Back to the Future

Original Mount Vernon High School reopens for teens after 30 years.

By Gerald A. Fill
The Gazette

The Original Mount Vernon High School Gym is once again going to be used by teens, only this time as a part of the existing Teen Center at the South County Government Center. The gym is located across the road from the South County Government Center and completes the current Teen Center with a full-size gym and basketball courts. Plans are underway to resurface the gym floor and make other improvements. The first day of its opening is Oct. 11.

As part of the long-term strategy to re-use and revitalize the original high school, the next step will be to open an early child education center. Long-term, the revitalization goal is to develop the school into a multi use community center with both public and private uses.

At Saturday’s dedication of the gym, Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck pledged his commitment to work with the community and county to get the most out of the redevelopment of the school and realize the long-term goals of his predecessor, retired Supervisor Gerry Hyland.

Hyland, present for the dedication, expressed his satisfaction that the school will finally be converted to a variety of local public uses.

Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan was also present. Through his efforts many years ago, along with community leader Lois Passman and Ruth Lambert, former president of Mount Zephyr Civic Association, they were successful in the 1980s to keep the school in county control. There were those in the community who wanted to sell the building and land, but they were not successful. From 1985 to 2016, the Islamic Center was housed in the building.

On Meals Tax

Joint statement from Chairman Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and Chairman Sandy Evans, Fairfax County School Board:

“The meals tax is intended to diversify county revenue and to supplement and not supplant support for school and county services.”

“The meals tax would create a new revenue source, paid by diners in Fairfax County who are county residents, to fund government operations. The meals tax would create a new revenue source, paid by diners in Fairfax County who are county residents, to fund government operations. The meals tax could also support the schools and county.”

“The meals tax would be levied on prepared foods and beverages, including a planned step increase in teachers’ salaries — a $44 million change alone from FY 2017—and teacher scale implementation— a $44.3 million increase. Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) thanked Garza for “the cleanest fall presentation” he’s seen in his time on the board. “This tells us what we need to know,” he said. “If the meals tax passes, you get it, if it doesn’t, you don’t.”

There was confusion initially over whether the statement would be issued on behalf of both boards and therefore reflect their collective views. It was pointed out neither board had voted on the statement’s content.

See Meals Tax, Page 6
McEearney.com

Seminary Ridge
$1,149,900
www.TheGoodhartGroup.com

Belle Haven
$1,525,000
2 red lights to Old Town! Classic Georgian brick home – updated completely with 5 bedrooms, 4 full & 2 half baths! Amazing master suite; kitchen like no other! Outdoor brick patio with fireplace – this home is move in ready!
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Kristin Mango 571.276.0798
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More than 100 members of the Friends of Dyke Marsh group, supporters and elected officials spent the afternoon at River Farm in Alexandria on Sunday Oct. 2, celebrating the Friends group’s 40th anniversary.

Friends of Dyke Marsh Celebrate 40th Anniversary

“It could be our Everglades.”

More than 100 members of the Friends of Dyke Marsh group, supporters and elected officials spent the afternoon at River Farm in Alexandria on Sunday Oct. 2, celebrating the Friends group’s 40th anniversary.

The celebration also recognized the Centennial of the National Park Service and restoration of Dyke Marsh.

“One part of Dyke Marsh is 2,000 years old. In some ways, it’s hidden. Thousands drive through it and do not realize they are in a national park, that the marsh is there, its value or that it’s disappearing,” Friends of Dyke Marsh president and Mount Vernon resident Glenda Booth said in her remarks.

“It’s hard for advocates to cheer for a swamp,” she continued. “Dyke Marsh in George Washington’s day was called ‘Hell Hole.’ But we cheer. It’s not Yellowstone, it’s not the Grand Canyon, but it is our little slice of wilderness right here in suburbia. When restored, it could be our Everglades.”

Booth said for the first time, Friends of Dyke Marsh haven’t seen the marsh’s signature bird the marsh wren for the last two springs. The U.S. Geological Survey, she said, predicts the marsh will be gone by 2035 unless restoration gets underway.

“Interior Secretary Sally Jewell came to Dyke Marsh in October 2014 to announce $25 million for restoration,” Booth said. “This funding is a great start.”

The Friends group’s message to the National Park Service and Corps of Engineers is: “Get started.”

For more information, visit www.fodm.org.

— Tim Peterson

Members of the Northern Virginia Mountain Dulcimers perform at River Farm on Oct. 2 for the Friends of Dyke Marsh 40th Anniversary celebration.

Service To Celebrate Joshua Owusu’s Life

Joshua Owusu, a sixth grade student at Stratford Landing Elementary School, lost his battle with brain cancer on Tuesday, Sept. 26. A celebration of his life will be held Saturday, Oct. 8, 11 a.m., at Aldersgate Church, 1301 Collingwood Drive. A reception will immediately follow in Wesley Hall. Burial will be in Mount Comfort Cemetery, 6600 S. Kings Highway at 2:30 p.m. In an announcement of the funeral, Maureen Marshall, SLES principal, wrote: Joshua joined the Stratford Landing community from Groveton Elementary School as part of the Advanced Academics Program here at Stratford Landing. If you did not have the pleasure of encountering Joshua, he was a happy, charismatic child, whose smile could brighten anyone’s day. He was loved by all who knew him. Joshua had a seizure at home, which caused him to be hospitalized and from which he was unable to recover. A few staff members who worked closely with Joshua and his family and were able to sit with the family to say their goodbyes, as well as offer support in the next steps of the process. As a community, I know many are eager and wondering what can be done to support the family during this difficult time. Aldersgate Church has set up a donation fund to provide for a funeral and burial for Josh. Please consider contributing: https://igg.me/at/3Nok3O6ZyQc.” To sign up for donating reception food, go to www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F094EADA92CA1FA7-joshs. To send condolences to the family, go to http://www.everlywheatley.com/obituaries/Joshua-Owusu-5702658815/#!/Obituary.
Interested in a Career in Real Estate? Pre-licensing courses are available soon. Call Managing Broker, Will Wiard, at 703-888-5100 for further information.
Warning

A sign set up on Sept. 29 on Fort Hunt Road at Belle View Shopping Center warned residents of expected heavy rains.

400 Evacuated from River Towers

Fairfax County firefighters evacuated 400 residents from three of three River Towers condo buildings Sunday afternoon Oct. 2 following reports there was structural damage and residents felt there was building shake.

The evacuation took place around 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Fire & Rescue said investigators confirmed 180 condos are damaged, of which 32 have severe damage and were deemed “uninhabitable.”

The shaking was caused by a column shifting several inches; cracks then formed in the walls and brick crumbled from the building's exterior.

Aside from the 32 units with significant damage, most residents were allowed to return to their homes Sunday night.

Those displaced by the damage went to a shelter temporarily but then relocated to stay with friends.

The building management company said they will provide a private accompany onsite to assess the damage and begin work to shore up the property.

For more information and safety tips, visit the Fairfax County Dept. of Fire & Rescue on Facebook @fairfaxcountyfireandrescue or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/FR/ and the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/.

— Tim Peterson

The Blessing of the Animals at Messiah Lutheran Church on Sunday Oct. 9th 2016

All creatures great and small are welcome.

 Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)
  6510 Fort Hunt Road,
  Alexandria, VA 22307

For more information please call 703-765-5003 or visit our website

E-mail: office@messiahelca.com • Website: messiahelca.org

Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elderadults. Click on Caregiver Seminars under Hot Topics or call 703-324-5265, TTY 711.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

School Open House. 9-11 a.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 2700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. School serves pre-kindergarten to 8th grade. Chkhire available. Call 703-329-6968 to RSVP or schedule a personal tour. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8

Supervisor Dan Storck holds open office hours at the Lorton Library (9–11 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. He may meet with walk-ins as time permits between appointments.

Poet Swap. 1 p.m. at the Mary Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Henry Hart and Bill Glise will give readings. Free and open to the public. Email mikemaggio@mikemaggio.net for more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 11

Coffee Social. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Road. Mount Vernon At Home will host a coffee social for the community to learn about aging in place. Membership and volunteer opportunities. RSVP at info@mountvernnonathome.org or 703-303-4060.

Dig Pink Rally

A Dig Pink Rally, supporting breast cancer research, is being sponsored by West Potomac High School Volleyball, 6500 Quander Road, at its Oct. 13 games against Mount Vernon. For more information please call 703-765-5003 or visit our website

E-mail: office@messiahelca.com • Website: messiahelca.org

Alex/Riverside Estates $639,900

3400 Ramsgate Terrace

Lovely 1BR, 1BR w/attached loft, finished lower level. 9’ x 16’ library/office. Kitchen features granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a new gas range. Large laundry room w/ cabinets.

Alex/Riverside Estates $498,500

8425 Mt. Vernon Highway

Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Bright, light-filled rooms throughout. New hardwoods, open floor plan, and beautiful paint colors. Lower level features a large family room w/wet bar & 4th BR & 3rd bath on lower level. In-ground sprinkler system – 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 5 mins to Old Town, 28 minutes to Nd Airport. Call Rex for more information.

Alex/Holli Hall

$619,900

3011 Jackson Road

Beautifully renovated and expanded rambler w/1700+ sq. ft. of stunning one-level contemporary living space. JHBA, 2.5BA. Gourmet kitchen opens to vaulted Great Room w/marble fireplace. Gorgeous owner’s suite. Beautiful fenced yard w/patio, fire pit, shed. Located in Woodbridge Elementary district, short walk to Holli Hall shopping center.

Alex/Collingwood Estates. $695,000

1120 Ainsley Lane

Lovely, updated, 3 BR, 3 BA Rambler on a beautiful lot in Waynewood Elementary district! Upgrades include: kitchen, 3 baths, windows, painting, and brand new concrete driveway. Full basement, half finished, 2-car garage. Great location close to Ft. Belvoir & GW Pkwy for scenic commuting.

Alex/Riverside Ests $649,900

8522 Wagon Wheel Road

Absolutely gorgeous 4BR, MBA expanded & updated Split on large beautiful lot with fenced backyard. Two finished LL additions. Office off the MBA and Sun Rm off the Living rm. Updates include: roof, HWH, HVAC, baths, kit (beautiful cabinets, apps & counters).Freshly painted front and back porches. Interiors & exteriors w/open floor plans.

Alex/Riverside Estates $639,900

3400 Ramsgate Terrace

Lovely 1BR, 1BR w/attached loft, finished lower level. 9’ x 16’ library/office. Kitchen features granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, and a new gas range. Large laundry room w/ cabinets.

Alex/Riverside Est. $649,900

8425 Mt. Vernon Highway

Lovely 4BR, 3BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Bright, light-filled rooms throughout. New hardwoods, open floor plan, and beautiful paint colors. Lower level features a large family room w/wet bar & 4th BR & 3rd bath on lower level. In-ground sprinkler system – 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 5 mins to Old Town, 28 minutes to Nd Airport. Call Rex for more information.

Alex/Mt. Vernon Grove $3,800

4112 Scotland Road

Lovely 4 BR, 3 BA Split in the heart of Mt. Vernon on a spacious .33 acre lot. Bright, light-filled rooms throughout main & lower levels. Large family room w/wet bar & 4th BR & 3rd bath on lower level. In-ground sprinkler system – 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 30 to Nd Airport, 28 minutes to Nd Airport. No smoking.

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The Blessing of the Animals at Messiah Lutheran Church on Sunday Oct. 9th 2016 at 10:00 am in our tent on the lawn

All creatures great and small are welcome.

Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)
6510 Fort Hunt Road,
Alexandria, VA 22307

For more information please call 703-765-5003 or visit our website

E-mail: office@messiahelca.com • Website: messiahelca.org

Rex Reiley

RE/MAX Allegiance

703-768-7730

rex.reiley@rmxtalk.com

Alex/Riverside Ests $499,000

3400 Ramsgate Terrace

Large, updated condo on a beautiful 0.33 acre lot with fenced backyard. The building features an elevator to the second floor. Two bedrooms, one of which could be used as a den. Two full bathrooms, one of which has a walk-in shower. The kitchen is outfitted with stainless steel appliances and ample storage. The living room leads out to a spacious deck with a pergola and a gas fireplace. The master bedroom has a beautiful view of the backyard and features a walk-in closet. In addition to the living area, there is a basement with a washer and dryer. The unit is conveniently located in close proximity to Mount Vernon, Alexandria, and the Fort Belvoir area. It is also in easy walking distance to the Mount Vernon Metro Station, making it a great location for commuting or walking to work. The building is professionally managed and offers 24/7 maintenance. Whether you are a first-time buyer or looking for an investment property, this condo is an excellent opportunity to own a piece of Alexandria's vibrant community.
Students and parents attend the Teen Center dedication on Saturday, Oct. 1.

Back to the Future

Saudia Academy leased the school. The conclusion of their lease of the school this year meant that the Mount Vernon and Lee communities would finally realize the projected multiple uses envisioned by former and current community and political leaders.

The opening of the Teen Center and the near future opening of the early child education center is the first step in the long-term redevelopment of the property. Also present at the dedication was Mount Vernon School Board member Karen Corbett Sanders who served as the recent re-utilization Task Force chair that prepared a report which described the possible uses and reinforced past support that it be retained as a community center. She promised to work with the community to realize the variety of community, education, and other uses for the buildings and grounds — on over 40 acres of property.

Also present at the dedication were Heather Dietz, Fairfax County project manager for the redevelopment of the school, and Palace Washington, director of the Teen Center.

The Re-utilization Task Force Report is available for public review through Storck’s office and Heather Dietz’ office in the county, and online through their respective offices.
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BELLE HAVEN $1,795,000
6213 Randall Court
Award-winning remodeled home on 1/4-acre cul-de-sac lot. Six bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gourmet kitchen with professional appliances, wraparound deck, in-law suite, 1-car garage.

QUAKER HILL $1,395,000
1253 Darby Road
Timelines appeal within walking distance of metro. Five BR, 4.5 BA, outdoor living area with open kitchen, 2-story family room, sunlit breakfast room, high ceilings, home theater & more.

STRATFORD LANDING $675,000
8915 Captains Row
Spacious home on corner lot in refreshing proximity to Potomac River. Six bedrooms, 3 baths, newly renovated kitchen, large rec room, living room with water views, new deck & patio.

