



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Marshall Willis with WSSI, a senior ecosystem specialist, said when the Mount Vernon area recently received around an inch-and-a-half of rain in a short period of time, the stream outfall project preservation plan “worked beautifully.”

Reducing Erosion

Quander stream outfall project on track.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Construction began Aug. 8 on a restoration project for the stream running through Mount Vernon Park, beginning behind the intersection of Dartmouth Drive and Swarthmore Drive in Alexandria.

With increasing amounts of water running off the road and out of the community above, trees were coming down around the stream and sediment runoff was making its way down to Dyke Marsh. Sediment and nutrients have then been getting out to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

Wetlands Studies and Solutions, Inc. designed the stream reconstruction and Angler Environmental is carrying it out.

SEE QUANDER, PAGE 20



Water from another tributary is being guided to the main stream running through Mount Vernon Park, beginning behind the intersection of Dartmouth Drive and Swarthmore Drive in Alexandria.

Room To Improve

County SAT scores above state and national levels.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

On average, Fairfax County Public High Schools performed better on the SAT college placement exam in 2016 than the Commonwealth of Virginia overall average.

Virginia students also outscored the national numbers, according to data released last week by the Virginia Department of Education and the College Board, the organization that publishes the SAT.

The two groups reported 65 percent of Virginia public school graduates took the SAT. Of that number, they said 45.2 percent earned the College Board benchmark for college readiness.

By achieving a combined score of 1550 — including critical reading, math and writing scores — the College Board believes those students stand a 65 percent chance of holding a B-average during their first year in college.

Virginia's 65 percent beat the

national average of 37.3 percent of SAT-takers reaching the benchmark.

“While the overall performance of Virginia students compares favorably with that of their nationwide peers, the wide achievement gaps visible when we dig deeper into the data remind us that outcomes are not improving for far too many students of color,” Virginia Board of Education President Billy K. Cannaday Jr. said in a statement. “Narrowing and ultimately closing these gaps is the state board’s top priority.”

THE FAIRFAX COUNTY AVERAGES top Virginia in each category, aided by uncommonly high scores from the magnet Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, which requires its own test and application process for admission.

However FCPS board chair Sandy Evans pointed out that the majority of students at Thomas

SEE GAP, PAGE 20

Michael M. Skinner Dies

Mount Vernon High School's “institution.”

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

Michael M. Skinner of Mount Vernon died Oct. 17 at the age of 91.

Skinner was as well-known fixture at Mount Vernon High School between 1955 and 1983, where he taught history, coached basketball

and was served as subschool principal.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) announced Skinner's death during remarks early in the Tuesday Oct. 18 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Storck expressed his “great sadness” after hearing the news. He described Skinner as someone who was always communicating, trying to improve Mount Vernon schools and individuals' lives in general.

“I think everyone in the commu-

SEE SKINNER, PAGE 20

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Marcia Siegert showed the fun tassel style necklace to the audience.



Patsie Uchello modeled an outfit by Clara Sun Woo, including black, liquid leather pants.



Cathy Campbell described the outfit modeled by Linda Ely. The black and white outfit, by Sharon Young, was accented by vibrant red accessories.



Emma Franklin, daughter of one of the club members, modeled a stylish black and white outfit, complete with a fun hat.

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE GAZETTE

Yacht Haven Garden Club Raises Funds through Fashion Show



Yacht Haven Garden Club President Terra Defibaugh welcomed guests to the luncheon. She described the club's activities and opened the door to new members.



On Oct. 13, the Yacht Haven Garden Club held its 33rd Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club. The event, themed "Bon Voyage," is its sole fundraiser, generating support for their programs.



Guests were given the opportunity to peruse the clothes and accessories, provided by Details of Occoquan. This was the store's first year, providing clothes for the Fashion Show. The small business emphasizes the ability to customize garments and a personal relationship with all of their designers.



With something for everyone, the Silent Auction is a popular feature of the annual luncheon.

Fashion Show Chair Gail Mlinarchik talked about the annual fundraiser's purpose, to support the club's community activities and scholarship. Then, she introduced Details owner, Cathy Campbell (right) who provided the outfits and served as emcee, during the show.



Linda Herbert showed the elegance of a black, embroidered jacket.



Escort, Christoph Mlinarchik, gave his arm to Linda Herbert as she approached the stage.

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CONTRACT PENDING



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NEW LISTING



Old Town \$698,000
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Alexandria \$589,000

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PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

After being shuttered since November 2014, the restaurant at Cedar Knoll along the George Washington Memorial Parkway will have been re-opened for a year this December.

Inside Cedar Knoll

Historic restaurant approaching one year after re-opening.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE GAZETTE

After being shuttered since November 2014, the restaurant at Cedar Knoll along the George Washington Me-

morial Parkway will have been re-opened for a year this December. Executive chef and managing partner Andrew Holden of Warrenton saw the property was available in March 2015. Holden had been running his own cater-



From left, Cedar Knoll chef, baker and partner Charlie Blevins, executive chef and managing partner Andrew Holden, and managing partner Chris Holden look out from the historic restaurant on to the Potomac River.



Chef, baker and partner Charlie Blevins prepares a rabbit for the Cedar Knoll special entree Fricassee of Rabbit with Spoon Bread.

ing business called The Joy of Eating.

"Somebody should do something with that place," Holden remembers thinking of Cedar Knoll. "The area is starved for a great restaurant."

Holden made a move for the property, and was chosen by the owner in August 2015. He and his partners took on a five-year lease with the option for two five-year extensions.

With the property sitting on George Washington's river estate, Holden said there was no desire to modernize the restaurant's interior. Renovations included flooring, paint, antique decor and lighting, as well as a new exterior awning.

"We're entrenched in the history of the area," Holden said. "And we want the neighborhood to feel that this is their place. We are essentially a community restaurant here in Mount Vernon."

Holden's menu, which he describes as "American cuisine, with regional ingredients — good food with our own style," changes seasonally.

Recent specials include Fricassee of Rabbit with Spoon Bread, Venison Filet and Royal Dorade with Shellfish Stew.

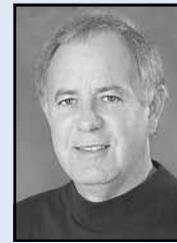
In the first year, Holden said the restaurant is performing "better than expected."

"It's wild to think back, from where we were standing to where we are now," he said.

One component of that success is the events-side of the business. Holden said they've had around 110 on the books for 2016, everything from weddings to birthday parties to funerals.

For Thanksgiving, Cedar Knoll will be serving special family-style

SEE INSIDE CEDAR, PAGE 7



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Alex/Hollin Hall \$619,900
8011 Jackson Road
Beautifully renovated and expanded rambler w/over 1700+ sq. ft. of stunning one-level contemporary living space. 3BRs, 2.5BAs. Gourmet kitchen opens to vaulted Great Room w/stone fireplace. Gorgeous owner's suite. Beautiful fenced bkdy w/patio, fire pit, shed. Located in Waywood Elementary district, & short walk to Hollin Hall shopping center.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$639,900
8522 Wagon Wheel Road
Absolute gorgeous 4BR, 3BA expanded & updated Split on large beautiful lot with fenced backyard. Two 16x14 ft. additions, Office off the MBR and Sun Rm off the Living rm. Updates include: roof, HWH, HVAC, baths, kit (floor, cabinets, apps & counters)-Freshly painted interior and exterior Approximately 2900 fin sq ft plus 2 car garage. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 28 min s to Ntl Airport, 33 mins to Pentagon.



Alex/Riverside Ests \$499,900
3400 Ramsgate Terrace
Charming, beautiful, updated 4BR, 3BA Split on a large lot in popular Riverside Terrace - updates: Kitchen, all 3 baths, windows, doors, siding, HWH, deck, and A/C. Driveway resurfaced this month-large laundry room with lots of storage-wonderful community and commute along Potomac River to Old Town (N) 15 mins, Ntl Airport 25 mins, 30 mins to Pentagon, and 5 mins (S) to Ft. Belvoir.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$498,500
3424 Ramsgate Terrace
Lovely 4BR, 2.5BA home w/garage in wonderful Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Updated - open kitchen w/granite & SS. Refinished hardwood floors. Private sauna in LL. 2 Fireplaces. HVAC 2013, Roof 2008, Windows 2010, Kitchen 2015. Large deck off of the kitchen & stone patio. Fenced bkdy. Great location close to Fort Belvoir & GW Pkwy for scenic commuting to DC.



Alex/Wessynnton \$679,900
3301 Wessynnton Way
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Alex/Collingwood Ests. \$609,900
1120 Anesbury Lane
Lovely, updated, 3 BR, 3 BA Rambler on a beautiful lot in Waywood Elementary district! Upgrades include: kitchen, 3 baths, windows, painting, and brand new concrete driveway. Full basement, half finished, and room for a 4th & 5th bedroom. 8 mins to Old Town (N), and 10 mins to Fort Belvoir (S). Call Rex for more information.



Alex/Mt. Vernon Grove \$3,000
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 w/beautiful hdwd floors 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 Ntl Airport, 28 minutes to Ntl Airport. No smoking.



NEWS

From Iran to Mount Vernon

By Senitra T. McCombs



In his autobiography "Fortunate Plastic Surgeon: An Autobiography and My View About the United States", Dr. Khosrow Matini takes readers on the chronological journey from his childhood in the suburbs of Tehran, Iran to becoming a Fortunate Plastic Surgeon living in the Mt. Vernon. Along the way, he also includes some colorful personal stories and his perspective on American politics and culture. Born during an invasion of Iran by several countries, Dr. Matini learned early how to overcome life's challenges. Through persistent studying and hard work, he was among the 81 students accepted to Meshed University's medical school. After working as a resident in various remote Iranian villages, Dr. Matini decided to further his education in the United States. During his 36 years of practice, he became a pioneer in the local medical community. He performed the first Muscle Flap Reconstruction surgery in the Washington Metro Area. In addition, his research on Low Platelet Adhesiveness in Massive Gastrointestinal Bleeding found that aspirin reduced the adhesiveness of platelets in patients with Gastrointestinal Bleeding, which is one of the reasons aspirin is given to patients to reduce blockage of the coronary arteries. He also played a crucial role in keeping INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital open. For information on how to purchase a copy of "Fortunate Plastic Surgeon", please refer to Dr. Khosrow Matini's contact information listed below this article.

Order the book FORTUNATE PLASTIC SURGEON:
An Autobiography and My View About the United States
by Dr. Khosrow Matini, M.D., F.A.C.S.

