction incident).

City of Fairfax Police responded to the incident, as demonstrators in the roadway were illegally obstructing traffic.

SEE FOUR ARRESTED. PAGE 4

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Numerous Fairfax County departments and teams that will be participating in the total redevelopment of the Old Mount Vernon High School property are scheduled to hold an internal kickoff meeting at the Government Center July 14. Mount Vernon School Board representative Karen Corbett Sanders chaired the task force that submitted use recommendations to the county last December. The work group will also look at creating a Request for Proposals for a master planner, similar to the work done for the Liberty Crest at Laurel Hill redevelopment project in Lorton.

OMVHS's Future?

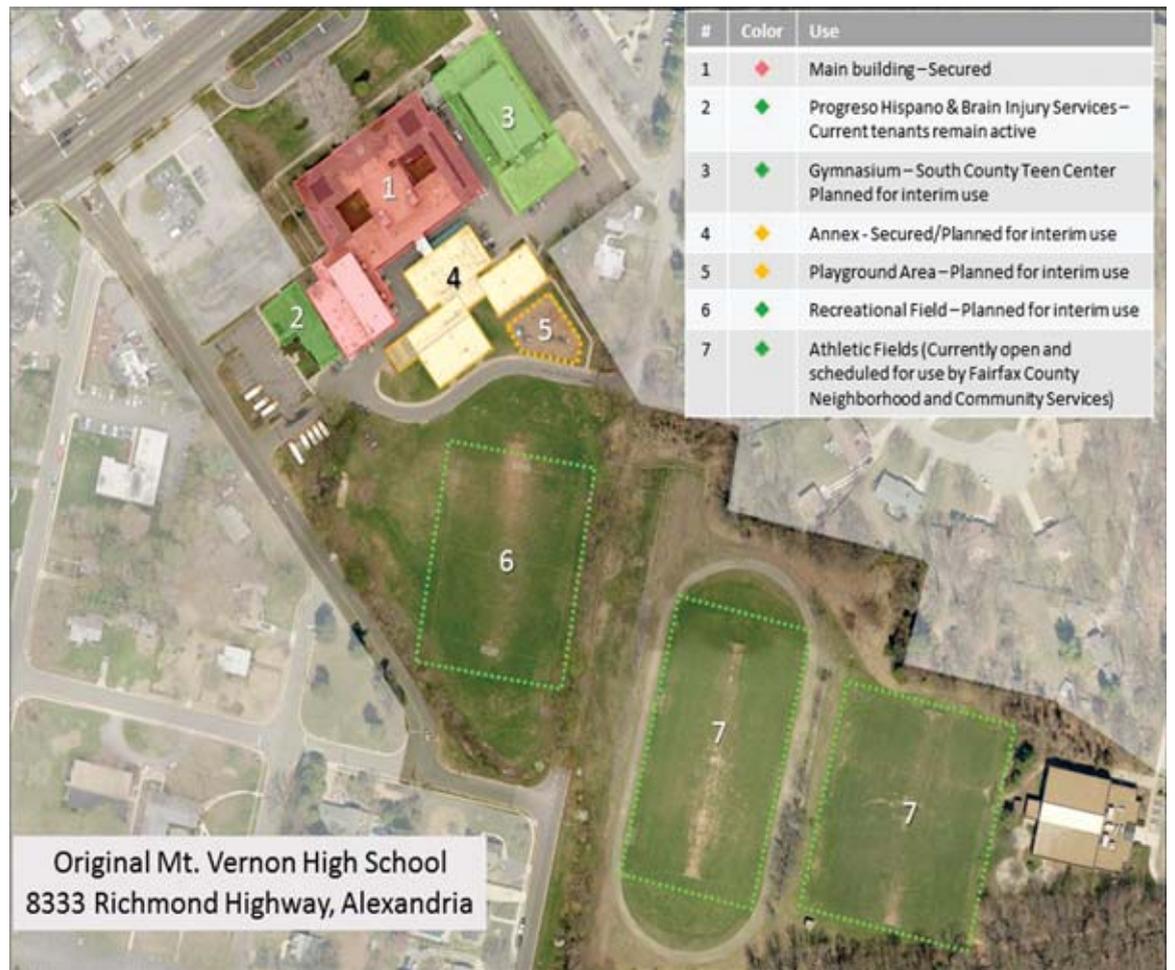
FROM PAGE 1

municating with the community. He will also coordinate with Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay who has voiced strong interest in continuing to participate in the planning for the redevelopment of the facility and grounds.

"Planning the future use of the OMVHS presents a tremendous opportunity for further investment in the Richmond Highway Corridor," McKay said. "I was pleased to help secure more than \$1million in this year's Fairfax County budget to begin to revitalize the building. This will begin to help finance the much-needed work to revitalize the building. I am confident that my office, Supervisor Storck's Office and the community will work hand in hand to accomplish the momentous task of transforming the building into an asset for all of the south county region."

Storck also supported the \$1 million budget targeted for use to revitalize the OMVHS.

The short-term goal is to bring the aging building up to current building code standards in order to immediately provide a teen center and a pre K education service. Both services are not available in the immediate area at the present time. The school's gym and an annex will house the teen center and pre K functions. County staff did not commit to a specific date for opening the teen center and pre K functions, but Storck assured that "every effort will be made to provide these services as soon as possible." In anticipation of the time when the Islamic Saudi Academy lease would end, former Supervisor Gerald Hyland's Visioning Task Force completed a report which recommended interim and long-term uses of the school. Storck readily acknowledged they did a good job and he is now working with the report, community leaders, and McKay to form a present day Steering Committee to plan and develop the interim and long-term uses.



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck in the gymnasium studying the architectural plans with Project Manager Heather Diez

PHOTOS BY
GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck at the multiple acre recreation fields adjacent to the school with County Project Manager Heather Diez and his chief of staff, Christine Morin



Details

OMVHS
Location: 8333 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309

Built: In 1939

Building Size: 150,000 square feet
Area size/building facility is located on 10.6 acres. The entire campus, including all property owned by both the Board of Supervisors and Park Authority encompasses 40 acres. Soccer, football, baseball fields are all possible on this property and will be evaluated and implemented by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services for use during the interim period.

According to Heather Diez, project manager, Fairfax County planning staff: "The goal of the repurposing of the OMVHS project is to create a unique place to serve community needs, improve services available to residents of the Richmond highway corridor, and integrate a mix of uses to support revitalization in the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. The current zoning allows for the described interim uses. Building code evaluation and upgrading has to be completed. The overall long range planning for the building and site will continue, including community engagement with any necessary comprehensive plan changes and zoning actions."

Community uses now operating immediately adjacent to the OMVHS building and grounds:

◆ Progreso Center for Literacy and Citizenship serves the community instructing English as a Second Language (ESL), and provides classroom instruction for students to enable them to pass a citizenship qualification exam.

UCM Agency.org/progreso-center-for-literacy-citizenship.html
4100 Mohawk Lane
Alexandria, VA 22309
703-799-8830

◆ Brain Injury Services: Adult education, counseling, rehabilitation. Services for those who have suffered from traumatic brain injury due to stroke, car accidents, falls, or for other reasons.

Kim Baugh, Clubhouse Manager
Brain Injury Services
4100 Mohawk Lane
<http://braininjurysvcs.org>
Alexandria, VA 22309
703-799-9410

Historical Note: The Mount Vernon community has a long history of revitalization and renewal of public school facilities. Due to declining enrollments in the past, the Mount Vernon District has experience in converting closed public school facilities to commu-

nity uses supported by the community. The Hollin Hills elementary school was closed in the late '70s and, once the plumbing features were revised, it was sold and converted as a senior citizens assisted living center, entitled the Paul Spring Retirement Center. At the same time the Hollin Hall elementary school was closed, the School Board transferred the surrounding property to the Park Authority under a 99-year lease agreement, and the building facility was transferred to the Board of Supervisors. The building, which is now the Hollin Hall Community Center, has been and continues to be managed by the county and used for child care services and a senior citizens recreational center.

County Officials:
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703-780-7518
Mike Lambert, Assistant Director,
Real Estate Management Services
Facilities Management Department
Michael.lambert@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-2825
Heather Diez, Project Manager
Fairfax County Public-Private Investments and Partnerships Department
Heather.diez@fairfaxcounty.gov
703-324-5800

Q&A

Interview with Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck during the tour of the building:

Q. What are the long-term implications of the revitalization of the OMVHS?

A. "The availability of this gigantic building and grounds couldn't have come about at a better time. This iconic historic school is very important to solving the needs of a rapidly growing population in the Richmond Highway Corridor.

Successfully completing the revitalization of the building and grounds will return benefits and services to the neighborhoods in the region for educational, recreational, and business uses.

I am totally committed for the long term to working with Supervisor McKay, my colleagues on the board, and the region's community leaders to realize a major revitalization and renewal. However, we still have many years of public engagement, planning, capital investments and hard work to complete before the full benefits can be realized. The plans envisioned for the school are reflective of the renewal that is going on throughout the Richmond Highway Corridor from our North Gateway

through Fort Belvoir to the current adaptive reuse of the former Lorton Prison site. I am very excited about and committed to balancing this school's heritage with the new opportunities and development as the community proposes."

Q. Have you selected an OMVHS Steering Committee? If so, who are they?

A. "I will name the new OMVHS Steering Committee soon. I have asked Supervisor McKay to submit names of Lee District community leaders who he wants to serve along with the Mount Vernon District appointees."

Q. Who will be managing the building and property now?

A. "The county staff will be managing the property. Eventually, I will be looking for financing from private organizations that will be using the space, and funding from the county that has been or will be set aside in the budget to ensure proper maintenance of the building.

In the near future we will be looking at public-private partnerships and investments that would enable the building to reach its full potential as a community and entrepreneurial hub."

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Presents:

a jones
hope wooten
comedy

July 8 - 24, 2016

Directed by Eddie Page

Produced by Eddy Roger Parker, Jean Coyle & Corey Latta-Bales

**Performing at Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308**

Tix/Info: www.acctonline.org

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NEWS

Four Arrested at Protest

FROM PAGE 1
structing the free passage of others, a city ordinance.