YACHT HAVEN ESTATES $1,295,000
4603 Dolphin Lane
Enjoy boating, kayaking & fishing from your backyard! Custom-built with award-winning landscaping, private dock, 6 bedrooms, 3.5 baths & water views from nearly every room.

HOLLIN BROOK PARK $690,000
7827 Evening Lane
Sun-filled colonial on charming street offering picturesque bay windows, eat-in kitchen, cozy sunroom, luxurious master suite, flat backyard with brick patio & many recent upgrades.

MOUNT VERNON TERRACE $2,200,000
5023 Burke Drive
One of a kind home seated on a waterfront acre with a private dock & panoramic water views throughout. 3 finished levels, 6,000 square feet, chef's kitchen, 6 bedrooms & 4.5 baths.

ALEXANDRIA CITY $4,200,000
315 Marion Drive
The best of Alexandria! Offering the main home with 8 bedrooms, 6 full and 3 half baths and a guest cottage. Warmth & timeless appeal and luxury throughout.

WELLINGTON HEIGHTS $665,000
7000 Admiral Drive
Peaceful, sunlit rambler in wooded, on-siteide enclave. Renovated kitchen with sunny breakfast room, beautiful landscaping with native plants, 3 BR & 2 BA. Easy, 3-level living.

EDDINGTON TERRACE $1,597,000
615 Oakley Place
Magnificent colonial with 6 levels & a fabulous open layout. Seven bedrooms, 5.5 baths, private office, second living room on master bedroom level, large balcony & landscaped backyard.

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Mount Vernon Gazette  October 6-12, 2016  7
Voting Never Mattered More

Consider voting absentee in person since more than 500,000 other voters are likely to turnout on Election Day.

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has a significant voter identification requirement, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day. But you can get a voter ID card if you don’t have one of the other acceptable identifications.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver’s License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran’s ID card; valid U.S. Passport; other government-issued photo identification cards issued by the U.S. Government, the Commonwealth of Virginia, or a political subdivision of the Commonwealth; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer’s business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar’s office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

A voter who does not bring an acceptable photo ID to the polls will be offered a provisional ballot.

Provisional Ballot Process for Voters Who Arrive Without Identification

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don’t panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

Absentee Voting in Person in Fairfax County

Voting begins Sept. 23, and with record turn-out possible, voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day, which basically means anyone who commutes to a job. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible. http://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html

If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location.

Absentee Voting Begins Sept. 23

Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 2/3, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 22033

Weekly Schedule:

❖ Sept. 23 to Oct. 14, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Closed, Monday;

❖ Oct. 10, Columbus Day.

❖ Oct. 17 to Nov. 4, Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

❖ Saturday Schedule: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 5 is the last day to absentee vote in person.

Absentee Voting at Satellite Locations

Saturday Schedule: Oct. 17 to Nov. 4, Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Weekly Schedule: Oct. 17 to Nov. 4, Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Satellite Voting Locations:

❖ Providence Community Center - 3001 Vaden Dr., Fairfax, 22031

❖ Franconia Government Center - 6121 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, 22310

❖ Mclean Government Center - 1437 Balls Hill Rd., Community Room, McLean, 22101

❖ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Community Rooms, Reston, 20190

❖ West Springfield Governmental Center - 6140 Rolling Rd., Springfield, 22152

❖ Mason Governmental Center - 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, 22003

❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center - 2514 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, 22306

❖ Sully Governmental Center - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, 20151

❖ Lorton Library - 9520 Richmond Hwy., Lorton, 22079 SATURDAYS ONLY (Closed Weekdays).

VOTE: Upcoming Dates

❖ To vote in November’s election, you must be registered by Oct. 17. Voter Registration Deadline - In Person: 5 p.m., Online www.vote.virginia.gov 11:59 p.m. To determine whether you are eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at http://elections.virginia.gov/ or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

❖ In-Person Absentee Voting began Sept. 23 and will continue until Nov. 5. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm

❖ Nov. 1: Last Day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, Email or Online: 5 p.m.

❖ Nov. 5: Final Day for In-Person Absentee Voting

❖ On Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m.

❖ Nov. 8: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline: 7 p.m.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711
Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725
Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov
Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

ON THE BALLOT IN FAIRFAX COUNTY:

❖ President and Vice President

❖ U.S. House of Representatives, 8th, 10th, or 11th District

❖ Meal Tax Referendum

❖ Three Proposed County Bond Questions

❖ Two Proposed Constitutional Amendments

See the Connection’s community guide on how to vote and what’s on the ballot at connectionnewspapers.com/news/2016/aug/25/how-vote-fairfax-county/
CLEVELAND PARK, DC $4,995,000 | 3528 Woodley Road NW
Built in 1916, this home has exquisite period details, high ceilings, an attractive master suite, and original hardwood floors. There are beautifully landscaped grounds, multiple terraces, and stunning Cathedral views. A rare opportunity.
MICHAEL RANKIN +1 202 271 3344

BERKLEY, DC $4,995,000 | 1938 Foxview Circle NW
Built in 2016 and boasting over 7,000 square feet, this residence is inspired by traditional Tuscan Architecture. The cementitious stucco, brick veneer, Cedar timber, travertine pavers, and the clay tile roofs are examples of the authentic Tuscan materials.
MICHAEL RANKIN +1 202 271 3344

OLD TOWN $2,950,000 | 321 South Fairfax Street
Gorgeous 1927 French Regency style home offers 10+ rooms over 3 levels, library, ensuite master, large dining room, multiple sitting areas, office, 2 car garage, and roof deck. A true Old Town gem!
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106

BELLE HAVEN $1,950,000 | 911 Belle Haven Road
Charming Belle Haven home offers gracious formal rooms, chef's kitchen, 4 bedrooms, and a 2-car garage.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106

BELLE HAVEN $1,950,000 | 911 Belle Haven Road
Elegant and light-filled Belle Haven home offers Potomac River views, gracious formal rooms, 4 fireplaces, gourmet chef's kitchen, 4 bedrooms, and a 2-car garage.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106

DEL RAY $1,225,000 | 7 West Monroe Avenue
Under Contract. With almost 3,000 square feet of exquisite living space and a detached 2-car carriage house, this classic Del Ray bungalow artfully blends old and new. Just steps from the Avenue and Old Del Ray has to offer.
DAYNA BLUMER +1 703 597 2252
KERRY ADAMS +1 703 587 7841

OLD TOWN $1,240,000 | 202 North Royal Street
New Price and New Staging. This grand c. 1874 residence boasts 3,000 square feet, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, spacious rooms, 3 fireplaces, finished lower level, brick patio, and original floors.
NANCY PERKINS +1 703 402 5599

OLD TOWN $1,999,000 | 215 Wolfe Street
Open Sunday 1-4. Built in 1792. South East quadrant, end-unit, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, large open spaces, 2 fireplaces, elevator, side patio, balcony, roof deck, detached garage.
DANNY SMITH +1 703 505 7845
DIANE MURPHY +1 703 406 1552

WELLINGTON $1,100,000 | 7609 Ridgecrest Drive
Private retreat just minutes from Old Town sits on a beautiful lot with magnificent trees and mature plantings. Offering 4 bedrooms, gourmet chef's kitchen, 2 fireplaces, a water fall and a sparkling pool.
JEANNE WARNER +1 703 980 9106