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PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Betsy Barmat Stires chose furniture from Thomas Moser to add an element of classic modern architecture to the kitchen.

Showcase Home Offers Inspiration

DC Design House was transformed by local designers to raise money for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Those in search of interior design ideas now have a new inspiration source, at least temporarily. The 2016 DC Design House is now open to the public through Oct. 30.

Some of the area's top designers competed for opportunities to donate their talent to transform a local, grand home into a showplace to raise money for charity. On the market for \$10.8 million, the five-story, 11,242-square-foot home includes seven bedrooms, eight full bathrooms, two half-baths, three kitchens, five fireplaces, sauna, exercise and party rooms, wine cellar and elevator, plus an infinity pool.

Area tastemakers unleashed their creativity, transforming 21 spaces into dream rooms like the la salon del celebrity, the mademoiselle chambre and the chic laundry room.

Spaces created by local designers include:

- ❖ Family Room: Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design, Bethesda
- ❖ Powder Room: Lena Kroupnik of Lena Kroupnik Interiors, Bethesda
- ❖ Sitting Room: Camille Saum of Camille Saum Interior Design, Bethesda
- ❖ Library and Whiskey Bar: Josh Hildreth and Victor Sanz of DMG Interiors, Reston
- ❖ Living Room: Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors, Oakton
- ❖ Kitchen and Breakfast Room: Betsy Barmat Stires

DC Design House

Now Through Oct. 29

Closed Mondays; Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 30: DC Design House, last day, noon to 5 p.m.
Tickets: \$35

For more information, visit www.dcdesignhouse.com, Facebook and Twitter.

of Frog Hill Designs, Alexandria

❖ Master Bedroom Suite: Victoria Sanchez of Victoria At Home, Alexandria

❖ Vintage Cabana and Roof Deck: Quince Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs, Alexandria

❖ Mademoiselle Chamber: Andrea Houck of A. Houck Designs, Arlington

❖ Chic Laundry Room: Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., Arlington

❖ Formal in the Woods Lower Garden: Stephen Wlodarczyk and Joshua Dean of Wheat's Custom Landscape, Vienna.

The home's original kitchen was expansive and light-filled, but it was due for a few updates. "I wanted to keep the usefulness and simple utility that the original design presented as well as maintain a comfortable and spacious feeling," said Betsy Barmat Stires of Frog Hill Designs, LLC in Alexandria. "I continued the neutral color palette set with the existing cabinetry, millwork and stone, but added a soft teal and other complementary neutrals to bring the outdoors inside."

"I wanted to keep the usefulness and simple utility that the original design presented as well as maintain a comfortable and spacious feeling."

— Betsy Barmat Stires,
Frog Hill Designs LLC

The laundry space was designed to take occupants beyond the monotony of wash, dry, fold and repeat, says Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "It presents a moment to stop, breathe and restart," she said. "The most memorable days often end with the dirtiest clothes so why not have a sleek and sophisticated laundry room to tackle this task, a place where design trumps utility." Andrea Houck of A. Houck

Designs, Inc. in Arlington, created a girl's bedroom, called the Mademoiselle Chambre, which is reminiscent of a room one might see in a home in Paris. "The muse for our design is a French ingénue with diplomatic parents looking for worldly sophistication beyond her years," said Houck. "With a childhood spent in Paris, our imagined inhabitant is accustomed to high fashion and elegant style. And like most young ladies her age, she also loves a little sparkle and shine." The home was built in 2010 and is located in the Wesley Heights/Berkley neighborhood of Washington, D.C. It was most recently used as the temporary residence of the French ambassador while his home was undergoing renovations. Since its inception in 2008, the DC Design House has had more than 70,000 visitors and raised more than \$1.5 million for Children's National Health System. For more information, visit www.dcdesignhouse.com.



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The log cabin room at Cedar Knoll boasts an expansive fireplace and prominent portrait of George Washington.



With the property sitting on George Washington's river estate, Andrew Holden said there was no desire to modernize the restaurant's interior. Renovations included flooring, paint, antique decor and lighting, as well as a new exterior awning.

Inside Cedar Knoll

FROM PAGE 5
meals from 12-5 p.m.

With a reservation, Holden said diners can fill out a pre-order form with dietary restrictions.

"We want it to still feel like at home," he said, "where everyone sits down and passes around food."

The Thanksgiving menu hasn't been set yet, but Holden said it will consist of "a mix of traditional items, with creative, season-

appropriate items."

Look for additional special meals and events for New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day and Mothers' Day. Cedar Knoll is located at 9030 Lucia Lane in the Fort Hunt area, off the George Washington Memorial Parkway. For more information and opening hours, visit www.cedarknollva.com. Reservations can be made by emailing reservations@cedarknollva.com or calling 703-780-3665.

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The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7:30 pm

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Matthew is an Episcopal priest and associate at the Center for Ministry and Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary.

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OPINION

Yes to the Meals Tax

Reduces reliance on property tax.

BY PHILLIP A. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

As a businessman here in Fairfax and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board, I write on behalf of a coalition of thousands of homeowners, parents, teachers, firefighters, police, friends and users of our libraries and our parks and recreation facilities, and those who belong to churches and non-profit organizations working to ensure that Fairfax County also protects those in need [www.yesmealstax.org].

Here since 1988, I have always valued Fairfax's pragmatic approach to local government services; i.e., we will pay for the cost of an excellent education system and high-quality services as long as the cost is reasonable and affordable.

Hit with the double whammy of the great recession and the federal budget sequestration fiasco, the Board of Supervisors and School Board did what they had to do under the circumstances — they cut costs and reduced services.

The county reduced annual expenditures by \$300 million and eliminated 700 jobs; for the school system, \$500 million and 2,100 jobs.

The maintenance backlog has grown to over \$150 million in recreation and park facilities alone.

We are spending less in real dollars per pupil this year than in 2008. We are losing our best teachers to surrounding jurisdictions, because salaries are no longer competitive in the region. Class sizes are larger.

Economic recovery has been slow. While home values have grown modestly, vacancies in office buildings are at a 25-year high and revenue from commercial property tax is at historic lows.

Compounding our challenge, state funding — particularly for schools — continues to decline, with a funding shortfall for K-12

education climbing to more than \$1 billion annually since 2009.

With 65 percent of county revenue now being generated by residential property tax, homeowners are carrying a substantial and growing share of the cost of services.

Without a more diverse revenue base, we risk school system excellence and we risk the caliber of county services that underpin our quality of life. In an article earlier this year, the Washington Post characterized this reality as Fairfax "fraying around the edges."

This is the setting for the meals tax referendum before us on Nov. 8.

Five great things will happen by approving the meals tax:

1. \$100 million will be generated. Almost a third of this revenue — \$28 million — will be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax.

2. Seventy percent of the revenues will be directed to the school system to help stem the loss of our best teachers and reduce class size.

3. Our quality of life will be strengthened by addressing unmet police and firefighter needs and those of our libraries and parks.

4. The backlog in county and school facility and infrastructure maintenance needs can be reduced, while also preserving our AAA bond rating.

5. Our tax base will be more diverse, relieving property tax pressure on homeowners.

Incredibly, Fairfax can do these great things by paying pennies-on-the-dollar when we eat out. Few of us ever notice paying Arlington County, Fairfax City, Falls Church and Vienna when we eat in their restaurants, yet we do. If you agree that it is important to keep the best teachers in our classrooms, reduce class size, continue to protect our safety and maintain our quality of life; and finally — if you believe we need to be less dependent on homeowners to pay for all of the above — it is clear that we should vote yes for the meals tax. It's literally a pennies-on-the-dollar solution.

No to the Meals Tax

A food tax is not a silver bullet.

BY PAT HERRITY
SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

I have been opposed to the meals tax from the start, but what has concerned me most over the last several months has been the tactics used to try to convince our residents to vote for it and the county's failure to deal with its spending problems. I would like to offer some clarity on these points and why I am against the meals tax.

COMMENTARY The proponents of the meals tax insist the tax is

for teachers' salaries and tax relief. In fact, the ballot language referencing schools and tax relief was selected because it was the language that passed in other counties in Virginia and according to one supervisor "we need to use the language that will get it passed." In reality, the Board of Supervisors will decide in April during the budget process how much funding goes to schools and then the School Board will decide how much funding goes to teacher raises and class size reductions. Despite the Board of Supervisors fully funding the School Board's funding request last year, the funds were not focused on fixing our teacher salary issues.

If it passes, the meals tax will just be an additional \$100 million tax on top of the \$100M in taxes the board passed earlier this year (over my opposition). In the last five years, real estate taxes alone have increased 25 percent and skyrocketed by \$565 million. As I have debated proponents of the meals tax over the last several months, there has been almost universal acknowledgement that Fairfax County has a spending problem. For example, Fairfax County offers its 35,000-plus county and school employees and

administrators' unparalleled and unsustainable pensions and pre-social security benefits that even surrounding jurisdictions do not pay. Despite my efforts to address this and other spending problems, there is no plan in place to address these unsustainable costs and benefits. The meals tax is a bad way to kick the can of addressing our spending problems down the road.

The meals tax is also bad way to address a spending problem because it is a regressive tax that targets a single industry and disproportionately hits those who can least afford it — the elderly, single working parents, young students, and people without other options. It is not a white tablecloth restaurant tax; it is a food tax. The meals tax would be on top of the current sales tax resulting in a 10 percent total tax on any prepared food, including the rotisserie chicken from the grocery store, the fountain drink from the convenience store, your morning coffee, and your food truck purchases. It is also a tax on a single industry — one that only has a 3 percent profit margin on average. This means the meals tax will result in the government making more money off of a restaurant than the restaurant itself makes in profit. This is fundamentally wrong. Restaurants not only provide thousands of young adults with their first job, they also give back to the community through sponsorships and donations.

Fairfax County voters have a decision to make. Do we settle for budget deficits and tax increases year after year, or do we send a message that enough is enough and it is time to address spending issues? I sympathize for those who support the tax; the Board of Supervisors and School Board have led them to believe that the meals tax is some sort of silver bullet to their budget and teacher salaries woes. Simply put, it is not.