Police warned the protesters they would be arrested if they didn't leave the street, spokesperson Sgt. Natalie Hinesley said. All but four made their way to the sidewalk. Those that remained were arrested.

Hinesley said the four were taken before the a magistrate immediately and were subsequently released under their own recognizance.

A statement from SURJ said Brendan Orsinger, 34, was one of the four arrested for remaining in the street. "Our silence perpetuates violence," the statement attributes to him. "Too often we take our privilege and walk away from tough conversations. I don't want to be complicit in oppression anymore."

The July 11 protest represented one of seven SURJ chapters around the United States taking nonviolent actions calling for changes in policing on the same day.

An administrative investigation took place within the Sheriff's Office to determine whether policies had been upheld or violated and if any disciplinary action should occur. The Sheriff's office wouldn't comment on results of the administrative investigation: whether any of the deputies had been disciplined in any way, whether any policies had been changed in response.

Following McKenna's death, Kincaid did suspend the use of tasers in the jail.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Police warned the protesters they would be arrested if they didn't leave the street, spokesperson Sgt. Natalie Hinesley said.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule

Saturday:
5:00 pm Vigil Mass
6:30 pm Vigil Mass
(en Español)

Sunday:
7:30 am; 9:00 am
(with Sign Language Interpreter and Children's Liturgy of the Word); 10:30 am; 12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm (en Español); 6:30 pm

8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria VA, 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 • www.gs-cc.org

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En Español:
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Thursday, 7:30 pm;
First Friday, 7:30 pm



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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.

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.

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.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

Ready, Set, Polka. 3 p.m. at Martha Washington Library. Polka music and fun for the whole family. Sponsored by the Friends of the Martha Washington Library. All ages. Register at <http://bit.ly/29nz6LD>.

MONDAY/JULY 25

Embark Richmond Highway. 7-9 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. Fairfax County will hold a community meeting on the plans and work currently underway on the Embark Richmond Highway project. Embark Richmond Highway is being undertaken to support the county's long term planning goals of expanding transit service, improving the county's pedestrian and bicycle systems, and building more dense, mixed-use, transit-oriented developments that attract residents and businesses, create more jobs and increase tax revenue. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/> 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

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 service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

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 SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 20

SECOND SATURDAY OFFICE HOURS

Supervisor Dan Storck holds open office hours at the Lorton Library (9-11:30 a.m.) and at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center office (12:30-3 p.m.) on the second Saturday of each month (except August). Call 703-780-7518 for a 15-20 minute appointment, which could result in a longer subsequent meeting during the work week, if needed. Mr. Storck may meet with walk-ins as time permits between appointments.

WEDNESDAYSTHROUGHSEPTEMBER

Plant Clinics. 9 a.m.-noon at the Mount Vernon Farmers Market at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Volunteers from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will conduct plant clinics during the 2016 season to answer gardening questions, identify plants and insects, and dispense soil test kits to the general public. They encourage backyard gardeners to bring samples for diagnosis or identification. Visit fairfaxgardening.org for more.

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



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Alex./Riverside Estates \$514,900
3424 Ramsgate Terrace
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Alex./Riverside Estates \$649,900
8425 Mount Vernon Highway
Beautiful home w/over 4,000 fin sq ft & 2 lvl addn plus 600+ sq ft bsmt in lovely Riverside Estates. Great Rm on ML w/gas FP & wet bar. Adjacent Family Rm w/wood-burning FP. An office adjoins the gorgeous 20' x 32' MBR addn w/vaulted Douglas Fir ceiling & skylights. Library/studio (32' x 12') on upper lvl addition. Both HVAC systems, HWH & roof replcd 2011. 1 mile to G.W. Pkwy. Close to Ft. Belvoir.



Riverside Estates \$2,900
8318 Orange Court
Beautiful 4 BR, 3.5 BA Colonial with carport in wonderful Mount Vernon community. 3 finished levels, brand new siding, windows & freshly painted. Newer kitchen & baths, gleaming hwdw flrs, screened porch, deck, large corner lot. Separate laundry & storage rms. Scenic commute along G.W. Pkwy & Potomac River - 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town Alex., 25 to Nat'l Airport, 35 to Pentagon/D.C. Walk to Elem & H.S.



Alex./Wellington Manor \$740,000
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!



Alex./Riverside Estates \$534,900
3412 Ramsgate Terrace
Beautifully updated 4 BR, 3 BA Rambler with walkout lower level - beautiful kitchen totally updated & open w/SS, Silestone counters & birch cabinets - updated baths, roof in 2015. Furnace, A/C, & hardwoods all replaced - fantastic deck overlooks beautiful backyard - Perfect for entertaining!



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 hwdw 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!



Alex./Sedgewick Forest \$559,000
4015 Gibbs Road
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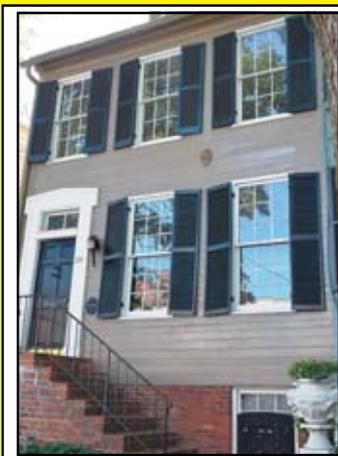
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NEW LISTING



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Alexandria
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3141 S. Stafford St. Complete remodel. New - Windows, appliances, granite. Updated bathrooms. Hardwood floors on main & upper. Fully fenced rear patio with slate. Utah park right beside your house. Huge attic with expansion possibilities.
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WPHS To Host Musical

The Rambunctious Theatre Company is teaming up with Beyond the Page Theatre Company to present "The Last Five Years" starring David Jarzen from West Potomac High School and Robinson Secondary's Madyson Hanton.

The show will be performed July 14-23 at West Potomac High School. All shows are 7 p.m. with a special 2 p.m. matinee on July 23. Tickets can be purchased at www.robinsondrama.org.

"The Last Five Years" is a dramatic musical about two New Yorkers in their 20s who fall in and out of love over the course of five years. The show's structure consists of Cathy, the woman, telling her story backwards while Jamie, the man, tells his story chronologically; the two characters only meet once, at their wedding in the middle of the show.

Jason Robert Brown's Drama Desk winner "The Last Five Years" has been translated into a handful of languages and was named one of Time Magazine's 10 best shows of 2001. "The Last Five Years" enjoyed



David Jarzen from West Potomac High School and Robinson Secondary's Madyson Hanton.

an Off-Broadway revival at Second Stage in 2013. A film adaptation was released in 2014 starring Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan.

BULLETIN BOARD

ONGOING

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

Rehearsals are Tuesday 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School band room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. There are no auditions. The Mount Vernon Community Band is a nonprofit community service organization that has performed in the Mount Vernon area since 1978. 703-768-4172 or www.mvbands.com. **Training Courses.** The American Red

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



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Be Part of Our Annual Community Guide

Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guide.

The Gazette's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 24 with a deadline of Aug. 17.

A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's 15 individual editions at Connection Newspapers, but we need help from our readers.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer op-

portunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites?

What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

EDITORIAL

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along

with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, and information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>. Send in your Insider's Tips by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

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Still Much Work To Do on Race Relations

BY REV. DR. KEARY KINCANNON

COMMENTARY

As a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ I am supposed to bring my congregation Good News. But recently I have struggled to do so with all the bad news. Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, Dallas! "Black Lives Matter" demonstrations and subsequent arrests are taking place in cities all across America.

Lately my heart has been filled with pain, and grief, and the anger and frustration that come from despair. I have not seen our nation this divided on so many issues — political and cultural — and unwilling to even try to understand each other since the 1960s.

There are so many people that just don't get it.

I am obviously not black but I want to understand why so many law-abiding Black Americans fear racial profiling by a police officer. Most white Americans have no idea of "the conversation" that Black mothers have to have with their children about how they are perceived by white Americans, and in particular law enforcement.

In 1972 a young 23-year-old man is driving down a neighborhood street; legally obeying all traffic laws and regulations. He notices a police cruiser in his rear view mirror and about the same time the white officer turns on his flashing lights and pulls him over. This was the first time the young man had ever been pulled over by the police. Innocent of any violation that he was aware, and curious as to why he was stopped, he wants to show the officer his willingness to comply with the police so he gets out of his car with his license in hand and starts to walk toward the officer. Immediately the officer pulls his gun and points it at him yelling for the young man to stop and put his hands in the air. The young man did not know he was supposed to stay in his car and wait for the officer to approach him. It could have cost him his life.

Fortunately the officer checks his license, asks him a few questions, and then tells him he matched the description of someone who had just robbed a 7-11. He lets him go.

That young man was me! The only reason I was pulled over by the officer was because I

had a beard and long hair down to my shoulders blades. I was not being "racially" profiled, but I made the connection that if I can get stopped merely for having long hair an innocent black person could get stopped, or worse, simply because of the color of their skin.

Most Americans don't get it. We are still dealing with the fallout of one of America's greatest sins — slavery. I am 67 years old. When I was born in 1949, there were older Black individuals still alive who had been born into slavery. Most of America doesn't get it. It has not been that long. Changing racial attitudes takes time and real commitment to heal.

Philando Castile was shot after being pulled over for a broken taillight with his girlfriend and her 4-year-old daughter in the car. The officer feared Castile was pulling out his firearm and not his wallet. Even the Governor of Minnesota admitted that Castile would probably still be alive if he had been white.

Most of America doesn't get it. A significant portion of our nation is in pain because they fear Alton Sterling or Philando Castile could be their son or daughter. The racial rancor in America caused Micah Johnson to snap, shooting 14 people and killing five. He told the police he wanted to kill white people, particularly white officers.

Investigators have discovered that Johnson had emotional and possibly mental health problems. We know his actions in no way define black people in America. Just like we know the racist actions of some police officers is only a very small portion of those who serve and protect our community with honor.