POTOMAC GREENS $899,000 | 725 Carpenter Road
Sunset and townhouse in Potomac Greens. 3-level living with entry level bedroom/study and full bath. Large open floor plan, oversized windows, and upgraded finishes. Adjacent to future Potomac Yards Metro Station, community includes clubhouse, pool, and shuttle bus to Metro.
HEATHER COREY +1 703 593 1183

OLD TOWN $1,499,000 | 100 Cameron Street SE
Coming Soon. Fantastic location in the heart of Old Town, this 1,000 square foot one-bedroom Torpedo Factory condo boasts a walk-up entrance directly to the home, one parking space, a fireplace, hardwood floors, and tons of windows in this light-flooded corner unit.
NANCY PERKINS +1 703 402 5599
Performing at Aldersgate United Methodist Church
1301 Collingwood Rd, Alexandria, VA 22308

Mount Vernon Gazette
September 2016

Opinion

Needs of Aging Population

By Paul Krizek
State Delegate (D-44)

By 2030, one-in-four Virginians will be over 60 years old. That’s over half a million more people than today, and that number will include me too. This is a tremendous demographic change, and it will present the Commonwealth with many new challenges to allow Virginians to age with dignity and respect.

Last week, many colleagues and I attended the Northern Virginia Aging Network’s (NVAN) 17th annual legislative breakfast. NVAN consists of staff representatives from the five Northern Virginia Agencies on Aging, board members from the local Commissions on Aging, and representatives of allied organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and AARP. Participants meet every other month at NVRC to discuss issues of mutual concern, to craft a legislative platform for presentation to the Virginia General Assembly, and to discuss regional responses to critical issues affecting Northern Virginia’s older adults.

As many readers know, elder care issues are one of my top priorities. Last session, I patroned legislation currently being studied by the Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services that would address bank fraud in the senior community. In 2017, I will patron legislation to create non-expiring ID cards for residents age 80 and above. Wisconsin began issuing senior ID cards this year, and it allows seniors to forego having to wait in line at the DMV or pay money to update their existing ID cards every five years, as is currently in the Code of Virginia.

These senior-IDs are not driver’s licenses, which seniors will still need to have renewed as normal. These ID cards are for seniors who do not drive, but still desire a government-issued photo ID for reasons that might include doctor’s visits, purchasing alcohol, and opening a bank account. Many of NVAN’s legislative priorities align with my volunteer work recently-adopted Mount Vernon at Home, which is a nonprofit helping area residents age in-place safely, comfortably, and confidently in their own homes in the community they love. I am going through this experience as I move my elderly parents from their condo into my home. My family is graciously helping to enhance accessibility with items like a ramp entrance and handrails.

As our aging population increases, we must work to keep elderly Virginians in their home community where they provide so much experience to daily civic life. Through aging in-place, they provide continuity and a living memory and knowledge of our local history. Good public policy requires that we recognize the importance of our growing senior population, both their needs and their considerable value to our community.

Property Taxes Shouldn’t Pay All

To the Editor:

By now, you’ve no doubt heard about the meals tax referendum Fairfax County voters will face this November. Should it pass, the Board of Supervisors will have the authority to implement a 4-percent tax on prepared foods to generate money for our school system, capital improvements, and to help with real estate tax relief. Should it fail, the county will continue to rely predominately on property taxes to generate revenue.

But what I’d like to discuss today is how we arrived at this point. As the chairman of our board’s Budget and Legislative Committees, I’m constantly looking for ways to fully fund our world-class school system and great county services while also ensuring we’re not taxing our most vulnerable and aging residents out of Fairfax County.

Virginia law severely limits the ways the Board of Supervisors can raise revenues. In fact, real estate and personal property taxes accounted for approximately 79.7 percent of General Fund revenues in our recently-adopted Fiscal Year 2017 budget. The state does give the board the authority to place a meals tax referendum on the ballot, however.

I supported this action because I believe our residents should weigh in on how best for us to diversify our funding streams. This meals tax is estimated to generate $100 million in new revenue, one-third of which is expected to come from non-residents visiting Fairfax County. It’s certainly not the silver bullet for our budget challenges, but constantly increasing property taxes is not the answer. The needs of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are growing; our residents expect our county programming to remain fully funded and operate at best-in-the-nation standards; yet our ability to look elsewhere to fund our budget is basically nonexistent. This is why you hear about significant potential cuts to school and county programming and budget shortfalls.

What’s more, the Commonwealth chronically underfunds FCPS, often adding to our dilemma here in Fairfax County. It costs roughly $13,000 to educate a student in our school system. Of that, Fairfax County pays about $10,000. In neighboring Prince William County, however, the county-state funding split is 50/50. It costs $10,000 to educate a Prince William student, of which the state pays $5,000 and the County pays $5,000. This inadequacy is because of an outdated funding formula that primarily only measures wealth with no cost of living consideration in deciding how much money each school system in the state should receive. As you can imagine, this puts us in a real bind when compared to the rest of the state. The Board of Supervisors and School Board are working hard with most of our Northern Virginia delegation to help solve this, but it’s no quick fix.

So when you send in your absentee ballots, vote...
Laura Josephine Combs Davis

Laura Josephine Combs Davis died Sept. 19, 2016, at Georgetown University Hospital after a brief battle with cancer. She was born Sept. 22, 1939, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Samuel John Combs and Avaleah Laferty Combs. After living in Camden, N.J. and Dallas, Texas, the family re-settled in Van Nuys, Calif., and Laura lived there until she left to attend college at Stanford University in 1957. As a young student, she studied music and played the piano. Laura won many academic awards and was an A student at Van Nuys High School.

Exercise was a constant in Laura’s life: as head cheerleader, she choreographed routines for the entire cheerleading team. As a high school senior, Laura served in student government, won first place in the Bank of America Mathematics competition, and was a block captain for the Wellington Civic Association.

Laura is survived by her sons, Mike and Alex; sister, Sarah; brothers, Bill and Tom; grandchildren, Christopher, Rachel, Ayla, and Lena; daughters-in-law Flossie and Janine; and nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends; all of whom loved her and will miss her dearly. A memorial service will be held for Laura in December; for more details, please email lauradavismemorial@gmail.com. In lieu of flowers, donations in Laura’s memory may be made to the Fairfax Library Foundation.
There's a lot of fine dining business, which I appreciate. We're doing a great job. Let the word get out that customers peeking in the front door in anticipation. And prelaunch interest, too, with would-be customers zooming in on Alexa, having grown up in the city, making their second location a natural fit.

Just two weeks into the new location's opening, the team is settling in nicely.

“The reaction’s been great,” Landry said. “I’ve heard nothing negative about the food, but I’d expect that would be the food’s fantastic.”

And about that food: Don’t expect a cookie-cutter, from-a-package experience, Landry says.

“We don’t pour anything frozen out of a bag. Our French fries are potatoes in the morning and they become French fries. Our onion rings are huge jumbo onions in the morning and they become onion rings. Everything’s made from scratch. Unlike a lot of fast restaurants, we just don’t take any shortcuts,” he said.

But the real reason people are coming to BurgerFi are the, well, burgers. And Landry insists that customers won’t be disappointed.