Pat Herrity represents the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Write

Mount Vernon Gazette welcomes views on any public issue. Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

meditation can be an active form of contemplative practice. 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. Call 703-360-4220, email

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THROUGH NOV. 4

Food Drive. At Sheehy Honda of Alexandria, 2434 Richmond Highway. Sheehy Auto Stores will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 22

Mount Vernon Gazette

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Published by
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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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OPINION

Enshrining 'Free Riding'

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



This year on Election Day, the first question you will see on the ballot is a proposed constitutional amendment that would prohibit a worker's participation in a union as a condition for employment in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In Virginia, non-union employees have the right to come to work and be represented by unions without having to be a member. This practice has been in the Code of Virginia since 1947 and is commonly called "right to work." While it is called "right to work," the name is very misleading as it has the opposite effect on workers. It provides employers an increased opportunity to deny workers access to a union or professional organization, yet allows some workers to benefit from the work of a union or organization without being a member. Some workers benefit from the union, like a firefighter's or teacher's association, but without contributing to it as the members do. This is "free riding."

While I voted against changing our Constitution with this amendment in the 2016 General Assembly session, it passed and the Governor does not have the power to veto it.

The Constitution of Virginia, one of the first state Constitutions, historically was a source of inspiration for federal and state

styles of government. Our Virginia Constitution outlines a House and Senate to create the legislature (The General Assembly) and the role and election of the Governor, for example. It is our governing document which sets down the rules by which all our laws should be established. The Code of Virginia is where laws belong, not in the Constitution.

Constitutional amendments originate in the General Assembly, and if they pass, the amendment must be considered again in the session following the election of new members and passed once more. If it passes a second time, the amendment is presented to the voters on Election Day. Virginia created this style of government to make the legislature more powerful than the Governor and for this reason the Governor cannot veto a proposed constitutional amendment and the voter's decision becomes final law. That is why the Governor could not stop this proposed misleading amendment from moving forward.

This law has existed for 80 years, and does not need to be enshrined in the Constitution of Virginia. The current law is unfair and unhelpful and has led to the widening gap of pay and benefits within the labor force. Those states that do not have such a law have much higher wages and less of a pay gap.

Let's not mess with our Constitution. I oppose this amendment, intend to vote against it, and I hope you will as well.

make it more difficult to rescind Virginia's "right to work" law should the legislature and Governor become pro-union in future years.

The language of Question 1 is as straightforward and simple as can be. Apparently, however, its meaning and import escape state Sen. Scott Surovell. In his blog, he describes this question as "very controversial and very confusing as written on the ballot." He states his opposition and also says the following concerning Virginia's "right to work" law: "No legislature has even introduced legislation to repeal this statute in at least three decades. If they did, it would be a waste of time because it would not pass." Of course, Senator Surovell fails to point out that a pro-union legislature combined with a Democratic Governor could repeal it in future years. That is precisely why the current legislature wants it added to the Constitution.

No, there is nothing about the proposed amendment that is either controversial or confusing, particularly to those who don't want to have to join a union in order to be employed. Voters should vote "Yes" on Question 1 and enshrine in the Virginia Constitution the "right to work" without being required to join a union.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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Another Community Partnership for the Mount Vernon & Alexandria Editions of:

Discussing the Election with Children

Local educators offer suggestions for navigating a complicated political climate.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

While Colleen K. Vesely has watched televised debates and political events with her children throughout this election season, an event during which the American Civil Rights movement was discussed stands out. It was a concept her 3-year-old daughter didn't grasp, of course. But Vesely used the moment as opportunity to start guiding her children through this year's election season.

"I asked her to think about what she might do if someone at school was being mean to one of her friends, to which, she promptly replied, 'I'd tell them to stop being mean and that I don't like it,'" said Vesely, an assistant professor of early childhood education and human development and family science at George Mason University. "Elections offer opportunities to consider the importance of service and standing up for democratic principles. ... However, the tone of this general election season is different."

Still, Vesely and other educators say that while election cycles typically offer families a multitude of opportunities for conversations about civics and discussions of democracy, navigating the current political climate requires added dexterity.

Use the election season to facilitate conversations in a way that is relatable to children based on their age and experiences, advises Vesely. "By ... discussing the different issues ... parents with school-age and older children can use the election season as an opportunity to expand their children's thinking in relation to current social issues and history," she said. "Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills with real-life issues by helping them critique candidates' opinions" as well as "understand different points of view on a variety of issues and develop their persuasive arguments." This is an ex-

ercise Vesely has used with her own children.

"During primary season, my 6-year-old and I watched a number of the candidates' speeches," she said. "We talked about the issues and each person as a human being. ... I offered reasons as to why I admired (some of) the candidates."

Focusing on citizenship and character is a strategy Vesely advises parents to use with children who are preschool-age and younger: "Parents might discuss what it means to be a good citizen in their home," she said. "For example, helping put away their toys when they are done playing, being nice to their classmates, helping their friends and teacher."

Similarly, local schools are developing creative ways to fit the Nov. 8 election into their lesson plans. For example, "since students are only in middle school for one presidential election, Norwood School takes advantage of this opportunity to help students begin to understand how to go about comparing candidates' positions on basic issues, and also to help them understand how the presidential election process works," said Michele Claeys, associate head of school and head of middle school, Norwood School in Potomac, Md.

To help students learn to understand issues and evaluate and compare candidates, teachers work together to create age-appropriate mini-lessons about candidates' positions on a small number of issues. "Students will explore and discuss — not debate — the issues, and learn how to find additional information on their own if they are interested," said Claeys.

On Election Day, middle school students will participate in a mock election designed to help them understand how the electoral process works. They will be divided into groups of different sizes with different numbers of electoral votes, representing each of the 50 states. "After both the real and mock elections, teachers will use the results

to illustrate how the process works," said Claeys. "Throughout these lessons, our emphasis will be on respectful dialogue and consideration of multiple perspectives and experiences."

Educators at BASIS Independent School in McLean are teaching students about the political process by linking it to the selection of the school's mascot. By allowing students to choose a symbol to represent the school, teachers hope to initiate a broad conversation about awareness, empathy and other values.

"Especially for our younger students, conversations about how a mascot represents the qualities and values of our school serves as a good metaphor for the more serious representation in political contexts," said Sean Aiken, head of school. "Some students prefer traditional mascots to give our school a sense of familiarity and camaraderie. Some want less common mascots to set us apart from other schools and celebrate our individuality."

The lesson will involve the entire student body. "We ask our older students to generate ideas that take even our youngest 3-year-olds into account so we can unite as a whole school and not just play to specific 'special interests,'" said Aiken.

"The exercise serves as an impetus for posing thought-provoking questions to the students," says Aiken. "Should we identify ourselves as humorous, serious, fierce?" he asks. "What will happen if the greater numbers of students in the middle school prefer a mascot that the much smaller number of sophomores do not prefer? Should we use some sort of delegate system or stick with popular vote? How will we feel if our top choice for mascot ultimately is not selected, and what is the appropriate response to that

feeling? Does our choice of mascot represent not just our current community but those who will join us in the future?"

The activities, says Aiken, open the door for conversations about fairness and frustration in ways that are meaningful and age appropriate, and that can be put into the context of the current election season. "While our situation as a brand-new school is somewhat unique, the idea of mascot representation weaves through our whole society and could certainly be used

to frame a conversation between students and their families about tone, identity and cooperation," he said.

Parents should also be aware of the ways the election is affecting their own emotional states and thus their families. "As I watch the presidential debates and continue to read the media coverage of the election, I find myself in an agitated and anxious emotional state," said Vesely. "This heightened emotional state with feelings of stress and agitation can spill over into family relationships, leaving us less present and sensitive in our interactions with our children and partners."

Choose the information children are exposed to thoughtfully and be prepared for questions, say experts. "The 2016 general election season [has been] described by some as dark and more negative than any of the recent past elections," Vesely said. "We want to encourage our children's participation in the political process, but ... it can sometimes be ugly and hurtful."

Shielding children doesn't mean ignoring negativity entirely, however. "Parents should be prepared to talk through what children might hear from other children on the playground or at school," Vesely said.

"Parents can use the election as fodder to hone their children's critical thinking skills ..."

— Colleen K. Vesely, Ph.D.,
George Mason University.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Christelle Kouame, B.A.S.W., of Alexandria recently graduated from Salisbury University (Salisbury, Md.).

Sean Franklin of West Potomac High School was one of 213 Fairfax County Public Schools students to be named semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation for 2017. All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$33 million, to be awarded in spring 2017.

Duncan Turner of Alexandria joined more than 1,700 freshmen when Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, N.Y.) began classes on Aug. 29.

West Potomac High School's **Taylor Stephens** and **Madelin Finn** were among 31 FCPS students named to the 2016 Virginia Honors Choir. This select choir is open to the top 125 singers from the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is the highest honor a choir student can attain during his or her high school career.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MUMFORD/THE GAZETTE

Field Trip at Huntley Meadows Park

Brittany Hopkins's third grade class from Sangster Elementary School in Springfield visited Huntley Meadows Park on Wednesday, Oct. 5. The class was one of three third grade classes from the school that visited the park that day to learn about wetlands. They began with a brief overview at the visitor center before walking through the woods and onto the boardwalk through the wetlands. Spotted during the walk were turtles, both in the water and on logs, fish, a great blue heron, a couple of egrets and a caterpillar, along with an abundant variety of plants and trees. The classes concluded their field trip with lunch at the park's picnic shelter.

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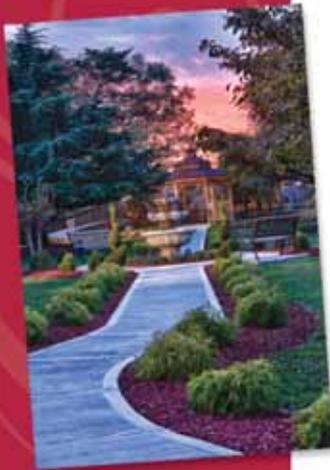


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OPINION

Yes for Widows, No for 'Right to Work'

BY SCOTT
SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



Legislative Exchange Council or ALEC. ALEC is funded by various large corporations and think tanks and has advocated model laws to weaken environmental protections, promote mandatory voter identification and weaken

On Nov. 8, you can vote on two state constitutional amendments that require voter approval, in addition to voting for President and U.S. Congress. There are also local measures on the ballot in some counties.

One constitutional amendment is relatively non-controversial and would allow localities to exempt property owned by the widow of a killed-in-action first responder from real estate taxes. Two years ago, Virginians approved similar treatment for the widows of killed-in-action soldiers. I support giving our localities this authority and voted "yes."

The second amendment is very controversial and very confusing as written on the ballot.

In 1947, Virginia adopted a law commonly labeled a "right-to-work" law. This law prohibits labor unions from negotiating contracts with employers that require all employees to join labor unions as a condition of employment. This practice results in what is sometimes called a "union shop."