But we have got to wake up to the fact that we as a nation still have a lot of work to do around race. When will we engage in the long labor of listening, building trust, and insisting on equal treatment under the law?

Saying "Black Lives Matter" does doesn't put black lives above all other lives. It actually means "All Lives Matter." Those of us who profess the Christian faith should understand that better than anyone else. After all, Jesus didn't say "Blessed is everyone," but "Blessed are the poor." He did not say "as you do it to everyone

you do it me," but "as you do it to the least." Jesus did not say "love everyone," but "love your enemies."

Jesus encourages us not to love people "in general" but to specifically care for those society discounts or condemns. This is a way he draws us into understanding their life matters too. "Black Lives Matter" is exactly the kind of thing Jesus would say at the same time condemning the evil in Dallas and calling for us to respect the police and their role in society.

In fact when the police become stereotyped, blamed and condemned for doing their job, I can hear Jesus saying "Blue Lives Matter."

We need a lot more conversation around race in this country because most of my white brothers and sisters cannot see that "white privilege" is real. Our society is arranged for the benefit of white people. Denying white privilege isn't going to get us anywhere. White America needs to stop and listen to Americans of color to hear their stories of trying to get ahead. It is important to understand why so many feel it is easier for whites to get ahead than it is for blacks.

Something is really wrong in America. Something is killing us from the inside: Fear. The goal of terrorists around the world is to induce fear because fear divides us. Yet the news media, pundits, and politicians are fanning the flames of fear just fine without the help of terrorists.

And there is a lot to be afraid of. But it is possible to stand up to our fears and face them with real strength. We succumb to our fears when we throw fear back at others or use violence as a means of control. This is not the time to give into our fears. It is never the time to think that violence is a way to resolve our fears or resolve anything.

The greatest prophet of our age, Martin Luther King, Jr., once said: "The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy. Instead of diminishing evil, it multiplies it. Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the

MORE RACE RELATIONS, PAGE 13

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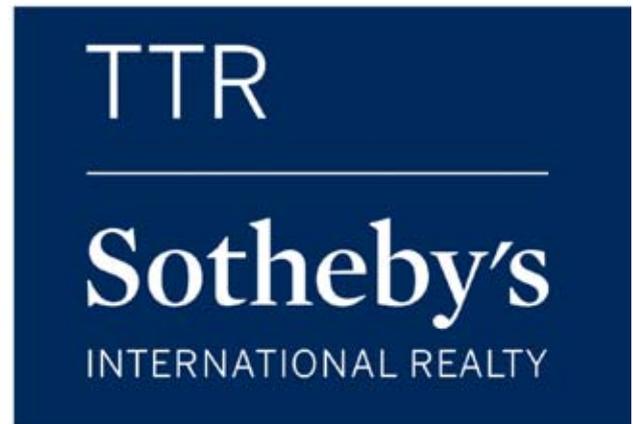
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Bright White White kitchens are a trend with staying power.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

The clean, crisp look of a white kitchen has staying power and versatility, according to the National Kitchen and Bath Association. The organization reports that white cabinetry is the top choice for 67 percent of its members. In fact, the percentage of homeowners requesting white kitchens has increased by 20 percent over the past two years.

The trend is also apparent locally, said designers. When a family of five returned to the Washington, D.C. area after spending 30 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, they settled into their home in Bethesda, a 1960 brick Dutch colonial that they purchased in 1986. They decided to give the home a makeover because, after being a rental for many years, it felt dated and dingy. The family felt that the kitchen was old, dark and closed-off from the living room. They needed a larger space to accommodate their family of five.

The homeowners knew they wanted the new kitchen space to be free flowing and light-filled. They also wanted to incorporate some of their existing furniture, such as an antique table and chairs.

Designed by Bruce Wentworth of



PHOTO BY JOHN COLE

A large picture window is the focal point of this white kitchen by Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc.

Wentworth Inc., the new kitchen is sunny and spacious. It includes white cabinetry and an island with dark gray granite countertops. A large stainless sink, dishwasher, pull-out trash and bookcase for cookbooks make the island functional. Facing the dining room is a shallow cabinet

with mullioned glass doors.

Granite tops the counters in the remainder of the kitchen and white cabinetry houses a sub-zero refrigerator, microwave drawer, small prep sink and a gas range with a stainless steel range hood. "Wall cabinets with clear glass mullioned cabinet doors

[give] visual depth and make space feel larger," said Wentworth.

When the owners of an Arlington home decided to update their dark and dated kitchen, they opened the space to the living and dining rooms and added natural lighting and white cabinetry. The result was a room with a crisp and airy aesthetic. The new, open concept allows the homeowners to better interact with family and friends.

"Prior to the remodel, the kitchen was essentially closed off to the rest of the home," said April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling. "I think the grouping of materials the client selected with us are unique, definitely not cookie-cutter, and these make the space really interesting," Underwood said.

Among the fixtures, accessories and materials used are Caesarstone countertops, a marble and granite backsplash and reclaimed shelving, provided by homeowners, which, "made the kitchen look more unique and gave it an eclectic feel," said Underwood.

"I think in general the perfect combination of the various materials, from smooth and glossy to rough and textured, is simple but interesting and shows beautifully," said Underwood.

SEE A BRIGHT TREND, PAGE 11

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PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Natural lighting and white cabinetry helped transform this kitchen, by Case Design Build, Inc. into light and airy space.

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BEFORE

A Bright Trend

FROM PAGE 10

A large picture window overlooking an expansive backyard is the focal point of a white kitchen in Falls Church. When the homeowners decided to renovate and expand the space, they enlisted the help of designer Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc. The project included adding additional space to the back of the house and removing a wall between the kitchen and the dining room.

“Although we opened up the wall between the kitchen and dining room, one challenge was maintaining a distinction between the two spaces, which was important to the client,” said St. Claire. “In order to create a feeling of separation, while preserving the sense of openness ... [we designed] a custom glass cabinet piece, which is accessible from both rooms,” said St. Claire.

The new unit gives the homeowners extra storage and a place to display their crystal. Sunlight from the new picture window in the kitchen reflects off the crystal stemware and refracts, causing both rooms to glisten with radiant, natural light.

White cabinetry was contrasted

against dark wood as part of a kitchen renovation in Centreville. While the basic layout of the kitchen remained the same, the space, which was designed by Allie Mann of Case Design Build, Inc., was brightened with white cabinetry, a built-in pantry and a custom cherry wood island. “The white kitchen is classic and timeless,” said Mann. “It can work with most color accent palettes.”

A cramped and dark Potomac, Maryland, kitchen was lightened, brightened and redesigned to give the home’s owners a connection to their natural surroundings, which included a landscaped yard created for outdoor entertaining.

The kitchen was designed by Jim Rill of Rill Architects who added a working island around which the family can gather and prepare meals. He described the new look as a, “simple clean design with subtle elegance.” “

We added functional space with lots of windows and a place for everything, so kitchen could be cleaned up and used an entertaining area,” Rill said.

The family wanted a white kitchen, he said, because it, “creates a great backdrop for art and accentuates the exterior colors of spring, winter and fall.”

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OPINION

Time to Visit State Parks

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Eighty years ago this month, Virginia created the first state park system in the United States. With 35 miles of Potomac River frontage in the 36th Senate district, our community is lucky to have access to many natural resources, including our state parks.

Our state park system has its origins in the Great Depression. In 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built numerous park and recreational areas throughout the nation, as well as in Virginia. My grandfather grew up in Franklin County, Va., a county with no public high school so he had an eighth grade education and when he turned 22 in 1933, no job.

He enrolled in the CCC and was directed to report to the Arlington County "countryside" (yes, countryside). Every day, he walked through farm fields to construct trails and plant trees on Anolostan Island in the Potomac River, which had recently been renamed Teddy Roosevelt Island next to Rosslyn. The CCC also helped build the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Channeling FDR's CCC-energy, Virginia opened its first six state parks to the public on June 15, 1936 — Hungry Mother, Staunton River, Westmoreland, Douthat, Fairy Stone and Seashore (now called First Landing).

Eighty years later, Virginians have 38 state parks, and three of them are right here in the 36th District. Coupled with the National Park Service's George Washington Memorial Parkway, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Bureau of Land Management facilities (Meadowood Recreation Area) on Mason Neck, three federal wildlife refuges along the Potomac River

and Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge on Fort Belvoir, 36th District residents have the best access to low-cost, outdoor activities and opportunities to enjoy nature.

In Fairfax County, the 1,825-acre Mason Neck State Park opened in 1985 after local citizens, led by Mount Vernon-area resident Liz Hartwell, galvanized support to fight development threats on the Mason Neck peninsula. The park has numerous river views, trails and picnic

sites and is an excellent spot to view Potomac River wildlife.

In Prince William County, Leesylvania State Park on the Potomac River was dedicated in 1985 and opened in 1989. There are numerous historic sites on the property dating to the Civil War, and the land was once owned by Revolutionary War hero and governor, Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, Robert E. Lee's grandfather. Visitors can hike, fish, launch motor boats and rent canoes or kayak.

Lastly, Stafford County currently has no public water access, but that will change soon. The Widewater peninsula is the northernmost peninsula in Stafford County. In 2006, Virginia acquired 1,100 acres from Dominion Resources and dedicated Widewater State Park. This year, the state legislature approved \$11 million to fund Phases I and II of public facilities, which includes the construction of a boat launch, canoe launch, fishing piers, picnic areas, visitor center and numerous trails, including equestrian trails.

Make sure you get outside and take advantage of some of these assets. As a taxpayer, you own them. To add more support, you can join one of our local "friends" groups that partners with these public lands.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any further information at scott@scottssurovell.org. It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County Excluded Civic Association

To the Editor:

On June 18, Fairfax County held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to showcase its first outdoor gym that was installed at the Gum Springs Community Center. The grant partners, Fairfax County Park Authority (Park Authority) and Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), scheduled the ribbon-cutting to coincide with Gum Springs Annual Community Day. However, it should be duly noted that the one organization that was not invited to the ribbon-cutting was the community-based organization that is also the voice for the community — the New Gum Springs Civic Association.