“That’s what we do is burgers; the meat is the best we can buy,” Landry said. “People are smarter these days. People are paying attention to what they put in their bodies. And while I will never pretend that a cheeseburger is health food, Americans are always going to eat cheeseburgers. And if you’re going to eat a cheeseburger, then you really ought to eat this one. No junk, no additives, no hormones, no antibiotics; it’s humane raised and source-verified. You just can’t buy a better meat.”

While the neighborhood has quickly embraced BurgerFi, Landry and his team are eager to give back once they have the restaurant fully launched and running smoothly.

“Right now we’re focused on honing our skills with all our new people and doing things right, and turning this new location into a place that people are excited to go to, but certainly we plan on getting heavily involved in the local community,” including local schools, sports teams, and law enforcement and veteran’s organizations, he said.

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

**Entertainment**

BurgerFi Sets Up Shop in Old Town

With its opening last week, local co-owners celebrate a homecoming.

By Hope Nelson The Gazette

Peer down the 100 block of North Pitt Street and it’s easy to spot a new neighbor. The erstwhile Pat Troy’s Ireland’s Own, shuttered for several years, now has new life in the form of the city’s first BurgerFi. Open since Sept. 26, the locally owned franchise has begun to generate quite a bit of foot traffic and prelaunch interest, too, with would-be customers peeking in the front door in anticipation.

But you haven’t missed a grand opening event, franchise co-owner David Landry says.

“We just sort of unlocked the door and let the word get out that we were serving food,” he said. “We pretty pleased with the reaction. We’re doing a great lunch business, which I expected we would. There’s a lot of fine dining in Old Town, but not a lot of fast casual.”

For Landry, the restaurant’s new home on North Pitt Street is a family affair — and a homecoming of sorts. He co-owns the restaurant — and its sister BurgerFi in Leesburg — with his son, Chad, and their family friend, Tim Kelly. And David Landry has longstanding roots within Alexandria, having grown up in the city, making their second location a natural fit.

Just two weeks into the new location’s opening, the team is settling in nicely.

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senior artists. This annual event is cosponsored by Senior Services of Alexandria and Goodwin House Foundation. The Call for Art is Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. $20 fee to submit up to three works of art. Visit www.seniorservicesalex.org.

Thursday Mornings with Kathryn Coneway, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. The themes in the book, “The Artist’s Rule,” will be a foundation to share experiences with creative practice. Each session will begin with a quiet time and exploration of materials before transitioning to a discussion of the themes and practices outlined in the chapter. Participants should purchase a copy of “The Artist’s Rule” and read the introduction and first chapter prior to the first meeting. Registration is $50. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com for more.

Art Making as Meditation with Kathryn Coneway, Second Wednesday of each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Each session begins with a short reading and a brief introduction to materials. Silence for making and meditation lasts an hour followed by sharing images or insights gained through the process, if desired. Children able to participate in silence are welcome to come with a parent’s quiet supervision. RSVP not necessary for attendance, but helpful for planning purposes. Email info@centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 6-8

Preview: “By the Seashore.” 10:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Join Arts on the Horizon for a special sneak peek performance of this work-in-progress. From birds and fish, to sand and water, and everything in-between, young audience members explore the shore, ocean, and the sky. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Tickets are $3. Visit www.artsontehorizon.org for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 6-27

“Co-Creating the Cosmos.” 7-9 p.m. at St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Frank Frost is an award-winning documentary film producer. His current work – The Teilhard de Chardin Project – is a television biography in production for public television on the life and thought of the revolutionary Teilhard de Chardin: Jesuit priest, paleontologist, visionary. Registration is $25. Visit www.staidansepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

FRIDAY/OCT. 7

Curious Critters Children’s Puppet Performance and Book Signing. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. David FitzSimmons will put on a young children’s “animational” program, complete with puppets and take home activities, as well as sign copies of his award-winning “Curious Critters” children’s books. Free. Call 703-548-4092 for more.

Alexandria Fire Department Black Tie Gala. 6 p.m. at Embassy Suites Hotel, 1900 Diagonal Road. The gala will include a cocktail reception and dinner, and a silent auction (to benefit the Friendship Firehouse Foundation and the Alexandria Firefighters and Paramedics IAFF Local 2141 Helping Hands Relief Fund). Guest speakers for the evening will be United States Fire Administrator Ernest Mitchell, Jr. and Capt. Billy Goldfeder, Director of the Safety, Health and Survival Section for the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Tickets are $75. E-mail FD-Gala@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.5241.

Family Art Night. 6-8:30 p.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Pizza, soda and water will be on hand, compliments of the Office of the Arts. Choose from painting, mosaics, cardboard games and poetry pictures. Advance per person reservations: $5 residents, $10 nonresidents. At door: $10 residents; $15 nonresidents. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/webtrac.

Cameron Run Rocks. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Cameron Run Regional Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Batting cage, mini golf, rock wall, games and prizes. Free. Visit www.nvrpa.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ OCT. 7-9

The Hive Grand Opening. All day at The Hive, 301 Cameron St. Find a juice bar and braid bar, a book

We hope to see you at the 2016 Annual Burgundy Fall Fair

Burgundy Fall Fair
Saturday, October 15, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free Admission • Rain or Shine
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Family fun for everyone!
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Fair proceeds benefit student financial aid, so spread the word—we’ll see you there!

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3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria, VA 22303
301-746-3431 www.burgundyfarm.org

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Mount Vernon Gazette • October 6-12, 2016 • 13
Plants and Birds and Rocks and... OCT. 7-30 signing, cocktails, and more, as the owners of The Shoe Hive celebrate the grand opening of a new boutique. Free to attend. Visit www.shopatthehive.com for a full schedule.

Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Learn about the successes and failures of George Washington’s wine endeavors, learn to live music and tour where Washington stored his wine. Friday, October 7: $40; Saturday, October 8: $48; Sunday, October 9: $36. Visit www.mountvernon.org/calendar.


OCT. 7-30 Art Exhibit: “Local Flavor.” Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. “Local Flavor” art exhibit at Del Ray Artisans showcases member artwork that highlight the things they adore, crave, and experience in their beloved neck of the woods—and celebrate the special touches found in community. Free. Visit www.DelRayArtisans.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 8 Plants and Birds and Rocks and... Things. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Ellen Coollidge Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Geologist Tony Fleming, author of the recently published Geologic Atlas of the City of Alexandria, Virginia and Vicinity (2016) and several other publications on local geology, will guide us through the history and structure of the atlas, and highlight how to use it to answer questions about the local landscape using several geologically-dependent natural communities as examples. The presentation will also set the stage for the afternoon excursion in and around Holmes Run Gorge, one of the most geologically and ecologically diverse places in northern Virginia. Free. Visit www.vpas.org/potomacmack.

Art Safari. 12-4 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. An Alexandria family tradition, Art Safari returns to the Torpedo Factory Art Center for its 21st year. Resident and visiting artists lead young visitors in an afternoon full of hands-on creative activities such as papier-mâché, fiber, and printmaking. Enjoy the Alexandria Archaeology Museum’s special activities featuring their collection of 18th- and 19th-century pottery and china. Come and discover more of how communities can be made stronger through the diversity they support. Free. Visit www.axm.org for more.