No legislator has even introduced legislation to repeal this statute in at least three decades. If they did, it would be a waste of time because it would not pass. This might lead you to ask why is this on the ballot when has been Virginia law for almost 70 years and no one has tried to repeal it?

This proposal is part of a multi-state campaign to constitutionalize similar provisions and is organized nationally by a group called the American

firearm violence prevention laws. Provisions along these lines are on the ballot in five states on Nov. 8, 2016.

I voted against placing this measure on the ballot as your senator and voted "no" two weeks ago (I voted by mail).

Constitutions are fundamental governing documents that set forth fundamental rules of governance between people, branches of government and between different levels of government. We do not put every policy in our state constitution for a good reason. For example, we do not put alcoholic beverage rules, the definition of murder, or speed limits in our state constitution.

The "right-to-work" proposal is also bad policy. Workers in states with right-to-work laws earn 12.1 percent less than workers in other states, median household incomes are lower and fewer workers in right to work states have access to basic benefits like health insurance. States with right to work laws spend 32 percent less on K-12 education than other states, have higher rates of workplace fatalities and have higher mortality rates. Workers in these states also have fewer job protections.

I hope you will join me in voting against this provision.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. You can email me at scott@scottsuovell.org if you have any feedback.

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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By e-mail: gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

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Advice from the Pros

Local private school admissions directors share wisdom they'd offer to their own children.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

From interviews to essays to standardized tests to open houses, the season for submitting independent school applications is underway. For families vying for a spot at the area's most elite schools, the process can be fraught with anxiety, stress and confusion as parents and students wade through the myriad academic options in the Washington, D.C., region.

Admissions decision-makers at several local private schools share advice that they might offer their own children, underscoring the importance of finding the best fit rather than trying to fit into a top school if the environment might not match a student's personality.

Matti Donkor, interim director of enrollment management at The Madeira School in McLean:

"Enter the process very open-minded. I don't believe in saying, 'This is the one school for me.' I believe in knowing the core things that are important to you like the school's community, culture and traditions, but also in understanding that you might find those characteristics in a variety of schools. I think students and families should be engaged in the [application] process. I think we do the school visit and that is the only interaction you have with the school. Find out what else is happening on campus, connect with other students and alumni. Really take the time to understand the culture of the school and whether it appeals to you."

Lisa Knight, director of admission, Flint Hill School, Oakton:

"Take time to learn about the school community. Shadow for day, attend several [school] community events, go and experience the community for yourself. Notice how you feel when you are on campus. Do you feel welcomed? Are current students and teachers greeting you in the hallways and classrooms? Do they notice you? Can you see yourself

growing academically, intellectually and socially there? Are you comfortable with the teaching style and methods? Do you value what the school values?"

Richard S. Moss, director of admission, The Heights School, Potomac, Md.:

"Teach your child how to make a pros and cons list. Help him or her thoughtfully consider the options. Ultimately, your child needs to know that he is a valued advisor to the ultimate decision makers: the parents. It's an opportunity for parents to nurture trust. It is a mistake to lead your child to believe that one school is the be all and end all to life's problems. That's a high bar, and, more importantly, you don't want to crush a child's spirit if he doesn't get in."

Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School, Arlington:

"I recommend all students looking at various schools make sure that they are comfortable. Definitely shadow and visit during open houses to get a true sense of the community and school. I tell students to make sure they are comfortable and happy with their choice because they only get to go to high school once."

Sean Aiken, head of school, BASIS Independent, McLean:

"I would advise students not to get too caught up in their resumes and records and instead work to discuss passions and projects that excite and interest them. How will the school help you explore your ideas in greater depth? In what areas do you want to improve? I'm always impressed with students who are hungry to know more about the world."

Julie C. Lewis, director of admission and financial aid, Alexandria County Day School, Alexandria:

"I recommend that families 'Take the time to visit a wide-range of schools, not just the ones your friends' kids attend, to really get a feel for what appeals to you as a family and will work best for your individual child. The Association of Independent Schools of Greater Washington's website (AISGW.org) is a fantastic place to start your research and may lead you to a school you were not previously familiar with. Once you've created your list of schools, visit each of them and don't be afraid to ask as many questions as needed to really get a sense of the academic program and school community."

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Parcel 1 (Improved): (Cole) 6057B Arlington Blvd., Falls Church; Mason District; Boulevard Square Condos, Unit 10; Tax Map #0514-14-0010; Acct. #408234982

Parcel 2: (Nguyen) 6418 Columbia Pike, Annandale; Mason District; River View Heights, Lot 20; 9,526 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0613-12-0020; Acct. #408273783

Parcel 3: (Ox Group) 9333 Lee Highway, Fairfax; Providence District; Hatmark, 17,906 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0484-01-0002; Acct. #408216571

Parcel 4: (US Bank) 6801 Custis Parkway, Falls Church; Providence District; Mason Terrace, Lot 450; 20,437 sq. ft.; Tax Map #0504-05-0450; Acct. #408230100

Parcel 5 (Improved): (Walsh) 9111 McNair Drive, Alexandria; Mt. Vernon District; Woodlawn Manor, Lot 27; Sec.1; 21,780 sq. ft.; Tax Map #1101-05-0027; Acct. #408435007



Parcel 1



Parcel 5

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VIVALDI: Four Seasons

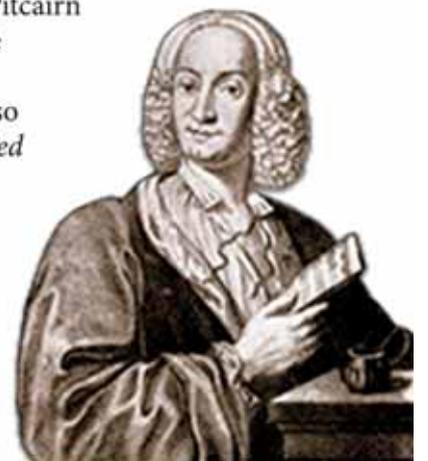
Saturday, November 5 at 8pm

Schlesinger Concert Hall

Sunday, November 6 at 3pm

George Washington Masonic Memorial

Renowned conductor Kathleen Kelly, violinist Elizabeth Pitcairn and the ASO celebrate the falling of the leaves with Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Also featuring Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll* and Missy Mazzoli's *Violent, Violent Sea*.



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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The West Potomac Varsity team prepares to receive the serve.

'Dig Pink' Yields Donations

West Potomac High School Volleyball hosted Dig Pink on Thursday, Oct. 13. The annual event raises funds for the Sideout Foundation, which helps those with breast cancer to regain control of their lives. The team's goal is to raise \$2,000 by the end of October. During the Dig Pink rally, the team raised \$500 through a bake sale and donations. Online donations can be made

through Oct. 31 at <https://giving.side-out.org/campaigns/11793>

The Wolverines won all three games against Mt. Vernon High School: Varsity (3-1), JV (2-1), Freshman (2-0). West Potomac Volleyball also welcomed players from the Fort Hunt Youth Volleyball League and organized a serving competition for up-and-coming volleyball players.



PHOTO BY RICHARD MARPLE

Wolverines Dispose of Atoms

After a close win at West Springfield, the visiting Wolverines came out sluggish as Atoms of Annandale scored on the first play from scrimmage on Oct. 14. That would be the bright spot for the home team as the Wolverine offense came alive and scored 46 points. Senior Mark Ellis led the attack by throwing for 378 yards and three touchdowns, all of which were to Brandan Lisenby (above). Justine Annan rushed for 87 yards and three touchdowns. The 6-1 Wolverines take on rival T.C. Williams for homecoming this Friday night. Game time is 7 p.m.

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ENTERTAINMENT

On the Menu: Food and Drink Events Abound

Some snippets from the Alexandria restaurant scene over the coming month.

BY HOPE NELSON
THE GAZETTE

Autumn is in full swing, and with the season comes a passel of activities in the food and beverage scene across the city (and beyond). Here are some items to put on your docket in the coming weeks.

Port City Brewing, 3950 Wheeler Ave.

Fresh off a successful trip to the Great American Beer Festival in Denver, Port City is celebrating a silver medal for its Colossal V. On Thursday, Oct. 20, from 4 to 9 p.m., the brewery is hosting a “silver celebration” complete with an aged batch of Colossal V for the tasting — and an opportunity for attendees to check out the silver medal for

themselves.

Colossal V, the latest in the Colossal lineage, is an old ale-style beer with a rich, deep taste. Check it out — or any of Port City’s other offerings — and enjoy Rockland’s barbecue, stationed outside in the restaurant’s food truck, to round out your evening.

Sugar Shack, 804 N. Henry St.

It’s a month full of events at Sugar Shack. First, the doughnut purveyors have sponsored a Halloween-themed “skull hunt” throughout October. The folks at Sugar Shack have hidden 40 orange skulls within Alexandria and Arlington businesses and other locations, and each one found is redeemable for a free doughnut.

Then on Nov. 5, Sugar Shack is teaming up with Arlington’s New District Brewing

(2709 S. Oakland St.) for an event pairing four of the brewery’s beers with four different doughnut holes — a sweet twist on a typical beer tasting. Pay the brewery a visit between 2 and 6 p.m. to have a taste.

Captain Gregory’s, 804 N. Henry St.

Speaking of Sugar Shack, Captain Gregory’s, the city’s favorite speakeasy-within-a-doughnut-shop, is hosting a second edition of its now-annual Halloween party on Saturday, Oct. 29, complete with costumes and a “prix-fixe menu” consisting of two Halloween-themed cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, flatbreads, and sweets.

Now, about those costumes: Wear your favorite to vie for a prize in the Captain’s costume contest, or cheer on your more outlandish friends. The festivities start at 10:30 until last call; tickets are \$65.

Rustico, 827 Slaters Lane

Forget Oktoberfest — Rustico is continuing the festivities into the coming month with their fifth annual Novemberfest on Saturday, Nov. 5. The block party will span the breadth of the afternoon, from noon to 5, and is the culminating event that follows several smaller “preview” events over the past few weeks.

For the main event, Rustico is bringing together 30 breweries from around the region to show off 50-plus different beers. Look for some rarities and some new favorites to crop up from larger and lesser-known brewers alike, as well as sandwiches and other items to munch on. Admission is \$10 at the door.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Exhibit: “Garden Muse.” Through Oct. 23, 9-4:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 12-4:30 p.m. Sunday at Green Springs Garden – Horticultural Center, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Horticulture Center at Green Spring Gardens is featuring the award-winning photographs of Cindy Dyer, a graphic designer, photographer and USPS Stamp Artist. Free. Visit www.gardenmuseshow.com for more.