For Fairfax County to provide a "Photo courtesy of Fairfax County" and its video by the Park Authority that documents the civic association's exclusion just adds more salt into the wound and contributes to a path of what's becoming a fragile relationship with Gum Springs.

Although two "community members" are pictured, not one member of the civic association was invited to participate in the ribbon-cutting. Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck was unaware of this "misstep" by both the Park Authority and NCS. Supervisor Storck denounced their actions and vowed that such actions would not occur in the future. No word from either the Park Authority or NCS. It now appears the Park Authority and NCS feel their actions were not

only warranted but also justified and had no impact on its relationship with Gum Springs. Wrong!

This is the second time this year that a Fairfax County agency/organization has held an event in Gum Springs under the guise of it being the community by excluding the civic association. It also appears that certain Fairfax County agencies/organizations are stepping up plans to be the community without living in the community and not really asking the community what it needs but rather what it will get by excluding the civic association from decisions that directly affect the community.

Could this perhaps be the reason Department of Community and Recreation Services changed its name to Department of Neighborhood and Community Services?

Queenie Cox
President

New Gum Springs Civic Association

Greatest Threat To Americans

To the Editor:

I believe Ms. Benesh in her letter ["Uninspiring Romper Room"] published in the July 7 Mount Vernon Gazette really misses the point about gun violence. House Resolution 3892 merely states "Ex-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

Investing in Transportation

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Governor McAuliffe just unveiled the new “Atlantic Gateway” transportation plan, the most comprehensive transit revitalization plan in Virginia history. The plan will total \$1.4 billion, with \$165 million in federal FASTLANE grant funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation, over \$500 million in private funding from CSX and Transurban, and the rest funded through the state.

There was \$800 million available nationwide through President Obama’s FASTLANE grant, and Virginia received about one-fifth of that money.

I’m proud to have played a small role in this historic transportation reinvestment, as it was my bill that enabled the Department of Rail and Public Transit to acquire the right-of-way necessary to construct the new rail, including a high-speed rail line from Richmond to Raleigh, N.C.

Our portion of the 95 corridor is the most congested corridor in the Southeast. Worse than even Atlanta and Miami. We are tired of waiting in traffic. It shouldn’t take an hour or two to drive across town to watch our kids play a ballgame in the afternoon. To increase economic activity and grow our new Virginia economy, it has to be a pleasurable experience for everyone trying to get around the Commonwealth, whether it be trying to get to the store, commuting to work, or trying to ship goods from Hampton Roads to points north.

Right now, the Port at Hampton Roads is the only east coast port that can handle the

new gigantic ships coming through the newly-expanded Panama Canal. The first ship arrived at Norfolk on Monday, July 11, and these transportation improvements will lead to an explosion of economic activity across the whole Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Atlantic Gateway Project includes 14 miles of additional rail track along the 95 corridor, including a new Long Bridge over the Potomac River, relieving this and notorious chokes point for VRE commuters, Amtrak travelers and CSX freight rail. Other rail bypasses will include a fourth track between Potomac and Alexandria, and a third track between Franconia and Occoquan, so passenger trains won’t get stuck behind freight rail anymore.

Another part of the Atlantic Gateway project that stands to benefit our area, is that it will make equitable investments and improvements in bus transit access through adding at least 10 new bus routes.

The funds will also extend the 95 express lanes 7 miles north to the D.C. line, with access points to the Pentagon, and 10 miles south to Fredericksburg, including a new southbound bridge across the Rappahannock. Construction on the extensions will begin in 2017.

Finally, as we improve our transportation network, the Commonwealth of Virginia is making the necessary improvements to 95 that will allow for autonomous vehicle deployment, coming in the near future.

I look forward to when the project is completed, making it easier for us to travel in Northern Virginia, and of course for the increased economic development and activity that comes with better transportation networks.

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Spacious with fine finishes. 3-car garage a plus! \$1,899,999
Eileen Marousek
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SE Quadrant

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Historic sunlit end townhome, almost 2,000 sq.ft of exquisite character, detail, gleaming hwdws. 2 wb fp, gourmet kit., 3 generous brs, 2.5 updated baths, lg back patio for entertaining.
\$1,155,000
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Manors at Mount Vernon

8301 Marble Dale Court, Alexandria VA
5 BR/4.5 BA, 4,000+ sq ft. Large corner lot. Front porch, large deck off kitchen and family room, slate patio. Freshly painted with new carpet. Shows beautifully!
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Open House Sunday 2-4pm WayneWood

1009 Potomac Lane, Alexandria VA Amazing value!
Open-concept/renovated/expanded/updated Mayfield Model. 4 beds/2 full/2 1/2 baths, gleaming hardwoods/fresh paint/custom moldings/prof landscaping!
1/2 block to pool \$729,000
Lyssa Seward 703-298-0562
MLS # FX9674337



New Listing Tauxemont

1312 Namassin Road, Alexandria VA
Charming cottage on quiet cul-de-sac. Fabulous interior, versatile floor plan, addition with vaulted ceiling & numerous upgrades throughout.
\$559,000
Jane Cole 703-598-6198
MLS # FX9707019



Cardinal Square

6622 Burlington Place, Springfield VA
Excellent commute Location!
Remodeled top to bottom Like New 3 level Town House-Style Condo, 3/2.5 w/New Dark Bamboo Floors. Open Kitchen w/Granite, SS, & Cab. CC covers ALL & Roof top electric!
\$339,000 David Thorpe 561-282-7000
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Working on Race Relations

FROM PAGE 8

hater, but you do not murder hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. So it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

And Jesus once said: “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The “Black Lives Matter” movement is the new civil rights movement. Why are we afraid to acknowledge that racism still exists, especially within our systems of justice? We have nothing to lose (except white

privilege) and everything to gain if we just begin the process of understanding each other.

❖ What if, in love, we seek to understand what we fear?

❖ What if, in love, we helped others understand what they fear?

❖ What if, in love, the Black community and the police department engaged in public dialogue around “Black Lives Matter”?

This could be one small step in bringing this world around to be the kind of world God intended.

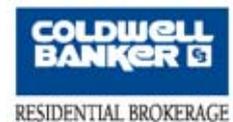
The Rev. Dr. Kincannon is pastor of Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, a racially mixed congregation serving the homeless and the poorest of the poor along the Route 1 Corridor of Fairfax County.

Write

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

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

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Ethiopian 'Political Football' Lands at MVHS

Protesters attempt to disrupt Ethiopian-American football league game.

By EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE

It was graduation day at Mount Vernon High School on June 16 and some parents were annoyed. A group of protesters had gathered outside the school. "It's graduation day for our kids," the parents complained to the protesters. "Can't you go somewhere else?" The protesters responded that they were there because children in Ethiopia can't always get to high school, or graduate, without dying of hunger, or being arrested or killed for their political beliefs.

Metro Washington, D.C. is sometimes called the second largest Ethiopian city because it has the largest concentration of Ethiopian-Americans in the U.S. — over 200,000 according to the U.S. Census. Many of those who are here continue to dispute the authority of Ethiopia's ruling party, or conversely, dispute the opposition. The "DC Area Ethiopian Joint Task Force," many of whose members sought political asylum in the U.S. because of their opposition to the ruling party, seeks to highlight the plight of the Ethiopians who remain in their country.

The DC Area Ethiopian Community Joint Task Force sent a letter to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Karen Garza on June 1 in which they asked her to cancel the AESAONE (All Ethiopian Sports Association) sporting event at Mount Vernon High School because of the association the event has with the Ethiopian ruling party. They said that AESAONE was established and financed by Mohammed Hussein al-Amoudi, a Saudi-Ethiopian billionaire who supports the regime.

The task force cited the 2014 U.S. State Department's Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Ethiopia, which states concern about "freedom of expression, including continued restrictions on print media and on the internet, and restrictions on freedom of association, including through arrests; politically motivated trials; and harassment and intimidation of opposition members and journalists." The report goes on to cite other human rights problems, including "alleged arbitrary killings; alleged torture, beating, abuse, and mistreatment of detainees by security forces; reports of harsh and at times life-threatening prison conditions; arbitrary arrest and detention; detention without charge and lengthy pre-trial detention"

One of the protesters, Tassaw Erimas, a resident of Alexandria, said most of the money in Ethiopia, and most of the companies there, are run by the minority TPLF (Tigray Peoples Liberation Front) regime. According to Erimas, the players and participants in this AESAONE are all TPLF-sponsored or supporters of the TPLF political minority. TPLF is sometimes known by the name "Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front" (EPRDF).

DC Task Force members stated that in the



The final game of Division 1 was played by Seattle versus Los Angeles. Teams came from all over the U.S. About 200 spectators gathered for the final. The score was Seattle 3 - 1 at half time.



Ethiopian protesters outside the Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria on June 16.

2005 elections only one region voted for the the TPLF/EPRDF: the rest of the country voted against them. They note that European Union observers of the election agreed the other party (KINJET) should have gotten more votes. DC Task Force also claims the TPLF put KINJET leaders into prison, killing some, in order to run the country unopposed. They point to remarks by U.S. National Security Advisor Susan Rice in July 2015 when the Ethiopian prime minister claimed to have won 100 percent of the vote for his party: "Some aspect of the democratic process was not working," she had said.

The Ethiopian protesters claim that al-Amoudi is one of the people behind a major land grab in Ethiopia causing displacements of poor farmers and their family

members from their land with full collaboration of the regime.

In their letter to Garza, the protesters accused the EPRDF for being responsible for the killing of over 140 students, teachers and farmers since November 2015.

Bisrat Meskel, CEO of AESAONE, disagreed. He explained AESAONE was established five years ago as a 501(c) non profit with no political or religious affiliation. He noted that if only 20 or so demonstrators showed up at Mount Vernon High on June 16, out of a population of over 200,000 Ethiopians, it should indicate how minor the opposition is. He underlined he is a retired postmaster with no interests in Ethiopia; he settled in the U.S. along with his fellow officers on the AESAONE leadership board, and is simply trying to sponsor a soccer tour-

nament. Meskel acknowledged that one of AESAONE's donors is al-Amoudi, but he noted that al Amoudi had supported the original Ethiopian sports federation, the ESFNA (Ethiopian Sport Federation of North America) for 25 years before the ESFNA split into two factions.