Living With Diversity. 3:45-3:30 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Come and learn about the range of diversity they support. Free. Visit www.axm.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 9 Opera Nova Brunch. 12:30 p.m. at Washington Golf & Country Club, 3017 N. Glebe Road. Opera singers including Jose Sacin will perform opera arias and Broadway show tunes, as well as selections from "Tremendous," Scott Joplin’s opera, to be staged for children next spring by Opera Nova. Tickets are $60. Visit www.operanova.org.

MAYDAY/OCT. 10 Riley Elledge Jr and Leon Russell. 7:30 p.m at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Tickets are $39.50. Visit www.thebirchmere.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 12 Asleep at the Wheel. 7:30 p.m at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Touring in support of their Grammy Award-winning album “Still the King: Celebrating the Music of Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys,” Asleep at the Wheel perform. Tickets are $35. Visit www.birchmere.com for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 13 Yacht Haven Garden Club Fashion Show. 10 a.m. at Fort Belvoir Officers Club, 5300 Schulz Circle, Fort Belvoir. Fashions for women of all sizes will be provided by Details of Alexandria. Free. Visit www.vnps.org/potowmack.

CALL FOR ENTRIES: Female Stranger Mystery Quest. Post City Black Veil Happy Hour & Female Stranger Mystery Quest. 6-8 p.m. happy hour. 8-10 p.m. mystery quest at Gasddy’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Join Port City Brewing Co. and Gasddy’s Tavern Museum to celebrate the release of the Long Black Veil, a special craft beer inspired by the famous tale of the Female Stranger. Ticket prices not yet announced. Visit shop.AlexandriaVA.gov/Events.aspx for more.

SATURDAY/OCT. 15 The Mount Vernon Masonic Temple Open House. 8:30-11:30 a.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. Free breakfast will be served. Visit mountvernonslo219.wordpress.com. Beauty in Sustainability Symposium. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. In this double header program, learn how to plan and plant a home garden that is a source for beauty, labor savings and environmental benefit. Get to know locally native alternatives to some common exotic plants. These natives...
will not only provide lasting beauty to your garden, but also benefit native wildlife. Rethink some traditional, labor intensive gardening practices that are at odds with nature’s rhythms. Tickets are $38. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290-483-4201 or call 703-642-5173.

Hollin Hall Senior Center Annual Mega Bazaar/Craft Fair, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1500 Shenandoah Road. Find more 30 crafters, silent auction, bake sale, and door prizes. Free. Call 703-657-3173.

En Plein Air Painting at Mount Vernon. 9 a.m. -2 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon for this rare opportunity to create your own watercolor masterpieces while enjoying the beauty of the estate. Instruction includes how to find and focus on a landscape subject, create a small value sketch, and complete several paintings. Both days conclude with a thoughtful and positive group critique. The class is limited to 15 participants. Tickets are $95 per person. Supplies are not included. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Family Fall Festival, 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at Armistead L. Booth Park, 520 Cameron Station Blvd. A family favorite event featuring fall activities such as scarecrow making, pumpkin and face painting, arts and crafts, exhibitors, food vendors, puppet show, pony rides, and band performance. Free to attend. Call 703-746-5592 for more.

Burgundy Fall Fair, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road. Family fun for all ages: pumpkin painting, zombie face painting, moon bounce, craft mart, used book and kids’ closet sale, food tent. Free admission. Proceeds from activity tickets and food and merchandise sale benefit student financial aid. Rain or shine. Visit www.burgundyyard.org or call 703-960-3431.

National Diversity Awareness Month Poetry Reading, 1-3 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Wendi R. Kaplan, Alexandria Poet Laureate, will read poetry that highlights diversity and welcomes others to share poems and stories about diversity. Free. Visit alexlibraryva.org.

Dogue Run Tour, 1-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Enjoy private guided tours of the Distillery & Gristmill, guests will move to Woodlawn, the home of Martha Washington’s granddaughter, Eleanor (Nelly) Parke Custis, and her husband, Lawrence Lewis. Tickets are $25. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Oral History Project, 2-3 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Bring your family heirlooms and stories for a history “show-and-tell” co-sponsored by the Alexandria Library and Office of Historic Alexandria. Oral historians will be on hand to document the objects and stories as part of the City’s oral history archive. Participants should arrive a few minutes early to complete consent forms. All are welcome to come and enjoy local history through the perspective of fellow residents. Free. Visit www.historicalex.org or call 703-746-5592.

Port Wine Tasting Party, 4-6 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Revive the lost art of the aperitif and the digestif. Discover the history and flavor nuances of port and sample different styles of this versatile Portuguese wine with a range of foods from cheeses to chocolates to reveal your port palate. Tickets are $44. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290-483-4201 or call 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/OCT. 16
Walk to Bust Cancer. 8 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. The Walk to Bust Cancer will bring together breast cancer survivors and their families, those currently facing the disease, and anyone who wishes to walk to show their support. Registration is free for children, $15 for children ages 7-12, and $35 for adults. Visit www.walktobustcancer.org for more.

The Native Plant Movement in North America. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. C. Colvin Beekman is an acclaimed lecturer, garden designer and photographer. The late 19th century set the stage for the blossoming of a national love affair with native plants. From the Victorian passion for the outdoors and the birth of the field guide, to the environmental movement and the blossoming of modern native plant nurseries, native plants have become integral to horticulture and design in America. Free. Visit www.vnps.org/portswmack.

TUESDAY/OCT. 18
Following the Trails – Migration Routes in America. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist Sharon Hodges talks about major trails, waterways, and roads used by migrating families from colonial times to 1850. Free. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org or call 703-688-4101.

Lecture: “William the Conqueror.” 7-9 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington Ave. This October marks the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, where William of Normandy became “William the Conqueror” of England. But the Norman invasion of England in 1066 should not have succeeded. Dr. Paxton will discuss the military tactics and strategy combined with incredible good luck that changed the course of history. $5 suggested donation. Visit williamtheconqueror.eventbrite.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19
Book Discussion: “For Whom the Bell Tolls.” 7-9 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Free. Call 703-746-1781.

THURSDAY/OCT. 20
Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the glorious demonstration gardens with Master Gardener docents. Hear about Green Spring’s fascinating history, our educational mission and how we can help your gardens grow. Afterward, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House. Tickets are $32. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987.
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LETTERS

From Page 10

in-person at one of our satellite locations, or hit the polls on Nov. 8, I’d hope you consider the predicament the county is in.

Jeff McKay
Lee District Supervisor

No Tax Relief

To the Editor:

I am writing to oppose the Meals Tax Referendum. I attended a meeting last week in which the referendum was debated. Attendees included Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity.

Supervisor Storck actually said this in support of the tax: “This is about yes for me, yes, yes. First off, it is a chance; it is a chance for us to grow and help our restaurants here locally thrive. Yes, the restaurants in this area will thrive, I think, because of this meals tax ultimately, I absolutely do.” Increasing the tax burden targeted on a specific industry will help that industry thrive? Nonsense.