Exhibit: “The Fanciful in Daily Life.” Through Oct. 23, gallery hours at The Associates’ Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. “Upside Down: Inside Out: The Fanciful in Daily Life” features three-dimensional work by Erika Cleveland. This imaginative fiber artist explores the fanciful in daily life with her needle-felted dolls, from life-sized to small, flying from a trapeze to hanging from a vine. Free. Call 703-524-5723 or email assoc.gallery@gmail.com for more.

Exhibit: “Song of the Woods.” Through Oct. 24, gallery hours at Green Springs Garden – Historical House, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist Mary Exline displays her abstract expressionist paintings. Free. Visit www.artis.com/maryexline for more.

Apple Brandy Production at Mount Vernon. Through Oct. 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Watch as this special distillation project utilizes a variety of apples that were grown by Washington on his Estate, such as Newton Pippin and Hughes. In addition to rye whiskey, George Washington’s Distillery produced small amounts of apple and peach brandy. Some of the brandy was sold in the market, while the remainder was taken to the Mansion

and enjoyed with guests visiting the Washingtons. Included in general admission. Tickets are \$9-20, with a discount for buying online. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Silent Auction: “Birdhouses of Del Ray.” Through Oct. 25, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans’ artists have created one-of-a-kind birdhouses for the “Birdhouses of Del Ray” silent auction fundraiser. Artists used a wide range of materials to create and decorate their birdhouses. Free to participate. Visit www.delrayartisans.org for more.

“Co-Creating the Cosmos.” Thursdays, through Oct. 27, 7:30-9 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.stadainsepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening.

Exhibit: “In All Things.” Through Oct. 29, gallery hours at The Gallery at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Convergence Arts Initiative will feature the work of artist and educator, Glenn Howell in his latest exhibit, “In All things.” The title of Howell’s photography and print show reflects the diversity of his image making and his belief in the promise of redemption of all things. It is a juxtaposition of the “dystopian” elements seen in our world with a vision of Heaven as evidence of God’s grace. Free. Visit www.ourconvergence.org for more.

“The Greatest Show of Earth: Clay Circus.” Through Oct. 30, gallery hours at Torpedo Factory Art Center’s Scope Gallery, 105 N. Union St. In conjunction with the Torpedo Factory Art Center’s annual hands-on children’s art event, Art Safari, sculptural and functional clay art goes wild with all manner of animals making an appearance. Free. Visit

‘Four Seasons’ and ‘The Red Violin’ Featured

BY MELYNDA WILCOX
ALEXANDRIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On Saturday, Nov. 5 and Sunday, Nov. 6, the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will continue its season of renowned guest conductors presenting some of the most beloved masterworks of the orchestral repertoire.

Maestra Kathleen Kelly, master coach for the Washington National Opera’s Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, will be joined by violin virtuoso Elizabeth Pitcairn for Vivaldi’s beloved “Four Seasons.” Kelly has shattered glass ceilings in the conducting world as both the first woman

ASO and first American to be named director of Musical Studies at the Vienna State Opera. In addition to serving on the music faculty of the University of Michigan, she has performed internationally as a recital pianist and will be playing the harpsichord as she conducts the “Four Seasons.”

With leaves covering the ground and winter lurking around the corner, November is a perfect time for Vivaldi’s set of four violin concerti that explore the imagery of each season. As an added bonus, Pitcairn will be performing with her 1720 “Red Mendelssohn” Stradivarius violin, said to have inspired the Academy Award-winning film “The Red Violin.” Pitcairn’s grandfather purchased the violin at auction in 1990.

Pitcairn’s solo appearances have spanned the globe, and she will be touring Vienna, Salzburg, and Prague, as well as Romania and Serbia, in the coming year. She is in her fifth year as presi-

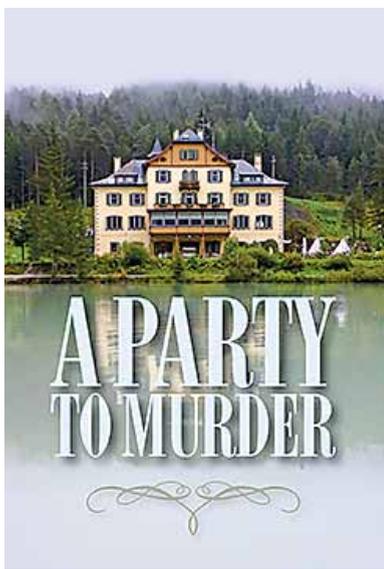
dent and artistic director of the Luzerne Music Center, which provides training for gifted young musicians in upstate New York. While she is visiting Alexandria, she will be conducting a master class with the advanced orchestra students at T.C. Williams High School.

With a female conductor and a female violin soloist, it is only fitting that the ASO’s program will also include a contemporary orchestral piece by a female composer. “Violent, Violent Sea” by Missy Mazzoli was commissioned by the League of Composers Chamber Orchestra and premiered in 2011. The piece uses marimba and vibraphone along with the rest of the orchestra to evoke the sights and sounds of a swirling and unpredictable sea. Mazzoli developed her love of classical music as a child who “listened to the radio constantly.” She studied at Boston University, Yale and the Royal Conservatory of the Hague.

Rounding out the concert is Wagner’s “Siegfried Idyll,” a symphonic poem that the composer wrote for his second wife, Cosima. It is often described as one of his most personal works, premiered as a private performance outside their home and composed of imagery of their home and young son, Siegfried.

The fully-professional Alexandria Symphony Orchestra performs at both the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center and the George Washington Masonic Memorial. Ticket prices: \$20- \$80 adult, \$5 youth, and \$10 student with military, senior and group discounts available. Visit www.alexsym.org for more.

ENTERTAINMENT



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SHOW DATES:
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Art Exhibit: "Local Flavor."
Through Oct. 30, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 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.

Poe Immersive Theater: "A Dream Within a Dream." Through Oct. 31, 8 p.m. or 10 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. This show is a surreal interpretation of the life, works, and mad genius of Edgar Allan Poe, as seen through the lens of the characters in his works and the people in his life. Tickets are \$5-40. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/Poe for more.

"Transformations: Tapestries in Glass." Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at The Art League Gallery, 105 N. Union St. Anita Bucsay Damron's vibrant mosaics draw from many sources, both traditional and contemporary. Inspired by tapestries from Rajasthan and Gujarat, India, her pieces incorporate crystal from Austria and the Czech Republic, specialty glass from Murano, Italy, and found objects such as beads, brooches, and cameos. Damron notes that "new applications of mosaic art encourage recycling and reuse," and her creative reuse of materials is what gives this ancient art form its exciting new sparkle. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery: "Salute to Secondary Colors." Through Nov. 6, gallery hours at 105 N. Union St. The secondary colors orange, green, and purple are the theme for this show. Artists were challenged to use these hues individually, paired, or in a triadic color scheme. Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

"Oh! The Joy." Through Nov. 6, Gallery hours at The Athenaeum, 201 S. Prince St. Artists from across the region were asked to interpret the theme, "Oh! The Joy!" The selected entries represent the wealth of art being created in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Free. Visit www.nvfaa.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

Alexandria/Mount Vernon Antiques Club Meeting. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. The club will host Charlie Davis, a retired Marine Corps and airlines pilot whose research and special program will give the history of the three airports that were located in the Mount Vernon area a number of years ago. He is now a volunteer at Huntley Meadows Park, which was originally put together to make an airport for blimps. Free. Call 703-360-4979 for more.

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.

Lecture and Book Signing. 7 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. A lecture and book signing by historian Chandra

Manning. By the end of the Civil War, nearly half a million slaves had taken refuge behind Union lines, in what became known as "contraband camps." These were crowded, dangerous places, yet some 12-15 percent of the Confederacy's slave population took almost unimaginable risks to reach them, and they became the first places Northerners came to know former slaves en masse. Ranging from stories of individuals to those of armies on the move to the debates in Congress, Troubled Refuge probes what the camps were really like and how former slaves and Union soldiers warily united there. Chandra Manning is an Associate Professor at Georgetown University specializing in 19th century American History. Free. Call 703-746-4356.

FRIDAY/OCT. 21

Fine Arts, Flowers, and Tea. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. leaving from Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Get away to the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond to enjoy the 13th Fine Arts & Flowers exhibit, which features dazzling floral design interpretations of masterpieces from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Have a light lunch at the museum and end the day at the Jefferson Hotel with an afternoon tea under the Tiffany stained-glass ceiling of the Palm Court lobby. Tickets are \$103 per person includes motor coach, exhibit entrance fee and full English tea. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 493 4101 or call 703-642-5173.

Ghosts of Alexandria Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. This ghostly experience explores Alexandria's most haunted locations on and off the beaten path. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, active duty military and veterans, \$5 children, free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22

Annual Bicycle Tour. 10 a.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Alexandria Library invites the community to participate in Le Tour d'Alexandria Library. Free, but registration required. Visit www.bit.ly/alexlibrarybiketour.

Garden Program: Fall Tree ID Walk. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the basics of fall tree identification and practice our skills while admiring the lovely colors of the season. Tickets are \$18. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 401 5701 or call 703-642-5173.

Fort Hunt Preschool Touch-A-Truck. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Fire trucks, snow plows, garbage trucks, police cars, buses and more. Tickets are \$5. Visit www.facebook.com/forthuntpreschool.

The General's Tour. 1 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. The tour will highlight locations and stories associated with Robert E. Lee's life in Alexandria, his hometown from the age of 5 and residence of his "earliest and oldest friends." The tour will last approximately 90 minutes. Tickets are available in advance for \$10 through the museum's website, or for \$15 at the door. Visit www.leafendallhouse.org.

Alexandria International Festival. 1-7 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Alexandria values diversity and inclusion that represents over 100 or more nationalities and all seven continents and speaks over 100 languages, October is National Diversity Month Awareness

celebrates heritages at the Alexandria International Festival. A day of celebration will incorporate many festive activities. Free. Call 703-746-5592 for more.

Apocalyptic Beliefs – An Alexandria Diversity Month Program. 2-4 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Studying other cultures helps to understand the social forces that lead to apocalyptic and related messianic, prophetic, and millenarian religious beliefs. Are these forces present in our society today? - presented by Mary McCutcheon. Free. Call 703-746-1781.