Meskel said ESFNA is now quite political and he complained that it, and the DC Area Task Force are the "political" players, not AESAONE. The other group is supported by a foreign government (Eritrea) and by anti-government media called "ESAT." AESAONE, in contrast, has no political booth at the event, he said.

As for al-Amoudi and the charges of the DC Area Task Force that he engages in unfair land grabs, Meskel said al-Amoudi has a lot of business interests in Ethiopia. He supported ESFNA until they became politicized. While many point to al-Amoudi's wearing of an EPRDF T-shirt in 2004 as an indication of his political leanings, Meskel disagrees that he is "the right hand man" of Zenawi. "He was all about support of the ESFNA for 25 years," Meskel said of al-Amoudi. "In addition, what businessman doesn't want to maintain good relations with the government in order to do business?" And yes, Meskel said, al-Amoudi did lease land from the Ethiopian government along with a lot of others — Chinese businessmen as well. "Even my parents had their land taken," Meskel said. In Ethiopia, all the land belongs to the government. They take your land and relocate you, but they don't compensate you. Your land might be very valuable and the new land may not be."

Again, Meskel said, "These groups of oppositionists keep coming to AESAONE events to protest — this is not the first time. They did it this year in Denver and Minneapolis, but they never get more than 12 or 14 people to demonstrate." AESAONE took place on the premises of Mount Vernon High School from July 3- 9.

At the final games, on Saturday, July 9, about 200 people watched Ethiopian youth play soccer in the bright colors of their flag. Ethiopian coffee and food were served in tents around the event. One of the attendees, Mekdes Ymesel, said, "Ruling party or opposition party? Oh, no: the opposition event is in Toronto. This is an Ethiopian government event, and supports Ethiopian Prime Minister Zenawi."

Fairfax County Public Schools public information officer, John Torres, pointed out that this is not a school-sponsored or FCPS-sponsored event. AESAOne is using FCPS property for their activity under the FCPS "Community Use of School Facilities" regulation (Regulation 8420). The group has complied with all of the provisions required of them, under the policy. FCPS schools are public facilities and, as such, the buildings and properties are available to the public — including community groups — regardless of political, religious or any other affiliation or message.

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN

ENTERTAINMENT

Meet the Chef: Sert Ruamthong of Warehouse

Executive chef shares some cooking secrets, keeps others to himself.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

It was hot in the kitchen. “You should see what it feels like when all 12 burners are going,” says Sert Ruamthong, executive chef at The Warehouse Bar & Grill on King Street for 26 years. Today he is making pan-seared Chesapeake rockfish with angel hair pasta and crabmeat.

Ruamthong reaches for the tomato-basil vinaigrette. He has mixed extra-virgin olive oil with fresh basil, a sprinkle of black pepper, chopped fresh tomato and red wine vinegar. “This is the basic way to make a vinaigrette. You add Dijon mustard that has whole eggs in it and causes the vinaigrette not to break into vinegar and oil.” He pours the vinaigrette over the crabmeat and leaves it cold. “In the summer we don’t heat this up but we would in the winter when the weather is cold. We make things a lot of different ways.”

Flames shoot up the side as Ruamthong dips into a metal container of liquid unsalted butter and ladles it into a hot skillet. “I will sear the rockfish for one minute on each side and then put it into the oven at 475 degrees to finish.”

The steel counter is lined with containers of crab soup laced with sherry (a little heavy for summer), gumbo with Andouille sausage (a little hot), alligator soup (a good seller) and special Cajun sauces. Chocolate mousse sits in the refrigerator ready for dessert.

A Parmesan bowl sits ready for assembly. Ruamthong has shredded Parmesan cheese, “about half a cup.” He “spreads it all over” a small skillet and cooks it until it is golden brown. “Then this is the secret. I flip the Parmesan pancake over this bowl. Wsssssst. And I let it harden on the bowl until I’m ready to use it.” It takes on the shape of the bowl and can be filled with a number of different ingredients.

Now Ruamthong returns to the crabmeat. He tosses the crabmeat and tomato-basil vinaigrette with a mound of cooked angel hair pasta. He places a handful of frisée lettuce in the middle of a large square plate

and places the Parmesan bowl on top. Then he scoops the pasta-crab mixture into the Parmesan bowl. “I don’t put the rockfish in the Parmesan bowl until the end because I don’t want to crack it.

He turns to finish the elaborate presentation with a few artfully placed dribbles of basil oil splashed around all four sides of the plate. Next tiny crisp micro greens sprinkled around the edges and finally the touch of balsamic vinaigrette reduction. At last it is time to carefully place the crisply seared rockfish on top of the pasta. He selects two chive strips and drapes them over the edge of the finished dish.

Ruamthong said he was lucky, that he just got this job by accident because they didn’t have a cook at the time. “I learned from scratch.” Ruamthong went to college in Thailand but it wasn’t until he came to America for a better life that he went to the Culinary Institute of America in New York and started on a cooking career. He fondly remembers his mother’s shrimp pad Thai, the traditional dish. He tries different spices in his American dishes, “and ... I make the best jambalaya and étouffée anywhere.” But if people don’t like some spices, or gluten or other things he gives the customer what they want. “I say yes on every customer unless I don’t have the ingredients.”

“I like it because of the variety.” He says that Warehouse is a Cajun restaurant “but we make food the way you like it. And this is why I love it. Some people eat here 4-5 times a week, and if I know they are coming I know what they will want. But you feed 200-300 people a day that you don’t know. Then you win when you figure it out.” Ruamthong says people ask him for his recipes and he will gladly give them a recipe, but he smiles, “I don’t tell you what is in the special spice. Or how much of the spice to put in the recipe.”



Certified Executive Chef Sert Ruamthong says he came to America from Thailand for a better life. He was trained at the Culinary Institute of America in New York and has been working at The Warehouse Bar & Grill on King Street for 26 years. “I like to give customers what they want; when I figure it out, I win.”



Sert Ruamthong places a piece of Chesapeake rockfish on high heat to sear it on both sides for one minute, then into the oven at 475 degrees for eight minutes.



Above: Sert Ruamthong mixes angel hair pasta with fresh tomato-basil vinaigrette and chopped fresh tomato and red wine vinegar with Dijon mustard. Right: The finished Chesapeake rockfish dish is garnished with a spoonful of tomato-basil vinaigrette added to the top and slivers of chives draped artfully on the side of the rockfish to give the final touch.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE AND EVAN JENKINS/
THE GAZETTE

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

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.

Caribbean-American Jubilee Arts

Exhibition. Through July, gallery hours at The Torpedo Factory Arts Center, 105 N. Union St. The Second Art Impact USA Caribbean Jubilee Arts Exhibition is in honor of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Free. Visit www.artimpactusa.org for more.

Grown Ups Art Camp. Through July 15, various times at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans is offering more than 30 workshops and sessions to choose from. Prices vary. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

Indoor Arts Supplies Yard Sale. Through July 15, various times at Del

Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Art supplies will be for sale a half-hour before and immediately after each Grown Ups Art Camp workshop. Free to attend. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/GUAC.

Target Gallery: “Please Touch.” Through July 17, gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Sixteen national and international artists, including four people from Virginia, were juried into this group show. This all-media exhibition features 20 works with which audiences are invited to engage. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org

for more.
Art Exhibit: “Out and About.” Through July 17, gallery hours at The Associates Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. TAG member artist and oil painter Ellen Kolansky presents a grouping of her landscape paintings. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.
“Last Five Years.” Through July 23, 7 p.m. at West Potomac High School - Kogelman Theatre, 6500 Quander Road. Students and teaching artists from Rambunctious Theatre Company and Beyond the Page Theatre Company of West Potomac High School are working in

conjunction to produce the show as a fundraiser. Tickets are \$10. Visit www.westpotomactheatre.org for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: “Circuses.” Through July 24, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the juried show “Circuses.” Artists’ derive inspiration from clowns, animals, trapezes, jugglers, ringmasters, sideshows, crowds and other big house trappings. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

Art Exhibit: “At Water’s Edge.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Through July 31, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery – Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. A photographic exhibit by Maureen Minehan. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

Art Exhibit: “Generations.”

Through July 31, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center – Studio 306, 105 N. Union St. Realist artists James Dean and Kara Hammond bring together their space related works to celebrate the early days of space travel and exploration. Free. Visit www.karahammond.wordpress.com for more.

Summerquest.

Various times at various libraries in Alexandria. SummerQuest is divided into three groups: SummerQuest, Jr. (ages 0-5), SummerQuest (ages 6-12) and Teen Summer Reading (ages 12-18). This year's theme is “Read for the Win!” Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us.

“Violent Grace: A Retrospective.”

Through July 30, 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.

“The Beauty of Inflection.”

Through July 31, gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Julia Bloom and Susan Hostetler have created complementary bodies of work, in both two and three dimensions, inspired by nature; murmurings and birdsongs, and organic grids of color and light. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.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.

Fort Hunt Concerts.

Through Aug. 28, Sundays 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. A different band performs each week. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp for more.

Collage and Ceramics – Kathryn Horn Coneway.

Through Aug. 28, gallery hours at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Free. Visit www.kathrynconeway.com for more.

Women of Civil War Alexandria Tour.

Through Sept. 3, 7 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Learn more about women's roles during the Civil War in Alexandria. Presented by the National Women's History Museum (NWHM). Tickets are \$15, \$12 for NWHM members. Visit www.nwhm.com/get-involved/event/walking-tours.

Mercy in Alexandria Walking Tour.

Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitors Center, 221 King St. Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series “Mercy Street,” accompany a trained military historian through Civil War-era Alexandria and learn the actual history behind the TV show. Short tours are \$15, private tours for five are \$149. Visit www.dcmilitarytour.com for more.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History.

Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations. Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to “be the curator” and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit

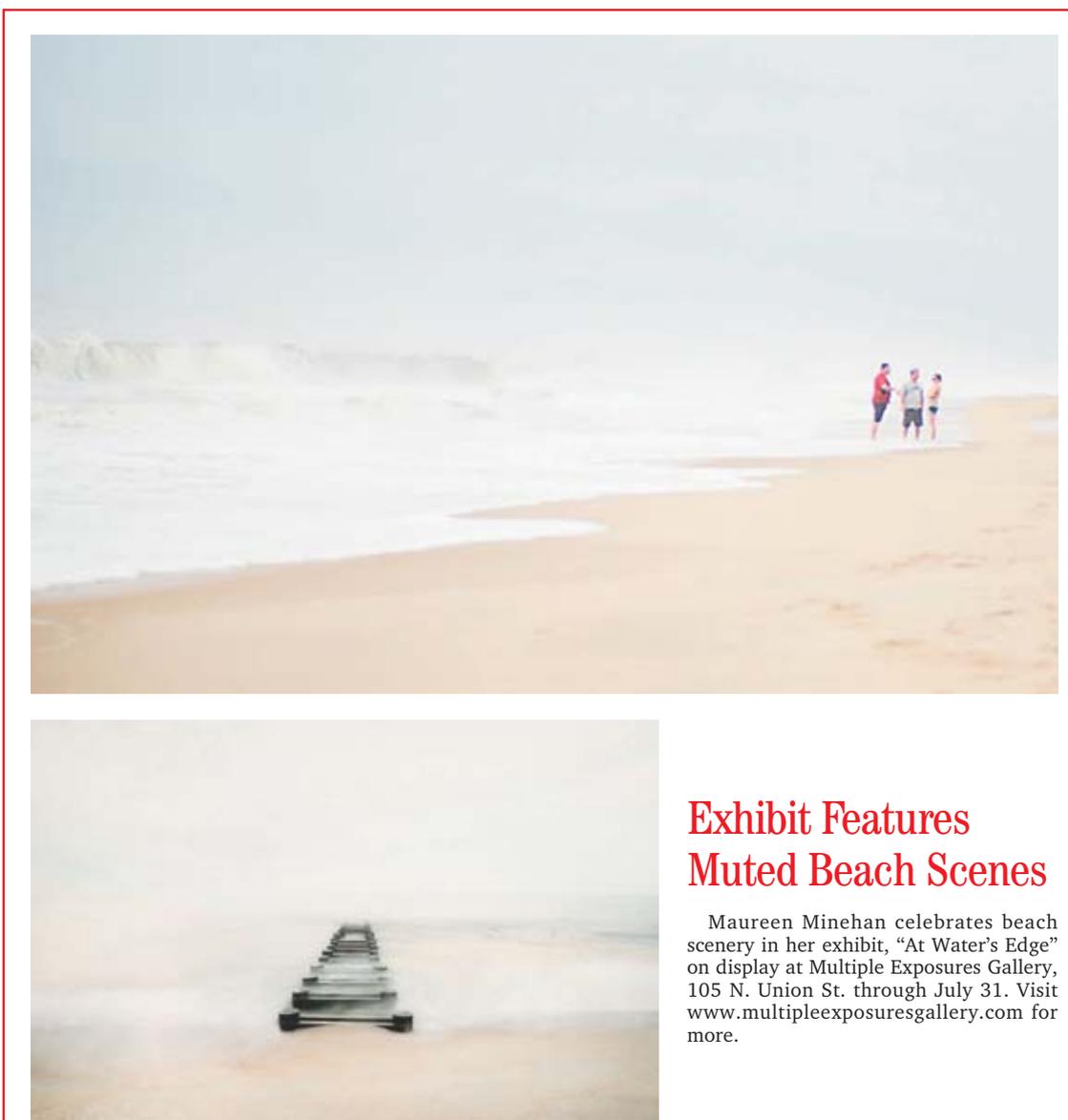


Exhibit Features Muted Beach Scenes

Maureen Minehan celebrates beach scenery in her exhibit, “At Water's Edge” on display at Multiple Exposures Gallery, 105 N. Union St. through July 31. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com for more.

www.alexandriahistory.org for more.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit.

Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward for more.

Alexandria's Nurses & Hospitals During the Civil War.

Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama “Mercy Street,” with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum for more.

“Ancient Art of Movement.”

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

Flamenco Show. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. at La

Tasca, 607 King St. Watch dancers and guitarists perform traditional flamenco. Free to attend. Call 703-299-9810 or visit www.latascausa.com.

French Movie Night.

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

Their Fates Intertwined: The Lees of Alexandria in the War of 1812.

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

Alexandria Cars and Coffee

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

Fifty Years of Collecting.

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

National Inventors Hall of Fame

Exhibit. Through November at The National Inventors Hall of Fame-USPTO campus, 600 Dulany St. The exhibit features the stories of Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame who served their country during World War II and returned home to help build the nation with their innovations. Free. Visit www.inventnow.org.

Dinner for the Washingtons.

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

Second Thursday Music.

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

The Monday Morning Birdwalk

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

Art for Life.

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

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum,

105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org.

Doggy Happy Hour.

Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit www.monacoalexandria.com for more.

Baseball Boat to Nationals Park.

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Olympic Champions Camp.

July 25-Aug. 26, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. at Boys & Girls Club, 401 N. Payne St. The Olympic Champions Camp incorporates “Triple Play” to engage mind, body, and soul. Campers participate in reading, STEM, sports, meditation and more. Prices vary. Visit www.bgcgw.org for more.

Theatre Camp.

Through Sept. 2, various times at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Offering a variety of camps for age 3 through 8th grade, covering creative play, acting, singing, dancing, musical theatre and improv. Sessions also include comedy, scene study, Shakespeare and drama. Tuition prices vary. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com for more.

Photography Workshop.

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

Community Dance.

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

Life Drawing.

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

Community Yoga.

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

THURSDAY/JULY 14

Rejuvenate the Midsummer Herb Garden.

7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Learn how to keep your herb garden going strong in hot summer weather through good maintenance practices and occasional replanting. Learn tips and techniques to use and preserve herbs, including how to flavor vinegars. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

ENTERTAINMENT

3 Restaurants To Help Pack Your Picnic

Running short on time but still want to dine al fresco?

By HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

By this point in the year, outdoor movies, jazz concerts, and wine festivals are in full swing. And with the Fourth of July in the rearview mirror, the summer picnic season is well under way. Here are three restaurants to help you pack your picnic when you're short on time or inspiration — or if you want to keep the kitchen cool as a cucumber and still reap the rewards.

Perfect Pita, 1640 King St.; 951 N. Fairfax St.; 3101 Park Center Drive

What could be cooler on a hot summer day than freshly made Mediterranean food? From hummus to falafel to baklava, the Perfect Pita — with three locations in Alexandria — offers up the perfect picnic spread for a plethora of occasions.

One thing the vegetarians among us will notice right away is the number of meat-free options the Perfect Pita offers up without even working at it: The hummus sandwich, complete with a hearty helping of the chickpea puree along with lettuce and tomato, is one of the eatery's best options, and the falafel pita isn't far behind. But meat-eaters will also find plenty to munch on, ranging from a Boardwalk Pita starring salami, ham and provolone to the Sir Caesar, a pita take on the namesake salad. Pick up a side salad from the refrigerated case to round out the meal — and don't forget a slice or two of baklava for dessert.

Bombay Curry, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave.

At first blush, Indian food doesn't seem the most picnic-friendly fare. But give it another look — the rice, the meat and the veggies all conspire to provide a full, portable meal in a tidy package. And whether it's for an outdoor movie or an al-fresco date night at Oronoco Bay Park, Bombay Curry stands ready to help.

Ready for a hearty meal? Give the butter chicken, a charcoal-broiled meat served with a creamy tomato curry sauce, a try. Or for something a bit lighter, the vegetable biryani — a rice dish bursting with vegetables and dusted with plenty of spices — will do the job in an instant. Be sure to order some samosas



PHOTO BY MICHAEL POPE

The combination sushi meals at Momo Sushi offer picnickers many great options.

to nibble on throughout your picnic meal, and if you've got a cooler, the rice pudding is a great sweet treat to end the evening right.

Momo Sushi, 212 Queen St.

Let's face it: Sushi is a perennial champion when it comes to picnic fare. Light, portable, easy to eat with one's fingers; it has everything going for it. And when Momo gets involved, you've got a treat that's teeming with flair.

To max out the variety in your sushi order, go for one of the combination meals. The maki roll combo, featuring six pieces each of California, tuna, and salmon rolls, offers up a hearty picnic dinner in a small package. Going meatless? The veggie roll combo offers diners a choice of three among cucumber, avocado, asparagus, oshinko, and inari. To round out the meal, why not serve orange slices, as the Momo chefs do? It will be sure sign of a great feast's conclusion.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

FRIDAY/JULY 15

Big Band Jazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Bob Gibson Big Band with vocalist Maureen McDonnell playing vintage to modern Big Band Jazz. Free. Visit www.bobgibsonbigband.com.

Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music conducted by Owen Hammett. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 15-16

Alexandria Comcast Outdoor Film Festival. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Two movies will show on a 40-foot inflatable movie screen, with the Alexandria Waterfront as the backdrop. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer.

SATURDAY/JULY 16

The Sounds of Dyke Marsh. 5:15 a.m. or 7:45 p.m. at Haul Road entrance bulletin board just off Belle Haven Marina Road. In celebration of World Listening Day, global annual celebrations encouraging awareness of acoustic environments, participants will listen in Dyke Marsh, recognizing changes in sounds of the past, present and future. Free. Call 703-765-5233 for more.

Family Fun Day: The Wright Flight. 10-11:30 a.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.

Celebrate the 107th Anniversary of Orville Wright's historic flight from Fort Myer to Alexandria and test the basic principles of flight. Like the Wright brothers, work together as a family to create a hypothesis and conduct test flights to learn which design is the best. Tickets are \$8 for children, free for adults. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx.