The brochure mailed by the county concerning the meals tax says the following: “A meals tax would diversify the county’s tax revenue base. The Board of Supervisors is seeking authority to impose a meals tax to reduce the county’s dependence on real estate taxes.” When I read these sentences, what they mean to me is that the purpose for the Meals Tax is not to increase the net taxes we pay but, rather, to spread the taxes over more categories of taxation. If the purpose for the meals tax is to diversify taxes, not raise them, the referendum would require the BOS to reduce the real estate tax rate to a level offsetting the increase in revenue attributable to the revenue from the meals tax. The representation that diversification is the only goal is false. If voters approve the referendum, taxes are going up.

The referendum language states: “70 percent of the net revenues to Fairfax County Public Schools” and “30 percent of the net revenues to county services, capital improvements and property tax relief.” What this means is there is no guarantee that imposition of the new tax will result in material reduction in real estate taxes. As quoted above, the 30 percent not going to schools can be spent by the county in three categories, county services, capital improvements and property tax relief. There is no requirement that property tax relief will comprise a significant percentage of that 30 percent. Since 70 percent of the new tax (2.8 cents out of the 4 cent tax) cannot be for property tax relief, this is an added property tax burden for taxpayers. There are over 400,000 housing units in the county. The BOS can satisfy the referendum requirement to provide property tax relief by awarding every housing unit owner a $1 discount on their tax bill, saying they’ve provided the required “tax relief” and then spend the other $29,600,000 of the 30 percent of the projected revenue on the vaguely worded “County services” and “capital improvements.” If all the 30 percent were used to reduce real estate taxes, the reduction would only average about $75 per housing unit. Quite small.

There is no guarantee approval of the referendum and imposition of this new tax will result in a dollar more going to our schools. The BOS decides how much money is to be transferred to the school system from tax revenues derived from the meals tax, and the budget hearings and votes in March-April each year. In the most recent budget, that number was $1.7 billion. If the new tax is enacted, the BOS could very well decide to maintain the level of school funding at $1.7 billion or even reduce the number. At the $1.7 billion level, that would mean the BOS is basically adding the predicted $70 million revenue from the Meals Tax they are legally obligated to transfer to the school system (70 percent of the predicted $100 million) to $1.63 billion appropriated from other sources (a total of $1.7 billion) and thus freeing up $100 million (the 70 percent for schools plus the 30 percent for county services, capital improvements and property tax relief) to be spent elsewhere at BOS discretion with virtually no real estate tax relief required to be included. This demonstrates the clear fraud in the BOS sales pitch for the Meals Tax.

Our schools need increased revenue. There is no guarantee enacting the Meals Tax will provide that increased revenue. The solution is electing politicians capable of gaining Fairfax County more than the current 23 percent return on the 100 percent of the tax money (derived from the state income tax, sales taxes and, real estate transfer taxes) we currently send to Richmond. Increasing that percentage to 26 percent would equal all the revenue projected to be derived from the Meals Tax with no increase in taxation.

Supervisor Herrity said this to an audience member at the meeting: “You were at the meeting when Supervisor Gross said we just need to put whatever language is in there so we can get it passed.” There it is in a nutshell: say anything to get it passed. Printing and mailing the brochure cost taxpayers over $400,000. I suggested that BOS members who approved the one-sided brochure should be asked to reimburse the county treasury out of their county salaries. I double-down on that suggestion.

For all of these reasons, the referendum should be defeated. It does not amount solely to a diversification of revenues, rather, it amounts to a tax increase. There is no guarantee enactment of the tax will result in a larger appropriation to our schools. The only guarantee is that it will give our BOS $100 million more to spend as they wish. Vote No.

H. Jay Spiegel/Mount Vernon

Communities of Worship

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Mass Schedule
Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
11:30 pm Vigil Mass
[En Español]
Sunday:
7:30 am; 9:00 am
[with Sign Language]
Interpreters and
Children’s Liturgy of
the Word; 10:30 am;
12:00 Noon; 2:00 pm
[En Español]
First Friday: 6:30 pm
8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309
Tel: 703-780-4055 Fax: 703-360-5385 • www.gs-cc.org

To Advertise Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

Mount Vernon Gazette • October 6-12, 2016
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
For the provision of section 4-1.16 of the code of the City of Alexandria, the Alexandria Police Department located at 3001 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 is proposing to license the operation of un-caged bicycles, mopeds, motorcycles, money scooters, and other items. Any person 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, donated, or used for a complete listing go to http://alexandriaparinet.gov/police and contact the Police Property Section at (703) 746-6700.

IMPROVEMENTS

101 Computers

GUTTER

- Hobbies
- Crafts
- Yard Sales
- Boats
- RV’s
- Vans
- Cars
- Real Estate
- Announcements
- Services
- Employees

CLASSIFIED

DEADLINES
Zones 1, 5, 6............................Mon @ noon

ABC LICENSE
Portner Breezehouse, LLC trading as Portner Breezehouse, 2770 Dow Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wines & Spirits License and shall be used for manufacture alcoholic beverages. Applications are available at Merrin G. Hospitality, LLC Trading as Merrin G. Hospitality, 5411 Market Street, Alexandria, VA 22304. Applications to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of this notice. Notices should be registered at www.dos.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Old Town Alexandria
Fabulous 2-bedroom apartment in the heart of Old Town. 3 blocks south of King Street. East of Washington Street. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Washer-dryer. Cable and wi-fi, heat and AC included. Separate entrance to apartment in beautiful historic house. Easy parking. $2,850 a month.

21 Announcements

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**FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza (back, right) laid out FY2018 required expenditure assumptions totalling over $58 million. Enrollment growth, retirement rate increases and health insurance rate increases were among those Garza said “are going to fluctuate but we have no choice but to pay.”**

Springfield District school board representative Elizabeth Schultz said in no uncertain terms she wouldn’t vote for releasing the statement. She said she was critical of the statement omitting text to help voters understand the “magnitude of the impact” the tax would have, especially on low income families.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) spoke to some criticism the Board of Supervisors has received over previous public mailings on the meals tax coming as intended to influence voters to vote in favor of it.

“...depends on whether you think you have a spending problem or a revenue problem,” Herrity said. “This is PR.”

Bulova explained the statement was developed by both chairs to be used to explain how funds from the meals tax would be used.

Budget committee chair Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) asked if any supervisor or School Board member thought anything in the statement wasn’t factual.

Sully District School Board representative Tom Wilson called the move for a meals tax "premature," and that the supervisors don’t have good information on the implications of the meals tax, if passed, on restaurants, families and other businesses.

“I don’t think it will have a negative impact on restaurants and staff,” responded Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), “The opposition, they haven’t stepped forward” with proof the meals tax will be the blow they say it will.

Schultz continued her opinion, following the meeting, calling the statement “classic liberal tax-and-spend mentality.”

“...Instead of being more jobs — and economic growth-oriented, we’re going to make it more difficult to live in Fairfax County.”

To Herrity, Schultz and others, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) said his response is “Show me where we’re spending $100 million wrong. I hear bits and pieces, but they’re small pieces. The issue is we’re talking about a much larger challenge.”

Storck said he’s supportive of finding other ways to fund education and reduce the burden on real estate property tax, but that the Virginia General Assembly limits the county’s options by withholding income tax and constraining other taxing power. “I’m frustrated because state legislature needs to give local communities the trust they say they have in us,” Storck said, “to make the kind of local decisions frankly democracy was founded on. Give us those powers understand the “magnitude of the impact” the tax would have, especially on low income families.