Raven's Night. Doors open at 5 p.m. at The Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. A belly dance show like no other, Raven's Night offers a full course evening of sensational spectacles and otherworldly Celestial Bodies. Featuring pre-show entertainment such as tarot card readings, variety arts, sideshow performances and more. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.ravensnight.com for more.

Nerf Attack. 6 p.m. at Oronoco Park, 100 Madison St. Zombies-Nerf Attack is a live action zombie simulation. It's a two-hour game in which participants immerse themselves in a zombie apocalyptic environment. Every 20 minutes the living will rotate. Tickets are \$100. Visit www.zombiesthemovie.com for more.

Fall Dance Concert. 7 p.m. at St. Aidan Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. The members of Choreographer Collaborative Project team up for a concert. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 seniors and teenagers, and free for children. Visit www.ccpdance.org for more.

A Mansion House Whiskey Tasting. 7-9 p.m. at Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. Come join history lovers and fans of the PBS drama series "Mercy Street" for an inspired evening of Mansion House Hotel elegance. This bourbon tasting will harken back to the Civil War era and include a delicious menu of small bites and cheese pairings. Must be 21+ to attend. Tickets are \$50. Visit www.carlylehouse.org for more.

Virginia Grand Military Band. 7:30 pm. Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. Performing works by Richard Strauss, Saint-Saens and Sousa. Adults \$15, students and children free. Call 703 426-4777 or visit www.vgmb.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 22-23

Fall Harvest Family Days. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Watch as a replica of one of Washington's boats launches into the Potomac River with a costumed crew. The entire family enjoys autumn activities including wagon rides, wheat treading in the 16-sided barn, 18th-century dancing demonstrations, a straw bale maze, farrier (blacksmithing), corn husk dolls demonstrations and early-American games and music. Potomac River sightseeing cruises are half-price this weekend only. Fall Harvest Family Days is included in general admission. Tickets are \$9-20, with a discount for buying online. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

OCT. 22-NOV. 12

Little Theatre of Alexandria: "A Party to Murder." various times at 600 Wolfe St. It's Halloween and six people have come to play a murder-mystery game hosted by writer Charles Prince at a rustic island cottage in Michigan. This play is a fast-paced farce, so what could go wrong? As the characters embark on a weekend of fun, ghosts from the past begin to haunt the proceedings,

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ENTERTAINMENT

and it becomes clear that they are both playing for laughs and their lives. The Little Theatre of Alexandria audiences are treated to rising tensions, secret passageways, incriminating letters, unexpected corpses, and a 25-year-old unsolved mystery that will propel the audience to...well, we don't want to give away the unexpected and terrifying conclusion. Tickets are \$19-22. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com.

OCT. 22-NOV. 27

Post-Graduate Residency Program

Gallery hours at Target Gallery, 105 N. Union St. The Torpedo Factory Post-Graduate Master's of Fine Arts Residency is a competitive program, housed in Studio 12, where four emerging artists create and sell work, interact with the public, and network with other working artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

SUNDAY/OCT. 23

A Cranberry Cornucopia. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn the story of this American native fruit, share innovative recipes, and offer ideas for holiday decorating with cranberries. Sample and take home a cranberry sauce. Tickets are \$32. To make reservations, call Historic Green Spring at 703-941-7987.

Film Screening. 5-7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. "My Grandma's American Dream" a story of Italian immigrants of early 1900s and "Deportation of Innocence" about what happens to children when a parent is deported, co-sponsored by Ventures in Community. A panel discussion will follow, discussants include Filmmaker Anthony DiFranco and Robin Hamby of FCPS's Immigrant Family Reunification Program. Tickets are \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door. Visit www.imfilmfest.eventbrite.com.

FocusMusic: David and Sophie Buskin. 7 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Father/daughter duo David Buskin and Sophie Buskin are entertaining audiences up and down the East Coast with their mix of familiar and new songs. Joined by Laura Zucker. Tickets are \$18, \$15 in advance and for members. Visit www.focusmusic.org/concert-buskin-zucker.

MONDAY/OCT. 24

Community Sing. 7-9 p.m. at Immanuel Chapel - Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. Sponsored by the Center for Liturgy and Music, an evening of singing songs, sacred and



PHOTOS BY WAYNE HULEHAN

Del Ray Halloween Parade

One of Del Ray's favorite traditions, the 20th Annual Del Ray Halloween Parade will take place on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 2 p.m. along Mount Vernon Avenue. The parade, which begins at E. Bellefonte Ave., ends with a party at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, goodie bags for children, free refreshments, children's games, awards for Best Decorated Stroller, House, Business & Best Pet Costume, and more. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween.

otherwise, led by musicians Alice Parker, Ysaye Barnwell, and Marilyn Haskel. Free. Visit www.liturgyandmusic.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 25

Centenarians Luncheon. 12-2 p.m. at The Fairfax, 9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway, Fort Belvoir. Celebrate the life of Northern Virginia's oldest citizens. This year's speaker will be Lynn Peters Adler, J. D., a centenarian expert and older adults advocate. Tickets are \$40, available start Sept. 16. Visit www.celebratecentenarians.com for more.

The Female Stranger: The Making of a Legend. 1-2:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Hear the story of the Female Stranger and how it has evolved over time as we explore this local legend through the centuries. Combines history and language arts. Tickets are \$8 per child, adults free. Pre-registration is required. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

George Washington Lecture. 7 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N.

Royal St. Join Dr. Peter Henriques, Professor Emeritus of History from George Mason University, as he explores various facets of our early national history through the lens of George Washington. While many people look back to the "good old days" when everyone was patriotic and got along, it is interesting to note that over time George Washington completely severed his relationship with five famous Virginians. In this talk the focus will be on two of them: James Madison and James Monroe. Henriques will examine these breaks and see if there is a common thread between them. Tickets are \$12, \$10 for member. Visit www.shop.alexandriava.gov for more.

Annual Chorus Benefit Concert: "Ein Liederabend." 7:30 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The NOVA Community Chorus (Dr. Mark Whitmire, Director) will present its Annual Chorus Benefit Concert. This year's concert, "Ein Liederabend," features Mendelssohn's Concerto for Two Pianos, performed by Christine and David Hagan. The chorus will

sing Miriam's Song of Triumph by Franz Schubert, Nachtlid, by Robert Schumann, and the famous How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place from the German Requiem by Johannes Brahms. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door; free for NVCC students, faculty, and staff. Call 703-845-6097 for more.

Lecture: "Can't We Get Along? Washington's Break with Two Virginias." 7:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. While many people look back to the "good old days" when everyone got along, it is interesting to note that over time Washington completely severed his relationship with five famous Virginians. In this lecture, the focus will be on James Madison and James Monroe. Professor Henriques will examine these breaks and see if there is a common thread between them. Tickets \$12 per person, \$10 for GTMS members and volunteers. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov.

OCT. 25-NOV. 20

Art Exhibit: "Serenity in Chaos." Gallery hours at The Associates

Gallery at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. The theme of this show reflects the artist's unique view of the photographic medium. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26

Volunteers are the Heart of Alexandria. 6-8:30 p.m. at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Volunteer Alexandria honors awardees including Kerry Donley and Day Quon Henderson. Tickets are \$20. Visit www.volunteerallexandria.org.

Lecture: Alexandria's African-American Civil War History. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. During the Civil War, Alexandria was not only occupied by the Union Army, but the city was also home to approximately three dozen hospitals. One of the largest of these medical facilities was L'Ouverture Hospital in the 200 block of South Payne Street, which was built by the Army to serve former slaves (called "contrabands") as well as African-American soldiers and local residents. Charles Joyce, guest

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Sunday:
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Monday-Saturday:
9:00 am Mass (Rosary at 8:30 am)

En Español:
Monday, 6:30 pm; Thursday, 7:30 pm; First Friday, 7:30 pm

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researcher and writer for the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas, has spent a great deal of time tracing the history of Francis Snow's historical photograph of a group of United States Colored Troops (USCT) at L'Ouverture Hospital. Images of USCT soldiers are very rare but, remarkably, Joyce has identified each man in the photograph and followed each man's story through and after the Civil War. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. Visit alexandriahistoricalociety.wildapricot.org.

The Spirituality of Parenting. 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. A child's first understanding of God and the spiritual life comes from its parents and extended family. How can children's faith be nurtured in such a way as to lay the foundation for a spirituality that will support them throughout their lives and deepen their relationship with God and Christ? And how can parents deepen their own faith in the process? Free. Visit www.staidanepiscopal.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 27

Ghosts of Alexandria Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. This ghostly experience explores Alexandria's most haunted locations on and off the beaten path. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, active duty military and veterans, \$5 children, free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

Workshops: "Come Play with Collage Cut Ups." 7-9 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Activity lead Millie Mateu will guide participants through an art activity. She will start by doing some creative exercises, then create some simple collages that have high impact, using "Local Flavor" as inspiration. Free for Del Ray Artisans members and \$10 for non-members. Visit www.delrayartisans.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 28

Garden Talks with Master Gardeners: Injecting Color & Structure. 1:30-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Let Master Gardeners show you how trees and shrubs can provide structure and year-round interest, and how to add seasonal splashes of color with annuals and perennials to make your house pop. Tickets are \$10. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 401 2301 or call 703-642-5173.

Halloween Bash at the Brewery. 3-10 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. The Tasting Room and brewery will be filled with tricks and treats. Free. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/the-brewery/events

Bark or Treat Canine Cruise. 5:30-7 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. Come out with your costumed canine and cruise to some Halloween tunes along the Potomac. Tickets are \$16 adults; \$10 children; dogs ride free. Visit www.PotomacRiverboatCo.com.

Ghosts of Alexandria Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. This ghostly experience explores Alexandria's most haunted locations on and off the beaten path. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for senior citizens, active duty military and veterans, \$5 children, free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

The Gadsby's Tavern Ghost Tour. 7-9 p.m. (tours start every 30 minutes) at 134 N. Royal St. Follow a colonial-costumed guide through the eerie Alexandria streets, visit a cemetery, and enter one of the most

haunted buildings in Old Town. Hear the tragic story of the Mysterious Female Stranger. Tickets are \$20 adults; \$10 kids ages 7-17. Visit www.AlexColonialTours.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 28-30

State NAACP Convention. Various times at West Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square. The theme is "NAACP: Let's Go." Registration is \$15-225. Visit www.vscnaacp.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 29

Poisonous Plants Garden Tour. 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. A Master Gardener docent tells tales of wicked plants hiding in plain sight, showcasing obvious culprits and some surprises. Learn which to weed out and which we can live with. Enjoy refreshments at the Historic House, including edible flowers. Tickets are \$12. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 483 2001 or call 703-642-5173.