Tons of Trucks. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Chinguapin Park, 3210 King St. All ages are invited to explore and get behind the wheel of more than 20 different vehicles from seven City departments. Vehicles include a fire engine, armored ambulance, front-end loader, dump truck, bucket trucks, trash truck, sewer truck, vacuum truck, buses and more. \$5 per person or \$15 per family of four upon entry. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation or contact Lindsay Burneson at 703-7460-5457 or Lindsay.Burneson@alexandriava.gov.

Canine Cruise. 11 a.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. With four-legged friends in tow, board a Potomac Riverboat Co. cruise and tour the Alexandria Seaport on this popular 60-minute waterfront excursion. Dogs must be on 6-foot flat leash at all times. Tickets are \$16 for adults, \$10 for children, free for dogs. Visit www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com/canine-cruise.php.

SUNDAY/JULY 17

Ashley Watkins. 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The music of contemporary flutist Ashley Watkins features a mix of classical works and jazz numbers. Compositions performed will be selected from Charles T. Griffes,

Claude Debussy, Otar Taktakishvili, Allen Vizzutti, Claude Bolling. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

Presidential Salon with James Madison. 3-4:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Join President Madison as he discusses and engages guests about political and personal issues of 1816. Reservations are recommended. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 18-22

Del Ray Artisans Art Camp. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites young campers to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction. All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be a one-day only gallery show held on July 23 1-3 p.m. The fee is \$300. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 19

Searching Adoption Records. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist and adoptee Susan Palma talks about adoption records through time and gives tips on finding family. Free. Visit www.mvgenalogy.org or call 703-768-4101.

JULY 19-AUG. 14

Exhibit: "Decatheet: a verb." Gallery hours at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of the show is derived from a series of very personal studies illustrating Richard

Greenway's progression from when he first began painting with oils in 2010. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20

Port City Community Give Back Night. 4-9 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Port City Brewing Co. and the Friendship Firehouse Company present a Community Give Back event. Help raise money to restore two historic hand-drawn fire vehicles from the 1850s. Events of the evening include Port City beer, Rocklands Red Hot BBQ food truck, a raffle to win a fire bucket, door prizes, silent auction, fun "fire" contests, photo ops, and more. Visit Alexandriava.gov/FriendshipFirehouse.

THURSDAY/JULY 21

Let's Grow Garden Club: "Bee Quest." 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Test your pollinator spotting skills in the gardens with our pollinator game. Figure out how pollinators help us grow food and what plants they like to visit. Visit bee hives and sample flower honey. Take home some pumpkin seeds for planting. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Reception: "Decatheet: a verb." 4-6 p.m. at The Associates' Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of the show is derived from a series of very personal studies illustrating Richard Greenway's progression from when he first began painting with oils in 2010. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 22

Arlandria Quality of Life Walk. 9-11 a.m. at The Conservatory Center at Four Mile Run Park, 3700 Commonwealth Ave. This annual event is designed for City Staff and Arlandria residents to collectively walk the Arlandria neighborhood and observe and document areas or issues that need to be addressed or improved. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Arlandria.

Closing 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. Meet the artist. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

"West Side Story." 7 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. This musical will raise funds for the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial Visitor Education Center. \$40 suggested donation. Call Tina Barry at 703-683-5778 ext. 1.

SATURDAY/JULY 23

Del Ray Music Festival. 3-8 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue. The 9th Annual Del Ray Music Fest is a celebration of local talent. Free. Visit www.DelRayMusicFestival.com.

Summer Concert. 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Surprise band performs. Free, \$5 suggested donation. Visit www.carlylehouse.org.

MONDAY/JULY 25

The Art of Ballroom Dance. 7-7:45 p.m. lesson, 7:45-8:30 p.m. dance at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Learn the foxtrot, waltz, tango, swing, salsa, meringue, rumba, cha-



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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number, and identify all people and pets in photos. Submission deadline is July 20.

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

JULY

7/27/2016.....Connection Families: Our Pets

AUGUST

8/3/2016..... Wellbeing

8/10/2016.....HomeLifeStyle

8/17/2016...A+ Camps & Schools – Back to School – Private Schools

8/24/2016...Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout

8/31/2016.....Connection Families: Enrichment, Care & Back to School

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day is September 5

9/7/2016..... Wellbeing

9/14/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Pullout – Real Estate & New Homes

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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

ENTERTAINMENT

cha, and samba. For beginning and advanced dancers. Tickets are \$15. Email garystephans@me.com or call 703-505-5998.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 25-29

Del Ray Artisans Art Camp. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans invites young campers to spend a week creating art with professional artist instruction. All artist supplies, as well as lunch and snacks, are provided. There will also be a one-day only gallery show held on July 30 1-3 p.m. The fee is \$300. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

JULY 26-AUG. 28

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: "Explorations Part I." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 105 N. Union St. Artists' take inspirations from the early explorers: Vikings, Phoenicians, Marco Polo, tall ships, discovery of the New World and more. Free. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 28

Jane Austen Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing. Tickets are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Call 703-746-4242 for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 29

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

SATURDAY/JULY 30

Children's Art Workshop: "The Beauty of Inflection." 2 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Julia Bloom and Susan Hostetler have created complementary bodies of work, in both two and three dimensions, inspired by nature. The artists will conduct a workshop for children ages 8-12, to explore various media including making stencils and create work reflecting the nature of the show. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 30-31

Harry Potter Birthday Weekend. At Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Saturday features adult-only tours of the museum from 7-10 p.m. that includes an adult beverage, make-and-take activity, photo opportunities and time to explore items familiar from the Harry Potter series and their real-world uses. Event ends in time to join the midnight release of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child - Parts I & II" at Hooray for Books. On Sunday, celebrate Harry Potter's birthday with family-friendly tours of the apothecary from 1:30-6 p.m. Hooray for Books will sell Harry Potter merchandise and leading Harry Potter trivia. Tickets are \$15 for Saturday, \$6 for Sunday. Visit shop.AlexandriaVA.gov.

TUESDAY/AUG. 2

"West Side Story." 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. See a performance of Little Theatre of Alexandria preceded by a reception. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/westsidestory for more.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

Babes in the Woods. 9:30-11 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Explore the parks of Northern Virginia with your babies in backpack carriers. Tickets are \$5. Call 703-228-6535 for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 4

Let's Grow Garden Club: "Sunny Days." 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Kids will learn why the sun is important to photosynthesis and cook garden-fresh pizzas in a solar oven. Tickets are \$15 per child. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Jane Austen Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13,

learn 18th-century English country dancing. Tickets are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Call 703-746-4242 for more.

AUG. 4-SEPT. 18

Exhibit: Kit Keung Kan. Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Kit Keung Kan is a Hong Kong-American artist and physicist who interprets traditional Chinese landscape paintings with his passion for the art form as well as his experience in scientific study and research such as relational concepts and objective abstraction. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

AUG. 5-27

Exhibit: "The Silent World." 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays at Gallery @Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. "The Silent World" explores the intricacies of creativity and the effect of society, education, and age on the creative process. Students from preschool to graduate level are asked to respond to the prompt: "95% of the ocean is still unexplored. Make something that's never been seen before that you think lives in the deep ocean." Their responses will make up the Silent World Exhibit and lead participants and viewers to conversations about the way our creative nature changes over time. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 6

Friendship Firehouse Festival. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred St. This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the City of Alexandria Fire Department. Held at the historic Friendship Firehouse, the festival celebrates the special role firefighters have played throughout history, especially those of Friendship. The event will feature a collection of antique fire equipment and, courtesy of the Alexandria Fire Department, a display of modern fire trucks and apparatus. The Alexandria Red Cross and the Community Emergency Response Team will also be on hand. Other attractions include craft booths, food vendors and free birthday cake. Free. Visit www.friendshipfire.net.

Lecture: "A Fine Beginning." 12-4 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. In August 1753, John Carlyle and his wife, Sarah Fairfax Carlyle, moved into their new home in Alexandria. That night, Sarah gave birth to a son, William. Visit the museum and learn about 18th century colonial family life. Children can also play 18th century games on the front lawn. Free, \$1 suggested donation. Call 703-549-2997 for more.

Youth Arts Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. This festival will showcase the talents of youth around the city and serve as a forum of expression for both visual and performing arts. Free. Call 703-549-7115 ext. 370.

Tavern Day Open House. 1-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Experience Alexandria's five-star hotel of the 18th century, made famous by John Gadsby, whose guests included George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Explore the museum with costumed guides, learn more about 18th century foodways and enjoy period music and dancing in the historic ballroom. Free. Visit www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/summer.

SUNDAY/AUG. 7

Kit Keung Kan Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Celebrate this new exhibit. Keung Kan is a Hong Kong-American artist and physicist who interprets traditional Chinese landscape paintings with his passion for the art form as well as his experience in scientific study and research such as relational concepts and objective abstraction. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 11

Jane Austen Dance Class. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. In preparation for the Jane Austen Ball on Aug. 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing. Tickets are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Call 703-746-4242 for more.



'Neighbors Helping Neighbors'

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At UCM making a delivery of a car load of food donated from the annual Mount Vernon "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" Food Drive is West Potomac High School rising senior Will Shute, drive coordinator. Neighborhoods covered included Belle Haven down to Mount Vernon. The drive end date has been extended to July 31. To donate or volunteer, contact Shute at mtvernonfooddrive@gmail.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 12

presses the sense of Congress that: (1) the Muslim Brotherhood has met the criteria for designation as a foreign terrorist organization, and (2) the Department of State should so designate it."

And "Requires the State Department to report to Congress within 60 days whether the Muslim Brotherhood meets the criteria for foreign terrorist designation and, if not, which criteria have not been met."

While the resolution might have some merit, it would do little to nothing to curb gun violence in the U.S. However, I would feel a bit more supportive if the NRA were added to the resolution, since it is our worst domestic terrorist group.

Gun violence is the product of the 300-plus million guns in the U.S., the love affair we are supposed to have with them, the fear we have been sold to look for bad guys and terrorists around every corner, and the fraudulent interpretation of the Second Amendment that makes the right absolute no matter how destructive it is to the country. Resolution 3892 will merely ramp up the hatred of all Muslims that many politicians have pushed for over a decade.