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More information on the 2016 Meals Tax Referendum is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax, including the text of the ballot question in both English and Spanish.
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8419 Mt. Vernon Cir. $1,299,000
One of the area’s most distinctive properties! Custom estate Volleyball 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. Improving 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.

8415 Forest Haven Dr. $745,000
New Orleans Style Appeal

Unique New Orleans Colonial on gorgeous lot in prime location. River views and steps from marina in Mt. Vernon. Exquisite brick Colonial on lot in premier waterfront community. Spacious home with many features include: 3 finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen, brick exterior and 2 car garage. Expansive rear deck overlooks spacious grounds. A truly unique opportunity!

9515 Mt. Vernon Landing. $850,000
Brick Colonial - Steps to Marina.

Spacious home with river view and steps from marina in Mt. Vernon. Exquisite brick Colonial on prime location. Unique nautical environment, with some touches to enhance the marina views. The area is located near the Potomac River. Numerous features include: 3 finished levels, large room sizes, updated kitchen, brick exterior and 2 car garage. Expansive rear deck overlooks spacious grounds. A truly unique opportunity!

9314 Craig Ave. $635,000
Pristine Condition!

Truly exquisite property. Spacious 5 Bedroom home on gorgeous fenced lot in prime location. Numerous features include: bright open floor plan, hardwood floors, gas cooking/hot water, thermal windows, and garage. Large deck overlooks spacious grounds. Property is in pristine "move-in" condition!

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Unbeaten opportunity-fabulous brand new Skidmore custom home by Wolkfield Homes for under $900,000! Home offers the features and fabulous amenities associated with the areas leading luxury home builder. Prime location on large lots just off GW Parkway. Pristine construction purchase allows for maximum customization. Special offer, buy now and receive free finished basement rec room!

4218 Dandridge Terr $665,000
New England Style Colonial

Rare, 3 car garage! Other special features include: 3 finished levels with full walk out lower level, thermal windows, open kitchen to family room, and maintained hardwoods on both main levels. Expansive exterior decking. Home is in pristine, move-in condition. Exceptional value!

4819 W. Boulevard Dr. $875,000
Collingwood Stunner


9313 Heather Glen $635,000
Fabulous Opportunity!

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Mark Harris from Alexandria comes up for air during the 50 yard breaststroke in the 50-54 age group. Harris won a gold medal in the event that was held at the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling on Sept. 16.
The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) opened Sept. 10 and ran through Sept. 21 with another record registration of 918 participants. Saturday opening day ceremonies were followed by track and rowing events at Thomas Jefferson Community Center in Arlington and diving competition at Yorktown High School Aquatic Center.

Fifty events were held at 25 different venues across Northern Virginia including horseshoes and bocce at Fairfax Senior Center-Green Acres, field events at Stone Bridge High School Stadium, swimming at Claude Moore Recreation Center, tennis mixed doubles at Wakefield District Park and Wii Bowling at Greenspring Retirement Community Center in Springfield. There were two 100+ age group entries this year, Vera Punke from Arlington and Hilda Gross from Burke entered in the duplicate bridge competition held at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Arlington.

— Shirley Ruhe

982 participants signed up for 2016 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.

From the Beginning to the End

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Joanne Brennan from Alexandria swims her way to gold in the 55-59 age group breaststroke at the Claude Moore Recreation Center in Sterling on Sept. 16.

Mark Harris from Alexandria comes up for air during the 50 yard breaststroke in the 50-54 age group. Harris won a gold medal in the event at the Claude Moore Recreation Center on Sept. 16.

Mark Harris sporting his gold medal for breastroke.
The Senior Olympics Spelling Bee, held at Lee Community Center on Lee Highway in Arlington, rounded out the 12 days of competition in the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics from Sept. 10-21.

Senior Olympics Football Throw
Clarence John Wells-Martin, 70, strikes a winning pose after setting a new record in the Football Throw event on Sept. 14 at Wakefield District Park in Annandale in the 70-74 age group with a distance of 115’ 2”. Wells-Martin beat the previous record of 104’ 3” that was set in 2012.

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Mount Vernon is a great place to retire.

Image courtesy of The Drake Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio

Open House, Tuesday, October 11 - 10:30, Sherwood Regional Library

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Mount Vernon Gazette – Senior Living Fall 2016 – 3
Tired of the limited mobility and pain that have thwarted her love of foreign travel and fall hiking, Lynda S. Johnson, 72, scheduled a knee replacement surgery for later this month. She chose a doctor, found a pet sitter to watch her Cairn terrier, and enlisted her sister to live with her while she recovers.

“I had been debating for months about whether to have it,” she said. “I was in so much pain, though, that I don’t really think I have anything to lose.”

For Johnson and approximately 7 million other Americans living with a hip or knee replacement, the decision to undergo such a surgery is fueled by a quest for less pain, more mobility and an overall boost to their quality of life. Nearly 90 percent of patients who have knee replacement surgery experience less pain and 85 percent of the replacement joints still work after 20 years, according to the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. Most patients will feel better, and feel better quickly. Addressing overall health issues like high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity can boost the chances that a joint replacement surgery will be successful, says Dr. C. Anderson “Andy” Engh orthopedic surgeon, Anderson Orthopedic Clinic at Inova Mount Vernon.

“Work on both your overall health and conditioning,” he said. Patients should be up and out of their hospital beds as soon as possible. “Patients are walking with assistance hours after their surgery. The reason patients do better when they get up and move around is that they decrease the risk of pneumonia and blood clots,” said Dr. Mark P. Madden, an orthopedic surgeon with OrthoVirginia. “We start out with patients using a walker and having someone assist them in walking, and they generally progress to become fully weight bearing without any assistance at all.” Also, have a support system in place prior to surgery, whether it’s a significant other, grown child or close friend. Often dubbed coach or advocate, that person might attend medical appointments with a patient prior to surgery, serve as their point of contact the day of surgery and provide morale support throughout the recovery process. “The more eyes and ears in addition to the patient’s, the better,” said Engh, explaining why it’s so helpful to have someone with the patient at appointments and throughout the recovery. “We approach things that we have to do with set expectations, and sometimes those expectations can keep us from hearing other things. Having another person there is a good reality check and note taker.”

The coach should be able to spend a significant amount of time with the patient during the early recovery period. “That person can expect to be with you 16 hours a day for two to five days after surgery,” said Engh. “I don’t want someone alone by themselves all day during work hours. The coach or advocate is like a safety marshal who keeps the patient safe and reminds them to take their time during their recovery.”

Dr. George Aguiar, an orthopedic surgeon at Reston Hospital Center, advises patients to determine how they will get help with grocery shopping, transportation, pet care and house cleaning in advance. “Having these types of things handled before you go into surgery can only help the recovery process.”

Patients should plan ahead to safety-proof. “Do everything you can do to avoid a fall within the first two to three months after your surgery,” said Engh. “Don’t wait until you’re home bound to have this surgery because the recovery will be quite long.”

To decide whether joint replacement surgery is the best option, says Madden, work with a physician and weigh the effect the pain is having on one’s quality of life. “There’s no right answer for every patient,” said Madden. “The real answer is to work with your doctor to find the right treatment.”