Cat-urday Toy Making Workshop. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Celebrate National Cat Day by making toys. This workshop gives the tools needed to make felt mice and birds, wine cork candies, and a classic stick with string taunting toy, as well as an optional T-shirt cat tent. \$5 supplies fee. Instruction free for Del Ray Artisans members, \$10 for non-members. Visit delrayartisans.org.

Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Alexandria's ghosts and goblins will fill the museum's garden with hundreds of colorful toy-filled Halloween pumpkins for local children to discover. Other activities include crafts, refreshments, spooky stories, and a costume parade. Every participating child will receive a toy pumpkin. Advance tickets are \$12 for participating children, and \$5 for adults. Visit leefendallhouse.org.

Let's Grow Garden Club: Garlic Planting. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Help with planting garlic. Tour the garden grounds to view the changing fall colors all around us and learn a little about pumpkins. Tickets are \$15 per child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring using code 290 402 8901 or call 703-642-5173.

Ivy Hill Cemetery Tour. 4:30 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Learn the rich history of Alexandria from a different perspective. Visit the graves of many of Alexandria's most prominent and historic families, including nurse Emma Green and Confederate spy Frank Stringfellow from the hit PBS series, "Mercy Street." Hear the stories of how the Civil War transformed their lives and the city forever. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children. Visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

The Voices of Bethlehem Mass Choir Live Recording. 5 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church, 7836 Fordson Road. Free. Visit www.bethlehemofalexandria.org.

Walking Dead Footsteps Zombie Event. 6-9 p.m. at Carlyle House Historic Park, 121 N. Fairfax St. Visitors will experience firsthand some encounters with zombies from the 18th-century, a-la-walking dead style. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.novaparks.com for more.

Ghosts and Grief Tours. 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., and 8:30 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Celebrate Halloween with a look at Victorian mourning traditions coupled with stories of supernatural encounters. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern day funeral practices.

Customs such as draping the mirrors, how long a widow would mourn for her husband or children, social expectations and dress will be explored. Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 at the door. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org for more.

"Feast Your Ears." 7:30 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 E. Campus Drive. The Fairfax Choral Society opens its 55th anniversary season with an evening of some of the greatest and most popular masterworks for chorus and orchestra composed throughout history including works by Bach, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and Brahms, just to name a few. Tickets start at \$15. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

Halloween Tap Takeover. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St. Guests can enjoy the spooky holiday fun with a tap takeover by South Street Brewery from Charlottesville, highlighting fall and pumpkin-themed beers, as well as a costume contest. Dante Coley, brewery representative from South Street brewery, and Patricia Washington from Visit Alexandria will be in attendance to judge costumes and present awards. Free; beers \$7 per draft. Visit www.theblackwallhitch.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 30

Doggy Trick-or-Treat. 1-6 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. We will have treats, sales and a costume contest. Visit The Dog Park in Old Town Alexandria to get your map and pictures taken, then tour the rest of the participating stores to get more treats and find a sale or two in town. Free. Visit thedogparkva.biz.

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Ave. All are welcome to march in the parade. Parade ends in a party at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center fields featuring live music, free refreshments, games, best costume awards, and more. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com/halloween.

Special Halloween Ghost Tour. 6 p.m. at Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. The Halloween Ghost Tour starts at the Alexandria Visitor Center and wraps through the back roads of Old Town stopping at places like The Christmas Attic, John Douglas Brown House, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and many more. The Halloween Ghost Tour takes visitors past Christ Church to other less-visited stops like the Freedom House. At each stop guides cover a brief background of the location, what horrible event occurred there, and what modern day paranormal phenomenon was detected. Tickets are \$12 adults; \$10 senior citizens, active duty military and veterans; \$5 children; free for ages 5 and under. Visit discoveralexva.wordpress.com.

Collective Delusion. 8 p.m. at Los Tlotecos, 4111 Duke St. Local band plays rock songs from '70s to present. Free. Visit CollectiveDelusion.net.

Photo Contest Deadline. 12 a.m. Enter photos of Northern Virginia's beautiful urban and rural outdoor spaces in the Nearby Nature Photo Competition. The contest is open to all non-professional photographers, with prizes for youth and adults in two categories: "the land and water around us" and "people enjoying the land." Free to participate. See www.nvct.org for entry details.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/OCT. 30-31

Poe in Alexandria. 8-10 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Actor David Keltz returns to The Lyceum's lecture hall to re-create Poe's visit to Virginia in 1849, shortly before his death. Tickets are \$15. Visit shop.alexandriva.gov/events.

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School System Average Hides Achievement Gap

FROM PAGE 1

Jefferson are from Fairfax County, and would otherwise be at their base schools performing at a high level.

Jefferson comprised more than 63 percent Asian students for the 2015-2106 school year, 1.5 percent African American, 2.23 percent Hispanic, 25.43 percent Caucasian and 7.4 percent other, according to Fairfax County Public Schools.

Langley High School also posted averages of above 600 in each SAT category.

The majority of Langley's student body in 2015-2016 was white, with just over 65 percent. Asians were second with 23.47 percent, next Hispanic and other each with about 5 percent, and black with less than a percent.

JEB Stuart High School is an example where in each category it was above the national average but below the Virginia and FCPS averages. Stuart also had about 100 fewer test-takers (243) than the FCPS average (343).

Stuart was half Hispanic in 2015-2016, followed by 22.97 percent white, 13.8 percent Asian, 10.26 percent African American and 2.29 percent other.

Evans highlighted Falls Church and Annandale High Schools as two facing many challenges, with some of the highest poverty rates, yet still performing above the Virginia and around the U.S. average.

"That's really a tribute to those schools that those scores are so high," Evans said.

Evans also observed that the new writing section scores across the board seem to be

2016 SAT

| School | Test Takers | Critical Reading (Mean) | Math (Mean) | Writing (Mean) | Combined Score (Mean) |
|---|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Annandale High School | 319 | 506 | 524 | 490 | 1520 |
| Bryant Alternative High School | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Centreville High School | 437 | 546 | 570 | 537 | 1653 |
| Chantilly High School | 506 | 558 | 585 | 542 | 1685 |
| Edison High School | 291 | 504 | 510 | 484 | 1498 |
| Fairfax High School | 475 | 535 | 550 | 518 | 1603 |
| Falls Church High School | 218 | 508 | 521 | 481 | 1510 |
| Hayfield Secondary School | 367 | 515 | 516 | 499 | 1530 |
| Herndon High School | 324 | 540 | 556 | 525 | 1621 |
| Lake Braddock Secondary School | 536 | 561 | 573 | 539 | 1673 |
| Langley High School | 369 | 614 | 633 | 604 | 1851 |
| Lee High School | 234 | 491 | 505 | 480 | 1476 |
| Madison High School | 377 | 596 | 608 | 585 | 1789 |
| Marshall High School | 340 | 564 | 578 | 557 | 1699 |
| McLean High School | 420 | 601 | 623 | 597 | 1821 |
| Mount Vernon High School | 238 | 471 | 468 | 448 | 1387 |
| Mountain View Alternative High School | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| Oakton High School | 471 | 581 | 600 | 569 | 1750 |
| Quander Road School | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Robinson Secondary School | 522 | 564 | 577 | 544 | 1685 |
| South County High School | 412 | 532 | 550 | 516 | 1598 |
| South Lakes High School | 358 | 558 | 571 | 542 | 1671 |
| Stuart High School | 243 | 498 | 506 | 485 | 1489 |
| Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology | 442 | 720 | 761 | 717 | 2198 |
| West Potomac High School | 312 | 525 | 534 | 512 | 1571 |
| West Springfield High School | 445 | 564 | 560 | 535 | 1659 |
| Westfield High School | 465 | 539 | 552 | 518 | 1609 |
| Woodson High School | 487 | 587 | 600 | 568 | 1755 |
| FCPS AVG | | 551.12 | 565.24 | 535.68 | 1652 |
| Virginia Public Schools | | 516 | 513 | 493 | 1522 |
| United States | | 487 | 494 | 472 | 1453 |

ALL DATA FROM VDOE AND THE COLLEGE BOARD

underperforming the other two sections of the test.

"I'm not sure what that says, but it might be something for us to think about," she said.

Mount Vernon was the only FCPS school

with average scores consistently below the FCPS, Virginia and national averages.

In 2015-2016, Mount Vernon's student body was made up of 41.68 percent Hispanic students, 27.6 percent African American, 19.59 percent white, 6.28 percent

Asian and 4.85 percent other.

Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon representative to the Fairfax County school board, said West Potomac has seen a gradual increase in scores thanks to a PTSA-sponsored SAT prep program.

Students have the opportunity to take a mock exam for \$20, get an assessment based on their results of which areas they need help in, and then enroll in a prep course through the PTSA.

THIS YEAR is the first cohort at West Potomac that will have had that opportunity.

"You have so many test prep organizations today that are really working with kids to get those scores up but a lot are expensive," Corbett Sanders said.

The program has expanded and allowed students from Mount Vernon High School to come over and take part as well.

"It's one of those eye-opening things," she said. "It's just not fair for kids who can't afford it, but the schools and parents together are taking ownership, to make sure our kids get this opportunity too."

Corbett Sanders noted Fairfax County Public Schools offers online SAT prep as part of the Adult and Community Education program. That information is available here (link: <https://aceclasses.fcps.edu/SubjectListing.aspx?CategoryID=10431&ProgramID=242&ProgCatName=Test+Preparation&IsCourse=1&SubjectID=0292&AreaName=Test+Preparation>).

Quander Stream Outfall Project on Track

FROM PAGE 1

At an update meeting on Oct. 13 for interested citizens, representatives from WSSI and Fairfax County said everything is still on track for completion by April 2017.

The construction cost of the project is \$760,000 for the project. Including design and other fees, the total cost is \$1,340,000.

Where soil has eroded at the top of the stream, coastal plain soil has been filled in, coming from Prince William County and Fort Belvoir projects also being worked on by Angler.

Also on the upper part of the 920-foot project, workers are beginning to install plunge pools to slow the water coming out of the community. Having it hit the lower stream with less speed will keep the original problem from returning.

Downstream, several rock structures were added to preserve the integrity of the existing bed while the project is underway and protect it from rainstorms. They also tiled layers of plastic to integrate flow from a smaller side tributary into the main stream.