Unless Congress gets serious about comprehensive, common sense gun control legislation, we will continue to have mass murders that already go well beyond the commonly known locations: Columbine, Aurora, Virginia Tech, Sandy Hook, San Bernardino, Orlando, etc. Every abused spouse will have to wonder if the abuser will express his/her abuse through a fired gun; every parent will have to wonder whether a carelessly stored gun will result in a curious child accidentally killing himself or another child; every person will have to wonder

whether the next time they walk their dog, go shopping, go to church, or just live, life will be stopped by a bullet, stray or intentional; every police officer will have to wonder whether the person they stop is going to pull a gun or maybe is just complying with a request for an ID.

Until we have comprehensive, common sense gun control legislation passed through Congress and enacted, death will greet us every day, in single gun deaths and mass deaths. We will have more weeks like the week of July 4, which had two high profile police shootings of questionable legitimacy and more police targeted as in Dallas.

Even though Ms. Bensch was not "moved or inspired" by the Democratic sit-in, we need only look at the Republican modus operandi of doing everything to undermine gun control, even after the worst mass murder in the U.S. In the end, the sit-in was a very appropriate response. Paul Ryan and his Republican colleagues are an embarrassment to the country. For that reason, I doubt the House and Senate majorities will do what is right with gun control.

William Zaccagnino
Alexandria

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

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1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDREA SANDERSON

The Fort Hunt Little League Baseball Juniors Team: Back row, Nick Sanderson, Jacob Trumbo, Joey English, Albert Pallasch, Dom Holmes; front row, Joey Castrilli, Tony Castrilli/Coach, Cole Dilliplain, Nick Sanderson, Michael Ghattas, Eli Owens, Gabe Tose, Justin Bassett, Luke Catanzaro, Henry Dean, Andrew Tessier/Coach, and Joe English/Coach.

Juniors Team Advances to State Tournament

The Fort Hunt Little League Baseball Juniors Team defeated Woodbridge 12-0 in the District 9 championship Saturday, July 9 at Red Stevens Field.

The group of 13-14-year-old athletes advanced to the state championship tournament in Pound, Va. Their first game is scheduled for Friday, July 15.

“We were successful thanks to solid contributions

from every player and strong teamwork,” said Coach Tony Castrilli. “We are excited about the opportunity and are looking forward to representing our community in the state tournament.”

In final district championship game Aiden Sanderson went 2-4 with 2 runs batted in, Joey English was 4-4 with 2 RBIs and Joey Castrilli was 3-4 with one RBI.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fairfax County’s Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person’s well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor’s appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov. Fairfax County needs **volunteers to drive older adults** to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Gum Springs Senior Program** in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria** needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center** in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Love boating and have interest in giving back to the community? Learn more about the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Auxiliary is built on four cornerstones: Member Services, Recreational Boating Safety, Operations, Marine Safety, and Fellowship. The Auxiliary will begin training staff for the upcoming 2016 boating season. All ages are welcome. Email Flotilla2508@gmail.com for more.

The **Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center** for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

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



Girl Scouts Support UCM Families

UCM’s Volunteer Coordinator Emily Griffin (at far right) welcomes members of Girl Scout Daisy Troop 3954, rising second graders at Waynewood Elementary School. The girls delivered a \$200 cash donation to purchase fresh food for the UCM Food Pantry. After touring the pantry a few months ago and learning more about people who go hungry in the community, the troop wanted to do more to help. They decided to host a bake sale this spring and donated the proceeds to help feed children and families in need.



Several members of Girl Scout Juniors Troop 4554 are in the main office waiting room at United Community Ministries’ Fordson Road location, the site of their Bronze Award project. The Bronze Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. Their project included painting the waiting room, purchasing new book shelves and a table, and hosting a drive to collect children’s books for the waiting area.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

FCPS Transgender Regulations Head to Work Session

A public forum for Fairfax County Public Schools Board members to discuss how they should review new regulations concerning the treatment of transgender students has been canceled. FCPS spokesperson John Torre said Chair Pat Hynes decided there was sufficient support from other board and community members to take the regulations to a work session and forego the forum. The forum was scheduled to take place around the board’s regular business meeting on July 14.

The regulations, which were emailed to School Board members in the last two weeks, are meant to be a guide for administrators and staff to consistently facilitate gender identity being added to the

school system’s nondiscrimination policy in May 2015.

Hynes called the regulations “comprehensive” and consistent with the policy change, while other members have been critical that they’re too limited in what they explain and leave unexplained. The work session will allow the board to have a more substantive dialogue, and in a public setting. Monday July 18 is the next scheduled all-day work session, beginning at 10 a.m. at FCPS headquarters on Gatehouse Road in Merrifield.

Torre said it’s possible the transgender regulations could be added to the agenda then, but he wasn’t able to confirm before print time.

— TIM PETERSON

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-Theodore Roosevelt

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21 Announcements

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OBITUARY

On Saturday, July 9th, 2016, **Grady C. Frank, Jr., 69**, of Alexandria, Virginia, loving husband of Beth Jones Frank and devoted father of Grady C. Frank III.

Visitation is Tuesday, July 19th from 5pm-7pm at Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home at 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at 10:30am at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314.



ALEXANDRIA, VA.....

Edward Washington Cather II, 80, of Alexandria, died Friday June 24, 2016, at Bridgepoint Hospital in Washington, DC of COPD and heart failure. Ed was born on January 21, 1936 in Winchester, VA to Roy A Cather and Pauline Shoop Cather.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Indie, are 3 children, 2 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren, a brother Roy and sister-in-law. He was preceded in death by his parents, and a sister Anne Cather Bowie. A summary of his many accomplishments and interests can be found at the Advent Funeral Home website along with online registry and expressions of condolences. www.adventfuneral.com/archives/edward-washington-cather-ii.htm

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-07-03**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking bids for Elevator # 1 Modernization at George Washington Middle School.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB # 16-07-03, Elevator # 1 Modernization at G.W. Middle School will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, Tuesday August 16, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions must be submitted before 3:00 p.m., August 5, 2016. If necessary, an addendum will be issued and posted to the ACPS web site. A pre-bid conference/site visit will be held on July 27, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the address listed above.

No ITB may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of bids except as may be set forth in the ITB.

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
Senior Buyer

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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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.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
GRG Inc, trading as Los Tios Grill, 241 S Van Dorn St, Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine and Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. German Mejia, President
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.

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-Dean Acheson

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INVITATION TO BID NUMBER 16-06-04**

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking competitive bids from qualified Bidders to provide Pest Control Services.

Sealed Bids with the notation ITB# 16-06-04 Pest Control Services will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, August 2, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Bids appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. ITB documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8181, or by downloading the ITB from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/bids.php>

ACPS reserves the right to cancel this ITB and/or reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in any bid.

Chris Guy
Procurement Manager

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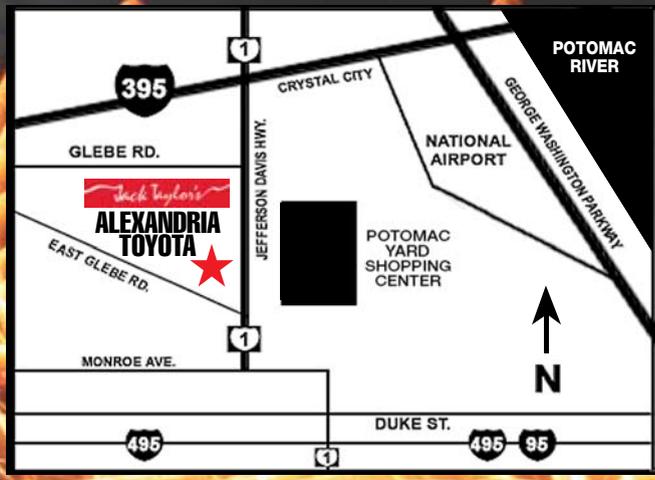
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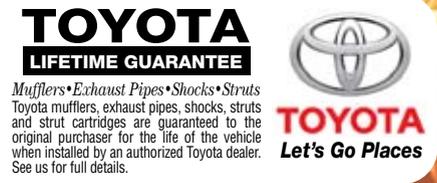
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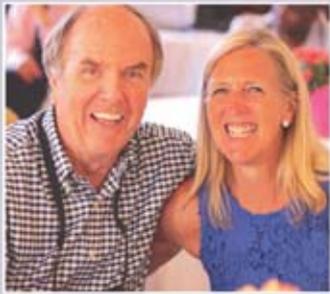
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\$1,250,000
Mid-century Gem. 6 Gorgeous Acres!

Award winning mid-century home designed and built as personal residence by areas leading architect. Magnificent residence with exceptional floor plan and top quality materials. Carefully crafted to enhance its stunningly beautiful six acre setting. Natural wonderland with stone lined private lane, meandering creek and gorgeous woods and pond.



9419 Mt. Vernon Cir.
\$1,299,000

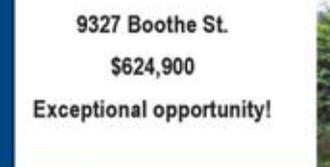
One of the area's most distinctive properties! Custom estate caliber home with classic French Provincial flair. Premier location in Mt Vernon on the Potomac-the only community in the area with a private marina for the exclusive use of its' residents. Imposing residence with many custom touches including open foyer with double curved stairway, custom white brick exterior, high ceilings, spacious room sizes and oversize garage. Columned veranda overlooks pool and grounds.



2814 Bass Ct.
\$599,500
True One Level Living!



4302 Robertson Blvd.
\$575,000
Spacious Rambler - backs to park!



9327 Boothe St.
\$624,900
Exceptional opportunity!



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

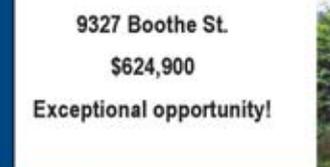
• New Nelson II Model- 3,525 sf

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



4520 Dolphin Lane
\$745,950
Great setting!

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



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