Marshall Willis with WSSI, a senior ecosystem specialist, said when the



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE GAZETTE

Mount Vernon area recently received around an inch-and-a-half of rain in a short period of time, the preservation plan "worked beautifully."

Once the stream has been reconstructed, the team will do restoration planning. They've consulted with Huntley Meadows to come up with a plant list. After the planting, there will be 10 years of active monitoring.

Kathy Ledec, president of Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and chair of the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations Environment and Recreation Committee, said she's impressed with the work so far.

On the upper part of the 920-foot project, workers are beginning to install plunge pools to slow the water coming out of the community. Having it hit the lower stream with less speed will keep the original problem from returning.

"They've been working pretty darn hard, for sure," she said. "You see the progress, imagine how great it will look when finished."

Ledec thinks the plunge pool structures will be a great attraction for community members and other nature-explorers. Though while the project is underway, she and the other officials urged the public to stay out of the construction area, where hard hats and visibility vests are required at all times.

The project website can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/projects/quander_road.htm.

Skinner Dies

FROM PAGE 1

nity received a call from him at some point," Storck said.

In a statement on his Facebook page, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) called Skinner "a great guy and community institution."

"As of this year, he had attended nearly 60 graduations," Surovell wrote. "No one cared more about MVHS than Mike. We always sat next to each other at graduation and I'll miss seeing him this June."

A memorial for Skinner is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 29 at 10:30 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School in the Michael M. Skinner Field House, located at 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road in Alexandria. A reception will follow immediately at the Mount Vernon Country Club, located at 5111 Old Mill Road in Alexandria.

Skinner is survived wife of 47 years Lucy Peacock Skinner and three children: Michelle Skinner, Annapolis, MD; Michael W. Skinner, Clearwater, FL; Beverly Hughes, Shepherdstown, WV; and four grandchildren: Margaret Taylor, Melissa Mitchell, Michael C. Skinner and Kara Hughes.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria, VA, 22309; Shepherd University; or the Mt. Vernon High School Athletics Department.

201 Import Auto 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 101 Computers 101 Computers 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NUMBER 16-10-04

The Alexandria City School Board dba Alexandria City Public Schools is seeking proposals for Online Tier II Literacy Intervention Program for ACPS Schools.

Sealed Proposals with the notation RFP# 16-10-04 Online Tier II Literacy Intervention Program will be received in the Central Procurement Office, 1340 Braddock Place, Suite 620, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, on or before 3:00 pm, November 14, 2016. The time of receipt shall be determined by the time clock stamp in the Procurement office. Proposals appropriately received will be opened and the names of the firms responding will be read aloud. RFP documents may be obtained at the above Procurement Office or by calling 703-619-8162, or by downloading the RFP from the ACPS website at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/financial-services/purchasing/>

All questions answered will be posted as an addendum to the ACPS web site. No RFP may be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) days after the opening of proposals except as may be set forth in the RFP. ACPS reserves the right to cancel this RFP and/or reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in any proposal.

Gerald W. Amacker (Jerry)
ACPS Senior Buyer

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

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

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Obituary



Francis H. Fannon III, 82, a 4th generation Alexandrian, passed away peacefully on October 13, 2016 with his family by his side. Frank is survived by his loving wife of 49 years Kathy R. Fannon and two sons, Francis H. Fannon IV and Ryan P. Fannon Sr.; and four grandchildren, Ryan Jr., Maggie, Grace and T. Jackson Fannon.

Mr. Fannon attended St. Mary's grade school in Old Town Alexandria and was a 1952 graduate of St. John's College High School in Washington D.C. Mr. Fannon was a High School All-American football player and played collegiately at the University of Virginia, where he graduated in 1957.

He spent the majority of his early career in the life insurance industry and started his own insurance and financial planning firm in 1980.

His grandfather, Thomas J. Fannon, a former Vice Mayor of Alexandria, started the families Coal and Lumber business in 1885 at Duke and Henry Streets in Alexandria. Today after 130 years, T. J. Fannon and Sons is presently the third oldest family owned business in Virginia, currently operated by his nephews.

His faith, family and the Alexandria Community were the foundations and joys of his life. He had a deep love and appreciation of America and traveled extensively throughout the United States and the National Parks with his sons. Later in life he became a guest lecturer on the Lewis and Clark expedition. His other interests were running, golfing, charitable endeavors and worldwide travel with his wife Kathy.

He was a longtime member of many local Organizations: Alexandria Kiwanis Club, Old Dominion Boat Club, Alexandria Sportsman's Club, Belle Haven Country Club and The Ancient Order of Hibernians which celebrated his Irish Heritage.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Francis H. Fannon and Dorothy Knight Fannon, brother T.J. Fannon and a sister Mary Ellen Feeney. Besides his immediate family he is survived by his sister Dorothy Markham and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 20, 2016 from 2-4 & 6-8 p.m. at the Everly Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA. A Mass of Christian Burial will occur on Friday, October 21, 2016 at 10 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 310 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA. Interment will be private. Additional information may be found at www.everlywheatley.com.

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Gordon Parks, Back to Fort Scott is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, in partnership with the Gordon Parks Foundation. Photo: Unlabeled, St. Louis, Missouri | 1950, Gordon Parks (American, 1912-2006), gelatin silver print. Courtesy of and copyright the Gordon Parks Foundation.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements



Catherine Louise Scott Pearson, 90 years old, left this world for heaven on September 20, 2016 at her home in Alachua, Florida. Catherine was born on April 4, 1926 to Mamie and Archie Scott and grew up in the Alexandria and Franconia area. She married Samuel T. Pearson in 1942. She is survived by her daughter Carole (husband Chuck) Page, son Samuel (wife Lynne) Pearson, sister June Hoffman 7 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband Samuel T. Pearson, parents Mamie and Archie Scott, brothers Austin, Robert, William (Sonny) Scott and sister Betty Burk. She will be laid to rest at Pohick Church with her husband in a private family service. She will be greatly missed. In lieu of flowers contributions can be made to Just Man Ministry 3246 Snow, Katy, Texas 77493 or to Carole Ann Page c/o "Go Fund Me Page."

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THURSDAY/OCT. 20
Richmond Highway Breakfast Seminar. 7:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. NAIOP Northern Virginia will present a breakfast seminar focused on the revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor. To accommodate future growth, Fairfax County has initiated Embark Richmond Highway, a process to re-plan the corridor to accommodate the extension of Metrorail. The panel will provide a historical overview of the area, and discuss the current and future transformation of the region. Members \$85, non-member \$105. Visit www.naiopva.org/current_events.htm to register

FRIDAY/OCT. 21
Tree Planting. 9:30 a.m. at Jefferson Manor Park. The Mt. Vernon Evening Lions will be planting trees in conjunction with Releaf at Jefferson Manor Park. This is the fourth year this club has planted trees. Contact Andrea Corsillo 703-960-4973 to help.

SATURDAY/OCT. 22
Touch-A-Truck. At Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Fort Hunt Preschool presents the annual Touch-A-Truck event at Walt Whitman Middle School featuring fire trucks, snow plows, garbage trucks, school and city buses, police cars, food trucks and more. \$5 per person; children under 2 are free. Rain date is Nov. 5. Visit www.facebook.com/forhuntingpreschool/ for more.

Chamber to Clean Jeff Todd Way. 8:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help pick up litter from Jeff Todd Way. Meet at the Roy Rogers Restaurant, 8860 Richmond Highway to receive garbage bags, safety vests, and work assignments. Students may receive community service hours for volunteering. Roy Rogers will provide free coffee and hot chocolate. Come alone or bring a group and help clean this important road. Visit mtvernon-leechamber.chambermaster.com/events/details/jeff-todd-way-cleanup-2699 for more.

Old Mount Vernon High School History Marker. 11 a.m. in front of old Mount Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Highway. Former Fairfax County Supervisor Joseph Alexander (Class of 1947) and Margaret Ellen Rogers Welch (Class of 1944), will unveil the marker. The Mount Vernon unveiling is the latest in the series of historic markers sponsored by the Fairfax County History Commission. The marker was paid for by Mount Vernon alumni who attended the school. After the dedication and brief remarks, those attending will be invited to enter the old school, which is owned by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Only the original entrance, vestibule, main hall, auditorium and restrooms will be open. Those attending are urged to use the parking lot associated with the gymnasium. There is limited parking in front of the school that will be used by handicapped or those unable to walk from the gym parking lot.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26
Huntington Levee Community Meeting. 6:30 p.m. at the Huntington Community Center, 5751 Liberty Drive. An update on the planned Huntington levee system will be presented at a public meeting. Residents are invited to come hear about the progress being made toward protecting the Huntington community from Cameron Run's floodwaters. Based on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study, the levee is being designed to protect homes from flash flooding caused by storms up to 100-year events, storms that have a 1 percent chance of occurring in a given year. Construction is scheduled to begin in late 2017 and last through spring 2019. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/huntingtonlevee, call 703-324-5800 or email huntingtonlevee@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

"The Spirituality of Parenting." 7:30-9 p.m. at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. A child's first understanding of God and the spiritual life comes from its parents and extended family. How can children's faith be nurtured in such a way as to lay the foundation for a spirituality that will support them throughout their lives and deepen their relationship with God and Christ? And how can parents deepen their own faith in the process? Call 703-360-4220 or visit www.staidanepiscopal.com/Center-for-Spiritual-Deepening for more.

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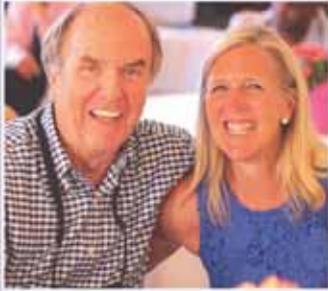
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9433 Forest Haven Dr.
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Unique New Orleans Colonial on gorgeous large lot in prime location near Potomac

River. Features include: Updated custom kitchen, 3 finished levels, 4 BR's including spacious Master suite w/ balcony, 3 full baths, recently installed Andersen windows, oversize 2 car garage, expansive rear deck overlooks magnificent grounds which includes detached studio/office. Walk to nearby MV Yacht Club



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9314 Craig Ave.
\$635,000
Pristine Condition!

Truly exquisite property! Spacious 5 Bedroom home on gorgeous, fenced level lot in premier location.

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OPEN SUNDAY

4220 Scotland Rd.
\$598,500
Unusual Opportunity

Spacious 3 level Five Bedroom Colonial at remarkably reasonable price!

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